

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	ACCEPTANCE OF EU GRANT FUNDING FOR THE SOLENT APPRENTICESHIP HUB		
DATE OF DECISION:	16 OCTOBER 2018		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ASPIRATION, SCHOOLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

BRIEF SUMMARY

A grant application of £1.91M has been submitted by Southampton City Council to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for European Social Fund (ESF) to provide funding for a Solent wide Apprenticeship Hub, providing support for small and medium sized enterprises to provide more apprenticeship opportunities, and enabling more residents to take up apprenticeships. ESF provides 50% of the funds, the remaining 50% is match funded by a range of partners from their existing resources. This report seeks approval from Cabinet for the City Council to accept the grant and lead on the management of the programme across the defined area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	To accept a grant of £0.96M from the European Social Fund via the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for the Solent Apprenticeship Hub and approve, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, revenue expenditure for the delivery of the programme until December 2021;
	(ii)	To approve the contribution of £0.29M from Southampton City Council, as part of a total match funding of £0.96M, towards the project from existing staff time. Individual organisations contributions are detailed in paragraph 10 of the report;
	(iii)	To approve the Council to act as Lead Accountable Body for the administration of the grant funding for the Solent Apprenticeship Hub which totals £1.91M across the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area; and
	(iv)	To delegate authority to the Director of Growth, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Schools and Life Long Learning, to undertake such actions necessary to enable

		the successful delivery of the Solent Apprenticeship programme, including procurement of services.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS		
1.		To enable Southampton City Council to receive funds to manage the delivery and implementation of the Solent Apprenticeship Hub across the Solent area.
2.		<p>Southampton City Council has a role in ensuring the provision of services to improve the economic and social well-being of its residents, and the surrounding area.</p> <p>The projects will contribute to the Council's key outcomes regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton has strong and sustainable economic growth • Children and young people get a good start in life
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED		
3.		Not to receive funding from ESF programme. If funding is not received, delivery, support and co-ordination of the Solent Apprenticeship Hub will not be possible within Council resources, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and residents will not receive additional support to increase apprenticeship provision.
4.		Not to lead on the delivery and management of the Solent Apprenticeship Hub. This could reduce Southampton's benefit from the project. If these recommendations were not agreed it would result in loss of resourcing and provision of apprenticeship training opportunities in Southampton for local residents and young people.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)		
5.		The DWP issued a Call for Proposals to develop and manage a Solent wide Apprenticeship Hub in November 2017, with the aim of increasing the quantity and quality of apprenticeship opportunities in the Solent area, particularly amongst Small and Medium Enterprises (non-apprenticeship levy payers). Southampton City Council convened a partnership of other Solent local authorities, training providers, Universities and agencies with a track record of working in the field of apprenticeships to develop and lead a proposal.
6.		<p>The key elements of the project proposal are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establish a Single Point of Contact for apprenticeship enquiries through a telephone enquiry line and on line portal, integrated with or closely linked to the Solent Growth Hub. b) Provide an impartial comprehensive package of support to SMEs, employing three Apprenticeship Advisors who will visit businesses to provide a brokerage service and support to employers interested in offering apprenticeships and employees wishing to upskill. c) Promote the benefits of apprenticeship training through collaborative campaigns and marketing activities, using the network of Solent Growth Hub partners across the area, the local authorities, Chamber

	<p>of Commerce and the Education Business Partnership.</p> <p>d) Work with schools, colleges, young people and employees wishing to upskill to promote apprenticeship opportunities, by providing impartial information, advice and guidance and supporting progression to apprenticeships through a clear, accessible and easily understandable application route.</p> <p>e) The Hub will support 1,620 individuals to access and achieve an apprenticeship qualification.</p>
7.	<p>Southampton City Council is the Lead Accountable Body for the project. This involves receiving the funds, developing and overseeing the delivery of the programme to meet the specified outcomes and quality requirements, and financial administration. Other partners in the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire Chamber of Commerce (Solent Growth Hub) • ALPHI (network of training providers) • EBP South (Education Business Partnership) • Portsmouth City Council • Hampshire County Council (also representing Isle of Wight) • Solent University • University of Portsmouth <p>The grant is intended to add value to local provision and develop new opportunities to meet employers' needs. The focus of activity is on SMEs and particularly on the growth sectors prioritised by the Solent LEP (e.g marine and maritime, digital technologies, financial and business services, logistics, life sciences, aerospace and advanced manufacturing).</p>
8.	<p>Delegation of authority to the Director of Growth is required to ensure that the programme is effectively developed and managed to meet agreed outcomes, whilst remaining responsive to changing economic, social and policy contexts over a three year period.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Revenue</u>	
9.	<p>There are no capital implications.</p>
10.	<p>All additional staffing, resource and delivery costs will be funded from the ESF grant. All partners are contributing match funding in terms of staff time and management from existing budgets over a three year period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton City Council £0.29M • Portsmouth City Council £0.14M • Hampshire County Council £0.17M • Hampshire Chamber of Commerce £0.16M • University of Portsmouth £0.06M • Solent University £0.12M <p>There will be no additional costs to the Local Authority. The ESF grant funding will be used to finance additional posts to manage, deliver and administer the</p>

	programme. This funding will be received 6 monthly in arrears based on the actual costs of delivery. The total expenditure and grant income will be recorded in the Aspiration, Schools and Life Long Learning Portfolio.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
11.	There is limited property requirement, as most of the delivery will be on partners' or employers' premises. Accommodation will be required for additional staff, but this is available through current flexible working arrangements.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
12.	Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 permits a Council to do anything that an individual may do whether or not normally undertaken by a local authority (the General Power of Competence). The power is subject to any pre or post commencement restrictions on the use of power (none of which apply in this case).
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
13.	Legal advice will be sought regarding the contract between the Department for Work and Pensions and Southampton City Council, and contracts/service level agreements with sub-contractors and partners to minimise risk.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
14	A Risks and Issues log has been developed as part of the project application and this details any key risks and mitigating actions. The key risk for the Council is clawback of European Funding should an audit discover irregularities in procurement, marketing, or finances. These project areas will be subject to stringent management processes and regular and robust internal reviews to ensure all EU contractual obligations are met. The ESF funding is secured to the UK to 2023, whatever the outcome of Brexit negotiations.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
15.	The proposed project supports the delivery of the Council Strategy 2016-2020 and the council's statutory Policy Framework.

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Equality and Safety Impact Assessment
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None.

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes
Privacy Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Equality and Safety Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: Economic Development and Skills folders, Civic Centre Southampton	

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **public sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. The Council's Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	<u>Solent Apprenticeship Hub</u>
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	<u>To increase the number of Apprenticeship training opportunities to residents in the Solent area, aged 16+ by providing support to SMEs and their workforce. Target 1620 individuals to be supported.</u>
Summary of Impact and Issues	<u>No negative impacts, the Hub seeks to ensure that people from disadvantaged backgrounds are given additional support to access apprenticeship opportunities. Monitoring will be in place to ensure that information on protected characteristics is recorded.</u>
Potential Positive Impacts	<u>The Solent Apprenticeship Hub will increase career and skills development opportunities for the existing and future workforce and help young people make informed career choices. The Hub will make the route to apprenticeship training easier and more accessible and people will gain additional support through payment of travel and childcare costs for training. The project will target people with protected characteristics to support inclusion in the labour market and help people to develop fulfilling careers.</u>
Responsible Service Manager	<u>Kathryn Rankin</u>
Date	<u>14/09/2018</u>

Approved by Senior Manager	<u>Denise Edghill</u>
Signature	
Date	<u>14/09/2018</u>

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	There is a focus on developing the skills of the older workforce. As part of the project 333 residents over the age of 50 will gain a qualification.	
Disability	Disabled people are also a target group and 108 disabled people are expected to gain a level 2 or above qualification.	
Gender Reassignment	No negative impact. Inclusive marketing of the project will encourage participation of people from all backgrounds and beliefs	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No negative impact. Inclusive marketing of the project will encourage participation of people from all backgrounds and beliefs	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Child care costs will be met for learners on apprenticeship training courses so that these costs are not a barrier to their progression	
Race	We are targeting a minimum of 108 people from ethnic minority communities to gain a qualification, at level 2 and above.	
Religion or Belief	No negative impact. Inclusive marketing of the project will encourage participation of people from all backgrounds and beliefs	
Sex	The project requires evidence	

	that 295 women have improved their labour market status.	
Sexual Orientation	No negative impact. Inclusive marketing of the project will encourage participation of people from all backgrounds and beliefs	
Community Safety	No negative impact. Inclusive marketing of the project will encourage participation of people from all backgrounds and beliefs	
Poverty	The aim of the project is to enable people to develop their skills and progress in work, thus improving their wage capabilities and lifting them out of poverty	
Other Significant Impacts		