

WYCA contract variation from Gainshare 2/Employment West Yorkshire to 'Gainshare Capacity Fund' and Programme extension to June 2026

Date: 02/08/2024

Report of: Chief Officer Operations, Active Leeds and Culture

Report to: Director of City Development

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

In November 2022 the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), through the Economic Recovery Framework, approved funding in excess of circa £12m to extend and enhance an existing programme - Employment Hub (Ehub) across West Yorkshire. In order to differentiate between previous delivery, linked to European Social Fund (ESF), the programme will be known contractually as Employment West Yorkshire (EWY).

The programme was to facilitate access to advice and support, across West Yorkshire, delivered through the region's local authorities, to enable individuals to access training, retraining and/or employment, particularly in new opportunities being created around the Mayoral pledges in digital and green sectors. Leeds City Council's allocation was originally expected to be up to £1.9m per annum. It commenced in April 2023 and was expected to be completed by end March 2025. Since that time WYCA have extended the programme to June 2026 and changed the name to Gainshare Capacity Funding

Since that time WYCA have varied the grant agreement which is now called 'Gainshare Capacity Fund' and extended the grant period by 15 months from 31 March 2025 to June 2026. In addition the value of the Lifetime Total Project Budget has increased to £7.068m of which £3.616m of previously approved £3.8m has been spent across projects including: Skills and training for People; Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure and Culture, Creative Industries, Sport and Physical Activity. This leaves £3,452m to be allocated to WYCA Investment Priorities which are in the process of being submitted to WYCA for approval.

Recommendations

Further to the Key Decision taken on 16th February 2023 'Approval of Gainshare 2/Employment West Yorkshire funding from WYCA 23-25' the Director of City Development is asked to:-

- a) Note the variation to WYCA Gainshare 2, now to be known as 'Gainshare Capacity Fund' which extends from March 2025 and now expires at the end of June 2026.
- b) Note that the Council have previously accepted £3.8m of Leeds's Gainshare allocation of £7.068m from WYCA to deliver the Gainshare Capacity (Employment West Yorkshire) programme in Leeds of which £3.616m has delivered projects and outcomes associated with them.
- c) Authorise the Council to sign and seal the varied Gainshare Capacity Fund funding agreement with WYCA.
- d) Note that £3.452m of proposals and projects are in the process of being submitted to WYCA for approval and authorise the programme as submitted to WYCA.
- e) Note that the Head of Asset Management/Regeneration, Head of Culture Programmes and the Head of Transport Planning will be responsible for the implementation and delivery of the remaining programme between up to June 2026.

What is this report about?

- 1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), through the Economic Recovery Framework, approved funding in April 2023, in excess of circa £12m to extend and enhance an existing programme - Employment Hub (Ehub) across West Yorkshire (Employment West Yorkshire (EWY)).
- 2 The Council received a total of circa £3.8m funding for the two-year Gainshare 2 (EWY) programme of which £3.616m has been spent on WYCA Investment Priorities: Skills and training for People; Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure and Culture, Creative Industries, Sport and Physical Activity.
- 3 The report is requesting approval of the signing and sealing of the variation to the previous Funding Agreement named Employment West Yorkshire (EWY) from WYCA to the newly titled 'Gainshare Capacity Fund' which extends the programme to June 2026.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 4 The programme outcomes delivered to date include:-
 - **IP 2 Skills and Training for People:** Funding to develop and adopt the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy which was launched at the end of September 2023 and since that time the team have been engaging with businesses, partners and the Business Anchor Network to promote and embed the key themes: People; Place and Productivity;
 - **IP 3 Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure:** Funding to support Regeneration and Housing Growth staff time to develop site studies to include: feasibility, site capacity, stage 1 checks, intrusive surveys, site contamination monitoring, capacity support through consultancy expertise, legal advice, planning, lifecycle scheme development including efficient and effect inclusion of MMC and climate emergency best practice for the acceleration of applications. This is centred on implementation of the now-adopted Leeds Affordable Housing Growth Partnership Action Plan, bringing market and mixed tenure sites forward collaboratively through the strategic Housing Pipeline and continuing support to unlock housing delivery in the city centre SPA and on major strategic housing sites.
 - **IP 6 Culture Creative Industries, Sport and Physical Activity:** This has delivered a grant agreement to support Leeds 2023 and the Year of Culture across the city including Making a Stand, This is a Forest, the Creative Learning and Engagement Programme,

the volunteering programme with 967 volunteers across the city, work placements and internships as well as apprenticeships.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 5 Targeted support will contribute to the achievement of Best City Ambition outcomes to ensure that all residents can do well at all levels of learning, have the skills they need for life and to earn enough to support themselves and their families. The programmes will contribute to our inclusive growth ambitions and will support the city's economic recovery.
- 6 A key part of the Best City Ambition priority on 'Sustainable Infrastructure' is how we tackle the risks of climate change. Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency in March 2019, due consideration has been given to the climate impact. The delivery of this programme will have no adverse impact on the climate. A small sub-group of advisors funded through the programme will focus on creating links with "Green" jobs and training and is aligned with the West Yorkshire Mayoral pledge of creating 1000 new green jobs.
- 7 This proposal supports the Inclusive Growth pillar through the delivery of a new adopted Inclusive Growth Strategy, Vision Zero delivery and Culture programmes.
- 8 The future pipeline of Gainshare for 24/25/26 which is £1.726m for each year (£3.452m over the lifetime of gainshare) consists of:-
 - The Leeds Cultural Investment Programme (LCIP) £1.314m and replaces the arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired funding schemes. It builds on the strengths of these long-running programmes and offers both project (one-off) funding and revenue (ongoing) funding for creative individuals and organisations. The gainshare will provide project funding for creative individuals and organisations and demonstrates LCC's ongoing commitment to culture and creativity in the city and is a key Beyond 2023 programme – a legacy of Leeds 2023. This proposal forms part of the agreed Budget Action Plan for the Directorate in 24/25/26
 - Travel Planning – Schools and Corporate requirements. £410k over 24/25/26 and will support work including working with Schools (requires updated SMOTs strategy) and working on Corporate Targets with businesses that don't have planning obligations – including Leeds City Council Corporate Travel Plan (requires refresh). Work with new residential developments and businesses is also undertaken in the team to meet the investment priorities. Importantly this work promotes sustainable travel choices and also leverages in private sector monies to support such travel choices, such as subsidised mCards for residents of new developments, thereby embedding travel choices from the outset. This spend will substitute existing Council revenue within the Directorate for Travel Planning as such it will contribute to savings for 24/25 25/26.
 - Leeds City Bikes scheme - launched in September 2023. It is the first e-bike hire scheme in West Yorkshire and received a £2m capital investment from TCF. There are however current unfunded staff revenue costs to support the project management and promotion to Leeds residents and businesses which equate to £80k for 24/25 only. This work will help encourage mode shift away from the private car and also offer an accessible, affordable alternative to residents and workers in the City Centre. Increased ridership will enable greater investment in the scheme and potential expansion/fare subsidy for groups such as job seekers. This spend will substitute existing Council

revenue within the Directorate for Travel Planning as such it will contribute to savings for 24/25.

- Vision Zero - The Connecting Leeds Vision Zero Strategy seeks to eliminate road death and serious injury on our roads by 2040. To achieve this a new safe system approach is required which covers engineering changes and behaviour change approaches delivered by Leeds City Council in Partnership with WYCA, WYP, WYFRS, NH and others. The governance of this new approach requires support and resource to enhance training and communications capacity at a cost of £197k over 2 years to the end of the funding programme. This spend will offset existing Council revenue within the Directorate for Travel Planning as such it will contribute to savings for 24/25.
- Active Leeds – Vision for Leisure - The Council’s Active Leeds Vision for Leisure Strategy and updated Playing Pitch Strategy will be developed as part of this proposal at a cost of £220k for 2 years to the end of the funding programme. It will set out the ambition for the delivery of new and improved health and wellbeing centres across the City. Aligned with the new Service Development Strategy for Active Leeds the ambition to update the previous Vision for Leisure and Wellbeing to develop and bring forward an investment pipeline to support physical activity and health and wellbeing. The Vision for Leisure proposals form part of existing savings for 24/25 and will support future savings proposals for 25/26. The Playing Pitch Strategy development will support future development proposals for housing and support sport focused facility developments that will assist the achievement of housing growth targets and income generation.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

9 The following members have been consulted as part of these proposals :

Leader and the then Deputy Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education (previous portfolio as briefing was early 2024) has been consulted on the issues in this report relating to Leeds Cultural Investment Programme; Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate and the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture.

What are the resource implications?

10 The programme is 100% grant funded and no costs to the Council will be incurred outside of the delivery of the programme. All costs (staff, marketing, operating costs and promotional materials etc.) have been factored into the delivery.

11 The proposals submitted to WYCA for the remaining £3.425m have been developed in line with existing Budget Action Plans, future savings proposals in development and will ensure that direct costs for the schemes/grants listed in Section 8 are achieved.

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

12 The Asset Management and Regeneration, Employment and Skills and Culture Programmes Service and Highways and Transportation Service will lead on the delivery arrangements on behalf of the Council. These services have extensive experience and sufficient existing resources in place to successfully deliver a project of this nature. The service has rigorous and robust contract management and performance procedures in place to reduce and mitigate these risks.

What are the legal implications?

13 The proposals contained within this report are subject to Call In. There is no access to information or other legal implications relating to these proposals.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

14 If the Council does not accept the funds the money will be split out across the other LA's in West Yorkshire. Funding is in place through European Social Fund for staff until end December 2023, if the funds are not accepted and committed then a large proportion of Council Employment and Skills staff will be made redundant by the end of December 2023.

How will success be measured?

15 The programme will:

- result in more people accessing the support they need to gain skills or employment that enables them to be active citizens in their community. This will reduce the demand for expensive state funded specialist provision to resolve employment barriers and ultimately contributing to the local economy, increasing sustained employment with progression opportunities thereby supporting our inclusive growth ambitions. In the long term, these programmes will significantly improve the life chances and experiences of our most vulnerable individuals by connecting them with education and the labour market.
- Deliver new housing growth schemes, developing them from feasibility to new homes for the people of Leeds, Targeted delivery advice including potential for acquisition of sites and robust approach to deploying statutory powers, in partnership with WYCA, Identified portfolio disposals as per the Brownfield Land Programme previously delivered.
- new jobs in the creative industries*, new jobs in the visitor economy, freelance opportunities, 2000 trained volunteers, internships/work-placements for students and young people, participation and engagement opportunities for young people incl NEETs and apprenticeships/accredited training opportunities
- transport related infrastructure improvements including Vision Zero which aims to reduce road deaths to zero by 2040

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

16 This programme will run from April 2023 until end June 2026. The Head of Employment and Skills, Head of Regeneration and Head of Culture Programmes will be responsible for implementation. The contract variation now needs to be signed to enable the ongoing claims for the £3.616m incurred to date to be recovered.

Appendices

Background papers

- None