

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	2 nd July 2012	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Work for Yourself Programme		
Report by:	Consultant Programme Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager Partnership Research, Funding and Appraisals Officer		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities by providing sustainable business growth and employment opportunities
SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning by providing the opportunity for inclusion of all individuals in employment and training opportunities

TARGETS

NOT APPLICABLE

VALUE FOR MONEY

Value for money for the Council is achieved by means of a transparent tender process for the provision of the programme

THE REPORT

- 1.1. In 2009, Bolsover District Council commissioned a bespoke business start up programme exclusive to people with disabilities using the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF).
- 1.2. The 'Work for Yourself' programme engaged with disabled residents to encourage them to start their own businesses. Clients were allocated a

Business Adviser that supported them with developing an Action Plan, provided regular on-going mentoring and coaching support through each stage. Support continued during the crucial early trading phase until project end. The modal has proved to be effective and resulted in positive outcomes by the end of the project in March 2012.

- 1.3. An external WNF review, undertaken by independent consultants GVA, highlighted that this project delivered a significant impact across both Bolsover and Chesterfield (Chesterfield Borough Council separately commissioned the same programme, achieving economies of scale by working collaboratively). Consequently, it was agreed that funding options would be explored to continue delivering bespoke business support for people with disabilities.
- 1.4. Over the last 6 months, the Chief Executive and Partnership Team have secured European Development Funding (ERDF) to procure the delivery of a bespoke /intensive business start-up programme for people with disabilities residing within Bolsover and Chesterfield.
- 1.5. The preferred sub-contractor was selected by Executive in March 2012 as part of the tender process.
- 1.6. During this time the Department Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have undergone an exercise to standardise contracting forms. This resulted in a delayed issue of the Funding Agreement. In order to avoid further delays the Funding Agreement was signed by Wes Lumley CEO after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, and returned to DCLG, under the CEO's urgent commercial delegated powers. Retrospective approval of the exercise of those powers is now required from the Executive.
- 1.7. The Funding Agreement signed by the CEO includes a commitment from Bolsover District Council of £83,903 and Chesterfield Borough Council of £83,903 as a contribution to the delivery of the project. Both Councils are using residual WNF. The cost of delivering the Work for Yourself Programme across Bolsover and Chesterfield is estimated to be £450,122 over the lifetime of the project (March 2015).
- 1.8. Over the life time of the project April 2012 to Match 2015 it is expected that the projected targets will be achieved.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The DCLG Funding Agreement has been signed by the Chief Executive Officer due to delayed delivery risks and implications of DCLG's contracting changes. This agreement commits the Authority to spending £83,903 of residual WNF and entering into a legal agreement with Chesterfield Borough Council.

The supporting paper work and Funding Agreement are available from the Chief Executive and Partnership Team on request.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: the Authority has secured £277,170 of external grant funding in support of this project, as well as contributing £83,903 of its own WNF grant funding.

Legal: the Funding Agreement with DCLG for the receipt of ERDF funding shall include a number of conditions of contract, which the Authority shall be expected to adhere to throughout the whole project contract periods. The contract for ERDF has been signed under commercial delegated powers of Wes Lumley and the contract document has been checked and recommended for approval by Legal.

Human Resources: The Project Officer (Partnership Research Funding and Appraisals Officer) shall be the lead officer, supported by the Partnership Consultant Programme Manager.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive gives retrospective endorsement to the Chief Executive Officer signing the Funding Agreement with the Department of Communities and Local Government for the receipt of European Development Funding monies for the Work For Yourself Project.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

Supporting the growth of the local economy and local entrepreneurial culture to maximise sustainable employment opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS: N
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT: