

Contract Award 87198 : Bespoke sector specific training & recruitment support

Date: 20 June 2024

Report of: Head of Employment and Skills

Report to: Chief Officer Culture and Economy

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This paper follows the report taken to Executive Board in June 2023 to provide an update on the Hyper local UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation for Leeds and to delegate to officers the implementation of various support programmes.

This report relates to Hyper Local UKSPF funding which has been allocated to fund local employment & skills activities. In May 2024 a competitive tender process was held on the Employment and Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to procure Bespoke sector specific training and recruitment support in Healthcare, Digital & the Green Economy. Approval is sought to award four Employment & Skills contracts :

1) Three Bespoke sector specific training programmes to:

- Digital lot: Springfield Ltd value £185k
- Green lot: Springfield Ltd value £185k
- Digital lot: PATH value £185k

The suppliers have confirmed that they have the capacity for an immediate start and will focus on short intensive training focused on the Digital Sector and Green Economy.

2) One Health Care Recruitment contract to Learning Partnerships value £100k.

The supplier has confirmed that they are immediately able to provide wrap around support to priority groups/priority neighbourhoods to enable local residents to access employment opportunities in the NHS/wider Care sector.

All the above contracts are to be awarded to successful bidders in competitive tender ID 87198 on the Employment and Skills DPS.

Recommendations

The Chief Officer Culture and Economy is asked to authorise:

- a) the Award of sector specific training and recruitment contracts to the following suppliers :

- Healthcare lot: Learning Partnerships value £100k
- Digital lot: Springfield Ltd value £185k
- Green lot: Springfield Ltd value £185k
- Digital lot: PATH value £185k

b) Council solicitors to sign the above contracts.

This decision is subsequent to the key decision taken in June 2023 (D56537) authorising years 2 and 3 UKSPF activities and the decision made in May 2024 by the Chief Officer Culture & Economy to release UKSPF funding to deliver Bespoke Sector Specific training programmes in Healthcare, Digital & the Green Economy.

What is this report about?

- 1 Contracts for Bespoke Sector Specific training programmes related to competitive tender ID 87198 on the Employment & Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 To provide bespoke sector specific training programmes in Healthcare, Digital and the Green Economy which help to address skill and labour shortages in these sectors and enables Leeds residents particularly those residing in priority groups and neighbourhoods to access employment opportunities.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 3 This proposal is in line with the Best City Ambition and its mission to tackle poverty and inequality by focusing on residents in priority groups and priority neighbourhoods who often face multiple barriers to access employment opportunities. It is also in line with the Council's Future Talent plan and its focus on tackling sector skills gaps and helping to facilitate inclusive growth.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 4 This decision is subsequent to the Council Executive Board decision at [UKSPF Years 2 and 3 \(democracy.leeds.gov.uk\)](https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk)

What are the resource implications?

- 5 Funding for the proposed contracts will be sourced from the Hyper Local UKSPF Programme. Experienced Council staff in the Employment & Skills Service will be allocated to manage the Employment & Skills contracts.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 6 The main risk relates to the short UKSPF delivery timescales (contract completion by the 31st March 2025). This risk is mitigated through the proposed use of multiple suppliers who have the relevant track record and expertise to deliver against contract targets. An overarching Risk Register has been completed plus separate Contract Management (CM) Plans for each

individual supplier have been produced. CM plans will be reviewed on a regular basis with each supplier.

What are the legal implications?

- 7 All suppliers selected through competitive tender ID 87198 are pre-approved on the Employment and Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The highest scoring bidders in each bidding lot are being awarded delivery contracts with all contracts in excess of £100,000 signed and sealed by the Council's solicitors.

Options, timescales and measuring success.

What other options were considered?

- 8 The Council does not have the specialist capacity and capability to deliver sector specific training programmes. Multiple suppliers with the relevant sector expertise help to mitigate the risk associated with programme delivery.

How will success be measured?

- 9 Contracts are awarded and delivery starts in July 2024 with all associated contract targets completed by the 31st March 2025.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 10 Contracts to commence by the 1st July 2024. The Head of Employment & Skills will be responsible for implementation.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

None

Related paper

- Council Executive Board decision at [UKSPF Years 2 and 3 \(democracy.leeds.gov.uk\)](https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk)