

**BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

30 MARCH 2023

**DIRECT AWARD AND APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR
HYPER LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

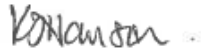
Authority for decision	<p>Paragraph 4.10.9. (17)</p> <p>To award a contract without following one of the normal procedures within part 4.8.3 of the Council's Procurement Rules provided that one of the exemptions in part 4.8.4 of the Rules can be applied and the provisions of part 4.8.4 are met.</p>
Decision	<p>To directly award a contract to Clowne Enterprise Ltd (a social enterprise) for the provision of hyper local business support programme for pre-start, start-up and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) across the Bolsover District, funded through UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) to the total value of £95,000 over two years (1.04.2023 – 31.03.2025).</p> <p>This decision is urgent and one that is not subject to call-in. The Chair of the Local Growth Scrutiny has been consulted in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules and has agreed this is urgent and not subject to call-in.</p>
Reasons	<p>Following the allocation of UK SPF to the District Council, consultation was carried out with Stakeholders of both the Partnerships Team and Economic Development Team for the activities against the three priority themes of the Fund.</p> <p>Under strand 2 Supporting Businesses, it was evident there was a strong support for a hyper-local business support programme, delivering local level intervention for pre-start and new start businesses to support individuals to start up and grow businesses as well as supporting early start and SME / sole trader businesses to sustain and grow. The scope of services is designed to be responsive to local economic conditions, and the individual needs of each client wanting to access the support services of planning for, and starting up, a new business venture. It will include 1-2-1 advisor support; business planning; local networking and business exchange; and learning / workshops.</p> <p>Hyperlocal business support is designed to be delivered by a local provider, located within the geography of the district boundary, with the support services being delivered across a small neighbourhood or geographical area/s. This service will concentrate efforts on a small portion of the business community with a narrow scope of service in order to address the local economic challenges. There is evidence to support the need for this programme, as there is a long established challenge of low take up of regional and national support initiatives as there is a disconnect of local individuals. There is a requirement for hand-holding, guidance and support tailored to their needs, and not to be</p>

	<p>pigeon-holed in to an existing programme not responsive to the needs of the local business community.</p> <p>Clowne Enterprise Ltd are the only organisation capable of providing the hyperlocal business support required.</p> <p>Whilst it could be perceived that there are alternative providers, the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation for Small Business are larger organisations in existence to serve existing businesses and are funded by collecting fees from paying members, meaning they are as big in geography as the geographical spread of their membership. As such, they are both ubiquitous across the East Midlands. Whilst experienced in delivering grant funding programmes across the region, the support packages available are directed towards existing large and SME organisations and not focussed on start-up and pre-start businesses, meaning they are not a comparable provider and cannot be considered.</p> <p>The Growth Hub, supported through the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, has a confirmed extension of its core funding through to March 2024, however this isn't a comparable service, as it deals with inward investment, large business enquiries and handles established business' enquiries. It doesn't provide start-up support services.</p> <p>Further, there are no social enterprises, private companies or businesses operating within the necessary geographical area who are able to provide this service.</p>
<p>Alternative options considered and rejected</p>	<p>To seek invitations to tender in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Rules. This is rejected because officers are confident that Clowne Enterprise Ltd is the only organisation that will be able to submit a tender that will meet the specification.</p>
<p>Conflicts of interest and any dispensation</p>	<p>None.</p>

Please completed the following where relevant:

<p>Key Decision?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Confidential/Exempt (if yes, please state paragraph)?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Do General Exception or Special Urgency Rules apply to this decision?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Consultation has taken place with the Section 151 & Monitoring Officer?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>The Leader, Deputy Leader or relevant Portfolio Member have been consulted?</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder</p>

Authorising Signature:



Job Title: Chief Executive

Unique Reference Number: DD/0120/KH/310323

Date decision may be implemented following call in (if necessary): NA

Circulation to:

Executive Director of Resources
Executive Director of Strategy and Development
Monitoring Officer
Section 151 Officer
Scrutiny Officer