

Cabinet (Resources) Panel

17 February 2021

Report title	Adult Education Traineeship Budget	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education and Skills	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Richard Lawrence, Director of Regeneration	
Originating service	Adult Education	
Accountable employee	Joanne Keatley Tel: Email	Head of Adult Education 07795424830 joanne.keatley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Regeneration Leadership Team	2 February 2021

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve that the Council enters the Contract for Services with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to deliver Traineeships.
2. Approve the creation of supplementary revenue expenditure budgets up to £33,000 fully funded from income to support the Traineeships programme.
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration, to annually approve entering into a Contract for Services with the ESFA for up to a further three years.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is asked to note:

1. This contract is anticipated to generate up to £308,000 of income from the (ESFA) for the delivery of Traineeships.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 In October 2020, Adult Education submitted a tender to deliver Traineeships.
- 1.2 The result of the evaluation of the tender is that we are one of the potential contractors that has been successful in procurement and we will therefore be receiving an award. We entered a 10-day standstill period on 19 January 2021.
- 1.3 The total contract allocation we have been awarded for the initial funding period is up to £308,000. The initial funding period is 1 February 2021 to 31 July 2021.
- 1.4 Approval from Cabinet (Resource's) Panel is required to enter into the contract and begin delivery of the Traineeships programme.
- 1.5 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration, to annually approve entering into a Contract for Service with the ESFA for up to a further three years.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Government wants Traineeships to move young people towards work or an apprenticeship more than ever before. On 8 July 2020, the Chancellor announced a significant expansion of Traineeships as part of his Summer Economic Update. The 'Plan for Jobs' included a commitment to provide thousands of new Traineeships to get young people aged 16 to 24 (up to 25 for those with an Education Health Care Plan) in England into work.
- 2.2 In the 2020-2021 academic year there will be £65 million nationally, of which £11.7 million is for the West Midlands Region. Awards will be made to 38 West Midlands providers, including the Council.
- 2.3 In Wolverhampton Traineeships will contribute to the Generate More Jobs and Learning Opportunities strand of the Relighting the City strategy and to the Youth Offer.
- 2.4 Traineeships offer a flexible intervention which develops young people's employment skills and experience to support their progression into a positive outcome.
- 2.5 The award of the Traineeship contract will enable Adult Education, in partnership with Wolves at Work, to support up to 90 young people through a Traineeship and into a positive outcome such as a job, an apprenticeship or further learning.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 To deliver 90 Traineeships in six months will be challenging. To minimise risk and increase opportunity for success a cross council delivery approach has been developed. Teams are meeting regularly and developing systems and approaches to manage the Traineeship programme.
- 3.2 Wolves at Work will lead recruitment of young people; aiming for 20 each month. Wolves at Work will secure a work placement of a minimum of 70 hours, for each Trainee. Adult

Education will provide oversight, management information, reporting, quality assurance and the delivery of employability skills, English, maths and ICT for each Trainee.

- 3.3 Traineeships will be subject to the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspection.
- 3.4 The Contract offer for years two, three and four will be based on the outturn for the previous year.
- 3.5 Funding will be paid on a monthly basis against profile and 20% will be withheld until a positive outcome is registered for the Trainee.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to not accept the Contract for Services for Traineeships. This would mean Adult Education could not deliver Traineeships as a pathway for young people to gain employment. It would mean less opportunity for young people to gain work experience and improve their employability skills.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 Approving receipt of the budget and Contract for Services for Traineeships will provide increased opportunities for young people in the city. It will provide valuable work experience and employability skills. It will provide a pathway to employment and form part of the wider offer to young people in Wolverhampton.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 This is a new contract covering delivery of the Traineeship programme. The potential income from ESFA is up to £308,000 for the duration of this contract. There is also a guaranteed payment for over-delivery of number of trainees up to 10%.
- 6.2 It will be paid monthly on profile and be dependent on the recruitment and retention of each Trainee.
- 6.3 Additional resources to co-ordinate the Traineeship programme and to teach on the programme will be required at an estimated cost of £33,000 per annum. It is anticipated these costs will be fully funded from the income from the Traineeship programme. There is a risk, if recruitment of trainees were low, these costs would not be covered by the income from ESFA, in this case the costs will be met from existing revenue budgets in the Adult Education service.
- 6.4 It is intended that Wolves at Work will be involved in the delivery of the traineeship programme, any costs associated for using this service will be met by the income.
- 6.5 The Contract for Services will continue for a further three years. The contract value will be based on the previous year's outturn.

[VS/04022021/J]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 The Agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency will allow the Contract for Services to be provided to the Council. Legal advice will be provided in connection with the Contract.

[TS/01022021/Q]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 A full equalities analysis has been conducted and an action plan developed to address weaknesses in the collection of participation, outcomes and satisfaction data for gender re-assignment, sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnerships.

9.0 All other Implications

9.1 The pandemic could impact on recruitment and delivery in the early stages of the contract. Adult Education, in line with Government guidance, is currently not open for face to face provision. All learning has been moved to remote delivery. Finding suitable work placements may also be more difficult in the first months of the contract.

9.2 Alternative strategies are being considered to enable remote delivery of the classroom-based elements. Prioritising work placements that can offer on-site opportunities will be the strategy at the beginning of the contract.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 None.