

6 December 2016**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE****EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND – CAREERS LOCAL UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a) update Committee on the successful application to become the managing agent for the Careers Local Enterprise Grant, and
 - b) seek authority to enter into a contract with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to enable the Council to receive up to £1,731,676 in grant funding.

Background

2. The Careers Local Enterprise Grant will provide grants across Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) to:
 - Schools
 - Specialist schools
 - Academies
 - Colleges
 - Pupil Referral Units (Alternative Learning Centres)
 - Virtual Schools
 - Home Educated (through registration with the Local Authorities)
3. The grant will provide targeted interventions to help young people at risk of not in education, employment or training (NEET) or who are NEET, to develop enterprise and employability skills to improve their career opportunities.
4. Grants of up to £10,000 (£20,000 in exceptional circumstances) for each educational institution will be available for the purpose of supporting young people, aged 15–19, who are at risk of becoming NEET to develop enterprise and employability skills in line with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership Employability Framework.
5. The funding will support at least 1,000 young people to improve their employability and enterprise skills and will reduce the number of young people becoming NEET.

6. The amount of funding available is £1,731,676 (broken down to £1,574,251 for grants and £157,425 for 10% management costs).
7. At July 2016 Economic Development Committee (EDC) a report on the European Structural Investment Funds Programme was presented. As part of the report a request to submit a bid to become the managing agent for Careers Local was agreed by Committee.
8. At September 2016 EDC, approval was received that should the Careers Local bid be successful, a full-time administrator would need to be recruited to manage the monitoring requirements.

Application Outcome

9. On 28th October, Nottinghamshire County Council received notification that the application to become the managing agent had been successful. The mandatory 10-day standstill period (a legal requirement imposed through the remedies directives) finished on 7th November. Details on the next steps are expected to be received soon from the Skills Funding Agency. All indications suggest that the contract is likely to operate from January 2017 to July 2018.
10. Subject to in-principle approval by the Committee, the Corporate Director will approve the contract which is currently under negotiation. The Council's Legal Department reviewed the draft contract (which accompanied the specification) and will be supporting the contract negotiations, in particular (but not limited to) a review of the final contract to ensure the Council's interests are protected.

Brexit Implications

11. The Government has confirmed that they will honour all European Funded projects which have been agreed by the time the Autumn Statement is delivered, even if they continue after the United Kingdom has left the European Union (EU).

Reason for Recommendation

12. To ensure the council has all the permissions in place to enter into a contract with the Skills Funding Agency to become the managing agent for the Careers Local Enterprise Grant.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described within the report.

Finance implications

14. As the County Council is acting as the managing agent for Careers Local Enterprise Grant, as with any grant-funded programme, there is a potential exposure to the risk of clawback of funds. This risk will be mitigated by ensuring

adequate systems are put in place with the support of the Council's finance department.

15. Any management or administration costs incurred by the County Council as managing agent for this project, will be met from within the grant funding for the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. It is recommended that Committee welcomes this success and agrees to enter into a contract in a form approved by Legal Services with the Skills Funding Agency for the Council to act as the managing agent for the Careers Local Enterprise Grant.

Tim Gregory
Corporate Director Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments [SLB 18/11/2016]

Economic Development Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments [SES 25/11/16]

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

- *European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) Update* report to Economic Development Committee, 5th July 2016, published
- *European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) Careers Local Update* report to Economic Development Committee, 6th September 2016, published

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All