

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	08 February 2022
Title of Report:	Award of Contracts for Plymouth Adult Education 2022-2027
Lead Member:	Councillor David Downie (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, Children and Young People)
Lead Strategic Director:	Alison Botham (Director for Childrens Services)
Author:	Tina Brinkworth
Contact Email:	Tina.brinkworth@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This paper seeks to gain approval for the procurement of services for the Plymouth Adult Education Budget (AEB).

PCC receives an annual allocation circa £1,700,000 from Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). This delivers a contract for a range of adult education courses and supports learning programmes for 16-19 aged students predominantly at risk of dis-engagement.

The adult education courses are currently delivered through internal provision via On Course South West (OCSW) and through external training providers, currently ODILS, Shekinah Mission, Trevi House, Mount Batten Centre, LiveWest and Greenlight Training.

The current contract period ends on 31st July 2022. The external provision will be re-tendered for delivery starting from 1st August 2022.

The contracted period covers a five year period, with contracts awarded for the first three years and options to extend year on year up to the 5 year period.

The wider impact and added value of this approach are:

- Strategic alignment of services across PCC and wider stakeholders, to enable a skills journey for the city's most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents to upskill, re-engage with the labour market, enter into and progress in work (so that they can become financially independent).
- Reducing the claimant count 7,351 (those unemployed as of November 2021) and reducing an additional 19,000+ UC Claimants (individuals who are also claiming Universal Credit benefits due to a variety of other reasons and require financial support from government).
- Maintain community learning for older citizens and those at most need of help, which in turn strengthens communities.

- Adult and community learning is aligned to city priorities, meets local needs and the needs of vulnerable groups
- Drives a stronger post 16 place shaping strategy
- Directly influence the quantity and quality of the local offer
- Better prepared to respond to the on-going changes to post 16 education, employment and training
- Able to deliver a quality provision in response to local and national priorities post-COVID-19 and post-Brexit toward economic recovery and improved productivity
- Provides the ability to provide support for NEETs to help them re-engage in education and training that will lead to realistic employment opportunities and/or further learning, particularly those with disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Provides the opportunity to directly enhance employability skills of young people through targeted support

Recommendations and Reasons

Cabinet is asked to -

1. Approve the procurement process for the provision of services for the Plymouth Adult Education service as set out in the business case;
2. Delegate the contract award to the Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills. Procurement is a tried and tested approach which achieves ESFA (the external funders) contractual and learning outcomes.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Do nothing
2. Subcontract all provisions
3. Undertake all provision in house

The above options have been considered and rejected and the preferred option is a re-procurement of the service (a proven approach).

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The procurement is designed to support the Plymouth Plan, Corporate Plan, Skills4Plymouth Plan and Local Economic Strategic plans, specifically:

Corporate Plan (2021 – 2025) – it aligns with ‘Unlocking the City’s Potential’ by contributing towards ‘a vibrant economy, developing quality jobs and skills’.

- A vibrant economy, developing quality jobs and skills

Plymouth Plan - The project supports delivery in two of the three strategic objectives, Healthy City and Growing City:

- Policy HEA2 Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families – the provision of adult learning provides young people and parents with the skills to improve their wellbeing. This includes STEM skills and activities as well as ensuring that parents are supported in gaining better qualifications, sustainable employment and have access to support for mental health and wellbeing which will improve learning outcomes for their children.
- Policy GRO2 Delivering skills and talent development – the provision of adult learning contributes to high quality lifelong learning. It will develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and adaptable

workforce and help people to prepare for and progress in work. It achieves this through the provision of core skills, STEM and support.

Covid Recovery Plan:

- Skills 4 Plymouth

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

- PCC receives an annual allocation circa £1,700,000 from Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The total procurement value over five years will be £3.45m, with initial three-year contracts award (£2.07m), extended on a one plus one basis (£0.69m per year)
- The process will be managed by the Head of Skills and Post-16, supported by Strategic Co-operative Commissioning.

Financial Risks

£0 to PCC (fully grant funded)

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None identified

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.

Risk Register:				
Potential Risks Identified		Likelihood	Impact	Overall Rating
Risk	The procurement timeline is extremely tight to ensure contracts are in place prior for delivery to commence at the start of the next academic year in August 2022.	Low	High	Medium
Mitigation	Create a clear timeline with procurement and democratic support to ensure all necessary steps are taken in a timely fashion. Request delegation of contract award decision to Service Director for Education, Participation & Skills	Low	Low	Low
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£ N/A	Risk Owner	Tina Brinkworth	
Risk	There is insufficient breadth of expertise within providers to meet all sector needs	Low	High	Medium
Mitigation	Design specification and procurement to reach a range of providers with the relevant expertise	Low	Low	Low
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£ N/A	Risk Owner	Tina Brinkworth	
Risk	There is insufficient breadth of expertise to meet the needs of key vulnerable and disadvantaged groups	Low	High	Medium
Mitigation	Design specification and procurement to require providers to demonstrate their ability to meet these needs	Low	Low	Low

Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£ N/A	Risk Owner	Tina Brinkworth
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Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Business Case							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ming Zhang (Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 22/12/2021											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor David Downie (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, Children and Young People) Approved by email.											
Date approved: 17/01/2022											