

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	5.
Date:	22 nd October 2012	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	National Offender Management Services (NOMS) funding opportunity to create a social enterprise		
Report by:	Partnership 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 E. Watts, Leader of the Council Councillor A. F. Tomlinson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration.		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities by supporting disadvantaged groups

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning providing opportunities for people with disabilities to access employment and training opportunities

ENVIRONMENT – promoting a clean and sustainable environment by exploring opportunities to achieve environmental/social objectives through working with disadvantaged groups

COMMUNITY SAFETY – ensuring communities are safe and secure by working with ex-offenders to improve their chances of accessing employment opportunities

TARGETS

NOT APPLICABLE

VALUE FOR MONEY

Value for money is achieved via a bidding process to obtain funding to set up a social enterprise to address the above corporate aims

THE REPORT

Background

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) called for proposals to increase the number of social enterprises able to offer offenders the opportunity to gain skills and employment (and in doing so support environmental and social objectives). In response to this call for proposals, Bolsover District Council submitted an expression of interest to secure £50,000 to develop a legally constituted partnership to deliver employment related support to disadvantaged people residing within Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire.

Bolsover District Council has been successful in passing the first stage of the application process and is now required to submit a more detailed proposal by the end of October 2012. Between the first and second stage, NOMS are expecting a significant amount of work to be undertaken to further develop the proposal. This has involved attending a dialogue with NOMS on 13th September, accessing Technical Support on legal structures, business planning, governance etc, and hosting a workshop on 25th September 2012 with partners to consult on the proposed delivery model.

Social Enterprise Role

The role of the social enterprise will be to perform a support function to increase funding flowing into the area that can be used by partners to deliver support to the target client groups (those facing the greatest barriers to accessing employment). The NOMS funding of £50,000 would be used to create the social enterprise during 2013 as well as to secure revenue funding from 2014 onwards. The proposed social enterprise will formalise the Help to Work Partnership (established by Bolsover Partnership and Disability Dynamics Ltd, and formally known as the Bolsover Disability Partnership) which secured EU PARES funding earlier this year to continue partnership activities and extend into Chesterfield.

The social enterprise will have five main functions:

- Secure funding from various sources by bidding and making applications
- Undertake contract management where appropriate
- Undertake partnership development, extension and capacity building
- Provide a communications hub for partners
- Undertake evaluation and research in order to support bids, partner activities and influence decision makers

Recent discussions with Derbyshire Probation Trust have identified gaps in provision for offenders particularly around volunteering, self employment, in-work support and young offenders. The new social enterprise will aim to address these gaps, amongst others, by capitalising on available funding streams and opportunities to access resources.

Although NOMS would provide the revenue to cover start-up costs (if the Council's bid is successful), they do not anticipate the social enterprise being created solely to assist ex-offenders back into employment. The proposed social enterprise is intended therefore to support all disadvantaged clients back into work and so will include offenders but will also cover other groups including people with disabilities.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The contents of the report.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Although there are no direct financial implications for the Council, members of the Chief Executives and Partnership Team would be involved in developing the social enterprise and therefore contributing officer time in kind, as well as using office equipment, i.e. computers, telephone etc.

Legal: Bolsover District Council would be the accountable funding for the NOMS grant in the first instance if the bid is successful. It is anticipated that responsibilities for managing the funding will transfer to the social enterprise once established.

Human Resources: The Partnership Consultant Programme Manager and the Partnership Research Funding and Appraisals Officer shall lead on the development of the social enterprise, working with Disability Dynamics Ltd.

RECOMMENDATIONS that

1. Executive notes and supports the proposal to seek funding from the National Offender Management Service to create a social enterprise which will support local disadvantaged people residing within Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire to gain employment.
2. A reporting mechanism is implemented to keep Members/Officers abreast of developments regarding the social enterprise should the application for funding to NOMS be successful.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

Supporting positive outcomes for disadvantaged groups by increasing access to funding opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS: N
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT: