

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

3726

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

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Subject:

Use of Rapid Rehousing Pathway fund 2019/20 - Specialist Navigators

Total Value:

£161,550 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To accept the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rapid Rehousing Pathway funding award of £161,550 for use to appoint to the roles detailed in the appendix from 2019/20;
2. To approve funding for the contract with the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited at point 1(a) of Appendix 1;
3. To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) to allow for the direct award of contracts listed in Appendix 1;
4. To approve funding to appoint 2 x FTE members of staff at Grade F on a 12 month fixed term contract to the Housing Aid service

**Reasons for the Decision(s)** Over recent years there has been an increase in rough sleeping nationally. On 1st March 2019, Government launched the Rapid Rehousing Pathway fund to all local authorities across England. Nottingham City Council had already received an allocation from this fund following a successful bid at the end of 2018 to become an early adopter of the services. However, with the launch of the national fund there was further opportunity to seek funding for an additional service to enhance the existing local offer.

Nottingham City Council submitted a bid on behalf of the city and county for 6 x specialist navigators who would specifically work with individuals who had a history of rough sleeping but were in hospital, prison or an inpatient on a mental health ward. The Navigators responsibility would be to help prevent homelessness upon release from prison or discharge from hospital and continue to support the individual to ensure that they received the continuation of care they required to help maximise their chances of successful resettlement, prevention of reoffending and positive health and wellbeing.

The funding bid was successful and the city council and county housing authorities are working with the health and criminal justice sectors to introduce this new service. This decision relates to the 3 x city focussed navigators only.

One of the posts is based within the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited. This is a direct award because this is the only organisation that would be able to deliver the requirements of the role (e.g. access to prison, systems and records etc).

**Briefing notes documents:** Appendix - Programme for use of RRP - Specialist Navigators 2019-20.docx, EIA - MHCLG Rapid Rehousing Pathway.docx

**Other Options Considered:** Do nothing. This was rejected because discharge from hospital and release from prison have been assessed as areas where there is heightened risk of rough sleeping and there is a need for a targeted intervention.

Use the funding for an alternative purpose. This was rejected because the bidding prospectus prescribes the areas of activity that can be delivered with the funding. Therefore, it is not possible to use the grant allocation for any purpose other than that already defined.

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Published Works:** Delegated Decision 3508 - MHCLG Rapid Rehousing Pathway- April 2019

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** None

**Dispensation from Financial Regulations:** Yes

<b>Consultations:</b>	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	The specialist prison release navigator will specifically work with offenders to maximise successful resettlement and address support needs, thus helping to reduce the likelihood of reoffending following a custodial sentence.
<b>Equality:</b>	EIA not required. Reasons: An EIA was completed for the previous decision relating to the Rapid Rehousing Pathway fund (3508) and it is relevant to this decision.
<b>Social Value Considerations:</b>	N/A
<b>Relates to staffing:</b>	Yes
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	11/12/2019
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<b>This report does not raise any significant legal issues. It is understood that the organization named in the report for which a dispensation is requested is the former Probation Service and it is therefore the only organization which can provide this service. The dispensation is supported on that basis. The City Council must comply with the grant terms in the grant funding agreement with MHCLG. The City Council should ensure it includes conditions in the agreement with the provider which would enable it to clawback any funding in the event the City Council has to repay any grant funding to MHCLG. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 19/11/2019.</b>
<b>Finance Advice:</b>	<b>The City Council has so far received £80,775 - half of the grant up front and needs to show progress on delivery to receive the other half.  The dispensation from Financial Regulations is supported to allow the direct award of the grant for a prison release officer to the named organization as this is a specialist service offered and the award was part of the bid for the grant.  The detailed appendix outlines how the grant will be spent and there is confidence in delivering the required progress to bring the rest of the grant into the Council. Should there be any concerns over this, the contracts outlined will need to be terminated.  The spend in accordance with the Appendix detail will be monitored to ensure spend does not exceed the grant. Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 13/08/2019 and confirmed as unchanged on 27/11/2019.</b>

**HR Advice:**

Management are proposing to create a number of new posts - Prison Release Navigator, Hospital Discharge Navigator, Mental Health focused Navigator, which will be subject to the job evaluation process.

Management will need to ensure that recruitment is conducted through the appropriate processes, including redeployment. Management should be aware that the selected postholder(s) should commence on a starting salary of Level One within the respective Grade, unless the appointed colleague is already in employment at the council and on Level two of the same grade, in which case the employee would be matched over at the rate of pay they currently receive.

There will need to be a support and development plans for the new post holders once appointed in line with managing performance through the new probationary policy.

As the posts are initially temporary, an appropriate exit strategy must be in place in order to terminate the contract in line with NCC guidance in the event that the post cannot be made permanent at the end of the fixed term period. Management will need to ensure appropriate timelines are in place to notify the affected employee and give appropriate notice.

Advice provided by Shilpa Arya (HR Consultant) on 12/09/2019.

**Procurement Advice:**

Dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 5.1.1, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (operational issues) is supported by Procurement in order for the direct award of a prison release navigator to Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited to be granted. The contract will enable intensive support to be delivered to offenders with complex needs. Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 13/08/2019 and confirmed as unchanged 21/11/2019

**Signatures**

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Housing, Planning and Heritage)
SIGNED and Dated: 04/12/2019
Chris Henning (Corporate Director for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 04/12/2019
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 03/12/2019
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: