

28 July 2021

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS INTO LONG TERM AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a) provide an update on the European Social Fund (ESF) Healthy Work bid
 - b) to seek approval to enter into a partnership agreement

Information

2. Launched in November 2017, the Work and Health Programme is the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) contracted employment provision aimed at helping persons who have a disability, the long term unemployed and specified disadvantaged groups to find sustained work.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council works to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities in the local population. Our aim is to continue to support workplaces, their individuals and communities in Nottinghamshire to not only live and work well but also to thrive and flourish.
4. In November 2019, the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2 LEP) launched a European Social Fund (ESF) call for Active Inclusion –Healthy work. This call sought projects to build a locally integrated employment service that:
 - tackles the deep-seated barriers to work for all who need it
 - makes best use of available resources
 - reduces duplication by integrating national and local health, employment and other support services
 - and enables people to access sustainable work and progress.
5. The ambition is to provide additional and complementary activity to those people who are not able to access the Work and Health Programme, yet still need support to get themselves back into employment. The call had a total ESF available of £4m and a minimum project value £1m of ESF, applicants were required to provide eligible match funding at 50%.
6. At the COVID 19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee on 3 November 2020, a report was approved to continue the development of a European Social Fund (ESF) bid on

the basis that pound for pound match funding will be met from existing staff resources whose work is aligned to the activity. If successful, this will provide support that is distinct and additional to that available through Jobcentre Plus.

7. Futures Advice, Skills and Employment (Futures), our jointly owned social enterprise lead the bid working with Nottinghamshire County Council and a wider partnership, that would build a team of specialist advisers, case loaders (to work long term with beneficiaries) and Business Engagement staff (who will work to deliver the model). The project will support and ensure full coordination with our existing services such as i-work. The Council will benefit from four additional posts: One Employment Coordinator and three Employment Inclusion Workers.
8. The overall aim is to help 5,812 unemployed or eco-inactive clients within the D2N2 region who are disadvantaged but still relatively close to the labour market to tackle their barriers to work, enter and sustain employment. The combined partner services will offer a range of interventions and support pathways, including a focus on Basic Skills, to ensure clients access the most appropriate provision to help them progress into employment.
9. Following due diligence, the project has received approval by DWP, the D2N2 European Social Investment Fund Committee (D2N2 ESIF Committee). The overall contracted budget is £8,299,756.64 and the Council will provide £321,800 in match funding for the project which is expected to run from July 2021. The funding is for existing posts that will continue to do the work and there is no negative impact on the council's budget or service delivery.
10. The Council is now required to enter into a partnership agreement.

Reason for Recommendations

11. The Council recognises that a healthy workforce is a thriving workforce. This is not just in terms of health but also in terms of efficiency and culture. The ESF funding opportunity, provides the Council and Futures with the opportunity to work with businesses and individuals across Nottinghamshire to help influence approaches to workplace health and to help residents into work.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. It is requested that funding of £321,800 from existing staff posts is approved as match funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Economic Development and Asset Management Committee:

- 1) Approve the match funding contribution of £321,800 from existing resources; and
- 2) Confirm agreement to enter into a partnership agreement with Futures.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Matthew Neal, Service Director for Investment and Growth
Place Department
Matthew.Neal@nottsc.gov.uk
0115 977 3822

Constitutional Comments (KK 29/06/2021)

14. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Economic Development and Asset Management Committee.

Financial Comments [RWK 28/06/2021]

15. The report seeks approval to enter into a partnership agreement for the delivery of a project to support people into long term and sustainable employment. As part of the project the County Council will be required to provide £321,800 in match-funding which is to be in the form of the staffing costs of existing posts, so there are no additional financial implications for the County Council.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- *Update on youth employment support in Nottinghamshire*, Report to COVID 19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee on 3 November 2020 (Available [here](#)),

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All