

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – L21 20/21


Decision	
1	Title of decision: European Social Fund delivery and working with Careers South West
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
3	Report author and contact details: Edward Coley, Head of Skills and Employability. edward.coley@plymouth.gov.uk
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <p>To note the progress on the ESF SMART Specialisation project which will deliver a programme of activity to bolster in work skills progression and apprenticeship activity across the Heart of the SW Local Enterprise Partnership area;</p> <p>To agree to manage the delivery of the project and act as accountable body for the project;</p> <p>To authorise the Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills to award contracts for the delivery of the project.</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>Maximising the use of ESF – Following on from strong feedback about ensuring the city fully benefits from the balances within European funding programme, officers have been keen to ensure that the Council takes a leading role with its peers, and seeks to secure relevant funds before they are lost back to national pots.</p> <p>It provides additional skills support to our people and businesses in times of economic need and in particular the impact of Covid-19 and futureproofing our City for the impending implications of Brexit</p> <p>More specifically, it gives leverage and advantage of additional skills resource to our individual priority groups and economic recovery plans – We are currently facing the largest economic crisis ever encountered. As at July 2020, those on Universal Credit had reached over 25,000. Those on Universal Credit in 16-24 yrs was 3,096.</p> <p>We anticipate the number of young people leaving post 16 education destinations including Schools, FE and HE education being nearly 12,000, with reduced chances. Smart Specialization will support the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those employed in SMEs and Micro businesses and increased offer of upskilling • Apprenticeships and promoting the value of them to employers • Unemployed (including long-term unemployed) - supporting progression towards employment and to further education and training and into employment • Participants without basic skills – supporting progression into higher education, further education, improved work prospects, entry into employment and improved confidence and

	<p>social engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants aged 50 plus - supporting re-entry into employment, career change • Participants with disabilities - supporting re-entry into employment, first-time employment, improved English, maths skills supporting independence, improved confidence, improvement in mental health • Single parents - supporting entry and re-entry into employment (when children reach school age) and improved prospects within employment • Homeless, or those in temporary housing - supporting improvement in English, maths and digital skills to better engage with society and entry into employment and further education and training <p>The funding provides added support to our SkillsLaunchpadPlymouth and the work we are delivering to support employers and will be a natural part of the offer going forward</p> <p>Without this proposal, skills funding would be lost to the City as no other organisation is able to act as the accountable body</p> <p>It will demonstrate visibility of funding and its accountability to City Leaders</p> <p>In addition, the project will recognize its existing role as <i>the</i> principal ESF delivery partner across the area, seeking to utilise the balance of ESF funding to route additional activity through CSW as our shared delivery body. Routing the funds through the Council but utilising CSW as the authority's delivery arm will allow the project to draw upon their matched funding capacity.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Do nothing: - This would allow ESF funds allocated to the area to be returned to the respective Managing Authority for re-allocation. Consequently, as a City (and a LEP area) we would lose needed skills funding to support our people and businesses. There is also a reputational risk to the sub region by passing back funds and potentially jeopardising future funding invitations.</p> <p>Delivery through others: The FE sector in Devon have been approached to see whether there was appetite to host. All were of the opinion that it would need a neutral intermediary through which any project would go to remove any bias. Devon County Council have made commitments to hosting another ESF project and are not in a position to accommodate this one as well.</p> <p>Delivery through PCC and Partner: Deliver SMART Skills Specialisation with PCC as the accountable body and working in conjunction with CSW. It will enable the City of Plymouth to secure much needed skills funding otherwise lost to businesses and people at a point in time where there is an economic crisis.</p> <p>Having carefully considered the options, the one taken is to have PCC act as the accountable body with delivery of the project through CSW.</p>
7	<p>Financial implications:</p> <p>Resource implications are minimal. The project will ensure that funding will be entering the LA to support the role of Head of Post 16 and Skills, who will have oversight of the project delivery.</p> <p>The project delivery team will be CSW staff made of existing expertise or going out to recruit where needed.</p> <p>The project will be due to start in early October with announcements on final project approval from the Managing Authority shortly.</p>

8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	Yes	No	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p>
			x	<p>in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total</p>
		x		<p>in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million</p>
		x		<p>is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.</p>
<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>		<p>03/09/2020</p>		
9	<p>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</p>	<p>SMART Specialisation will contribute to the Corporate Plan themes with particular reference to the following:-</p> <p>Quality jobs and valuable skills</p> <p>The project will enable workforces in SME's to be offered a range of skills provision that will enable staff to develop existing or new skills thereby increasing productivity.</p> <p>The offer can be aligned to additional services developed by the Growth Hub, for example as well as sector based work with SME's that has been initiated through the Resurgam Economic Recovery Programme.</p> <p>SME's will also gain additional resilience in preparation and anticipation of Brexit.</p> <p>The project will also contribute to the increased number of people with relevant workplace skills and skill levels for the future and also encourage the concept of continuous professional development.</p> <p>Economic Growth that benefits as many people as possible</p> <p>SMART skills will contribute to increased investment in SME's in the City as a by product of engagement and skills delivery to each of those businesses that accept the offer of support.</p> <p>We will be able to raise the skills levels of our workforce and citizens which will benefit them and also provide further illustration of a City that has a skilled workforce and adds to net worth of our City for inward investment purposes.</p> <p>A green sustainable city that cares about the environment</p> <p>A significant number of the training courses available will be digital based thus enabling more people to take advantage of the ability to deliver work remotely and place reliance on</p>		

		<p>the need for travel to work thereby reducing the carbon foot print</p> <p>A strong voice for Plymouth Regionally and Nationally</p> <p>As the accountable body for the project, successful delivery will ensure that we are able to deliver as promised and improve our position to ask for more regarding skills and employability</p> <p>Revenue income to the LA to support the Education and Skills Department</p>		
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	<p>It is not believed that this paper will have a significant environmental impact, and has the potential to reduce carbon and travel requirements as a result.</p> <p>Much of the skills delivery will be on line reducing the need to travel to learn and explores the application of digital learning technology.</p>		
Urgent decisions				
11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	x	
		No		(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Transformation and Skills)		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	2/9/2020		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	x	

15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Alison Botham					
		Job title	Director of Children's Services					
		Date consulted	25 August 2020					
Sign-off								
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS59 20/21					
		Finance (mandatory)	djn.20.21.90					
		Legal (mandatory)	lt/35365/240920					
		Human Resources (if applicable)						
		Corporate property (if applicable)						
		Procurement (if applicable)						
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	Briefing report						
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	x					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which							

	disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
Title of background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature							
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.						
Signature			Date of decision	11/11/2020			
Print Name	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)						