

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2910

Author:

Nigel Jackson

Department:

Development

Contact:

Nigel Jackson

(Job Title: Employment & Skills Manager, Email: nigel.jackson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158762523)

Subject:

European Social Fund (ESF) Project Inclusive Labour Markets

Key Decision (decision valued at more than £1million):

Yes

Total Value:

£4.056m (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To: (i) Proceed to full application for ESF funding for the Inclusive labour Markets Project(s)
(ii) Agree the match funding for the project(s) as outlined in appendix 1.
(iii) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director Economy to receive, administer and spend the project(s) funding in accordance with the DWP contract and to appoint/transfer the necessary NCC staff.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

A decision is required to enable officers to proceed with a full application for a European Social Fund (ESF) project(s) to address long term unemployment and encourage economic growth in Nottingham.

The project will run from September 2017 to December 2019. It involves the delivery of 3 interconnected projects which are outlined in appendix 1.

The key reasons why a delegated decision is needed are as follows:

- a) There is an opportunity to attract £2.028m of ESF funding for the city to deliver a £4.056m Programme to boost growth in key business sectors and fund employment support provision for the most disadvantaged in the city
- b) The Project will make a major contribution to the delivery of City Council Plan commitments, in particular to 'Guarantee a job, training or FE place for every 18-24 year old'.
- c) Each of the 3 projects require match funding, but this will not be an additional cost to the city council as match has been secured from existing NCC staffing commitments, delivery partners and employer contributions .
- d) The project does require approval to use match from the existing 2017-2019 Area Based Grant allocations (4 Area Lead Organisations (ALOs) have agreed to support this proposal)
- e) The Programme will help to sustain the Council's flagship Nottingham Jobs Service until December 2019 (existing funding runs out in March 2018) and sustain the delivery of employment support in the community via ALOs, building on their YEI/ Area Based Grant Activity.
- f) The Programme will make a significant contribution to reducing unemployment, poverty and inequality in the city. In particular it will engage over 1,958 long-term unemployed or inactive people of whom a minimum of 430 will be over 50, 593 will have disabilities,191 will be from ethnic minority backgrounds and 244 will be single parents.
- g) The project will make a significant contribution to raising skills levels and productivity in key sector of the local economy.

Briefing notes documents:

DDM Briefing Document - APPENDIX 1 (5).docx

Other Options Considered:

Not to bid for the available ESF funding - rejected because:

- Nottingham would lose £2.028m of European funding as no other organisation has got through stage 1 of the application process
- The most disadvantaged City residents and key employers would not benefit from projects worth £4.056m designed specifically to help them.
- Much of the existing Nottingham Jobs activity will end in March 2018 and the impact of the service will be reduced.
- An opportunity to increase skills and productivity in key sectors in the city will be lost.

Background Papers:

Published Works:	2014-2020 ESIF Growth Programme, Call for proposals Priority Axis 1: Inclusive Labour markets : 1.1,1.2, and 1.3.
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	A primary objective of the Inclusive Labour Markets project is to support unemployed and inactive city residents into training and work. The programme has a specific focus on residents who face multiple barriers to work, such as those who are at risk of / involved in gang related activity, ex-offenders and those with health issues. By engaging and supporting unemployed and inactive people, the programme will reduce the potential for them to become involved in crime or anti-social behaviour by providing them with opportunities to improve their economic and social circumstances.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: The activities with the programme have been designed to ensure equality between genders, to prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.
Relates to staffing:	Yes
Decision Type:	Leader's Key Decision
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	11/08/2017
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Human Resources
Legal Advice:	The delivery partners named in the Appendix are the parties named in the initial bid application. They are delivery partners who will perform specific elements of the project and are not sub-contractors to the City Council. However as lead applicant the City Council will be accountable for the ESF grant funding. In that case the City Council should put in place appropriate agreements with those partners which include provisions such as monitoring, reporting and claw back which are required to enable the City Council to comply with the ESF funding agreement. Where the City Council undertakes the procurement of any services or supplies with ESF funding it must ensure it complies with the ESF procurement rules. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 15/06/2017.

Finance Advice:

See attached document for advice Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 23/05/2017.
Advice documents: DD ESF Project Inclusion labour markets.docx

HR Advice:

If this project receives the funding and staff are employed to deliver the project, NCC staffing policies and procedures should be followed.
Advice provided by Saema Mohammad (Service Redesign Consultant) on 26/05/2017.

Signatures:

Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)
SIGNED and Dated: 04/08/2017
David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 03/08/2017