

Cabinet Member Cllr Laura Mayes Children's Services

Education and Skills

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Reference: CES-07-24

Title: Wave 5 Skills Bootcamps

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide information around the decision to award Section 31 Grant funding received by the LA for the purpose of delivering the Skills Bootcamps Programme to partners who have expressed an interest

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

1. To support a thriving economy, Skills Bootcamps seeks to break down barriers to people accessing employment due to lack of skills or experience. Furthermore, in work progression is promoted as part of the Skills Bootcamps programme. The programme has been designed in conjunction with local employers which further promotes the thriving economy aim of the business plan. By targeting some Skills Bootcamps provision to Care Leavers, resettlers and those further from the workplace we will ensure that there are opportunities for all people to engage in wider society.

Background

2. The Bid for the programme was developed by the SWLEP and signed off by the DFE.
3. The bid was successful and the SWLEP was awarded £1,275,000 for the purpose of delivering the Skills Bootcamps
4. In March 2024 the function of the SWLEP were moved to Wiltshire council, and as part of this the accountability for Skills Bootcamps.

The Skills Bootcamps management is now overseen by a joint oversight group consisting of key members of the Education and Skills services from both Wiltshire and Swindon Council as well as Director of Strategy and Policy Business Growth Unit

Main Considerations for the Council

5. Stakeholder engagement has taken place, expressions of interest received and discussed, and providers selected to provide breadth across a range of topics and delivery methods
6. This funding has been allocated to the local authority by the Department for Education and the Department has agreed our Grant management plan which outlines the providers selected and the costs associated with the delivery.

7. Employers were consulted at the point of submitting the bid, but also as the project progresses

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

8. There have been no engagements around scrutiny.

Safeguarding Implications

9. There are no direct safeguarding implications, however
 - Skills bootcamps delivery team are fully trained in safeguarding and prevent
 - Grant awardees are subject to the safeguarding clause within the grant agreement and direct delivery providers will be subject to Ofsted inspection which requires stringent safeguarding policies and procedures.

Public Health Implications

10. By improving residents access to meaningful employment will have a beneficial impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.
11. The Government's Health matters: Health at Work report published January 2019 sets out the links between 'good work' and good health and wellbeing
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-health-and-work/health-matters-health-and-work>

Procurement Implications

12. Discussions have taken place with the Procurement Hub and Legal Services from the outset who have provided advice and support in preparing grant agreements and procuring the services.
13. The decision was made to Grant award funds this financial year to enable the quick roll out of the programme and ensure the funds could be spent.
14. Future iterations of the project will be subject to a full ITT

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

15. An EIA has not been prepared, however one of the driving themes of the approach to Skills Bootcamps is to reach underrepresented groups.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

16. Providing remote provision, utilising existing community locations any additional energy or utility usage will be minimal.

Workforce Implications

17. The project will link with HR&OD to ensure upskill opportunities are available to the workforce.
18. The project will allow the council to develop a workforce to fill hard to fill vacancies.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

19. If the proposed decision is not taken, then the council is at risk of not being able to maximise the benefit of the government grant to impact residents. Funding is not eligible for roll forward to subsequent financial years. The allocation for 2024-25 is £1,275,000

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

20. If the decision is taken, there is a minimal risk that the delivery partners are not able to fulfil their obligations, but this will be mitigated by robust project management and DfE oversight

Financial Implications

21. As this is not Council spend, and spend has been agreed with the DfE, there are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

22. Engagement has taken place with the Council's legal services who have advised on the grant agreements, engagement with Democratic Services and Information Governance

Options Considered

23. We considered apportioning all grant money via opening up to an application process, however by working with a range of stakeholders and shaping provision initially, we are likely to be able to reach and engage with more residents in a wider variety of settings.

Conclusions/Proposal

24. The proposal is to approve the awarding of the grants outline above

Lead Director

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4/10/24

Appendices – [For more detailed information](#)

Background Papers

[Bid to supply Skills Bootcamps - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Skills Bootcamps - funding and performance management guidance for Jaggaer projects 7338 and 7698 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)