

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	10..
Date:	7 th March 2011	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Enterprise Coaching - Suspension of Contract Standing Orders		
Report by:	Head of Regeneration		
Other Officers Involved	Head of Shared Procurement Project Officer Business Growth		
Director	Director of Development		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities.

Encourage inward investment and a local entrepreneurial culture to maximise sustainable employment opportunities.

Develop vibrant town centres and flourishing rural communities.

TARGETS

- Reducing concentrations of worklessness in the worst performing areas by at least a 1.1% point gap to the East Midlands figure at March 2011
- Create 50 jobs through locally funded business support by March 2011
- Supporting 100 businesses through local funded intervention (LEGI) by March 2011

VALUE FOR MONEY

The cost of the WNF/LEGI 2011/12 delivery is based on the actual cost of the Enterprise Coaching element of the LEGI Programme.

THE REPORT

Background

1. Executive Members will recall the Authority's award of Working Neighbourhoods Fund in 2008 (Minute No. 886 refers). The Working Neighbourhoods Fund was introduced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement and is one element of the new Area Based Grant. It provides resources to local authorities to tackle worklessness and low levels of skills and enterprise in their most deprived areas.
2. The WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council has been increased to £7,265,897 (an additional £200,483 for the Bolsover District was announced by the Department for Communities and Local Government on the 12th November 2009)
3. As part of the Council's approach to tackling worklessness, a Commissioning Framework has been established to allocate the funding in two ways:-
 - i) the Local Authority's focus upon the people who are **already receiving benefits** and are unemployed and try to encourage them back into work and off benefits, and
 - ii) tasking the Local Strategic Partnership for Bolsover with identifying measures to address and **prevent the need to be in receipt of benefits** or become unemployed (£3m over three years)
4. In 2006 Bolsover District Council were successful in a Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) bid in Partnership with Mansfield and Ashfield District Councils. The initiative has secured a total of £7.2 million of funding from the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI). The goal is to create long term benefits and improve the economy in all three areas by encouraging a culture of local enterprise leading to more businesses being formed and/or being attracted here. The initiative is also designed to help to enhance the performance of and reduce failure rates of existing local businesses.
5. The LEGI programme currently delivers Enterprise Coaching (previously Bizfizz) in South Normanton and Shirebrook through the Business Support Workstream of the Programme. Funding for the LEGI programme expires 31st March 2011 and the Enterprise Coaching element has been identified by the economic development team and wider policy documentation (LOCAL GROWTH: REALISING EVERY PLACE'S POTENTIAL, Oct 2010) as a type of business support delivery that should be prioritised for future support.

Suspending Contract Standing Orders

6. BDC have successfully secured WNF and LEGI (Underspend) to continue the Enterprise Coaching delivery for an additional year (March 2012) in the areas around Shirebrook and South Normanton.
7. Groundwork Creswell currently manage/deliver the Enterprise Coaching LEGI programme activity in Shirebrook and South Normanton and have played a key role in the success of the LEGI programme which since 2006 has:
 - Supported 2800 businesses
 - Helped create 360 businesses
 - Helped create/safeguard 1200 Jobs
 - Worked with 6000 students to improve enterprise skills
 - Build 9 small business centres
8. The management/delivery arrangements for the WNF/LEGI 2011/12 is proposed to remain the same as that currently delivered as part of the LEGI Programme (i.e. Groundwork Creswell). The reasons for this recommendation is as follows:
 - Maintain current personnel delivering Enterprise Coaching which builds the on previous 4 years work embedding and connecting with the local community.
 - No break in delivery for recruitment, familiarity of new delivery organisation, etc which could potentially lose three months delivery of a 12 month programme extension.
9. These reasons have been discussed and are supported by the Head of Shared Procurement. Support is also given through the LEGI Programme Director and Chair of the LEGI Board. It is felt the procurement/tendering process would be unnecessarily time consuming and would jeopardise the desired outcome of the project.
10. The value of the contract is estimated £97,000 to 31 March 2012 with the potential to extend dependent upon the outcome of a Big Lotto funding application. This value is less than the financial threshold which would require the tender to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
11. Approval from the Executive is now being sought to suspend Contract Standing Orders for the initiative as outlined above.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Whether to agree the suspension of Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 as set out in the report.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: Detailed in the report

Legal: The suspension of Contract Standing Orders in relation to the intervention as detailed in paragraphs 4 to 8, as a tendering process would usually be required for contracting this type of interventions under the Local Authority's Contracts Standing Orders.

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION that;

Executive suspends Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 for the reasons given above in order to award Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield with the contract for Enterprise Coaching.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To ensure that WNF is targeted to best effect and where needed and to ensure that the tendering process does not unjustifiably distort the result.

ATTACHMENTS: N
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT: