

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY AN OFFICER

DECISION TITLE: Participation in Journey First European Social Fund (ESF) Projects

Executive Board / Cabinet Decision No and/or Forward Plan No (Executive decisions only)	EB 161 – 10 April 2017 Executive Board meeting
Directorate Ref No (Non Executive decisions only) If applicable	N/A
Decision detail	<p>At its meeting on 10 April 2017, the then Executive Board agreed to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council acting as a delivery partner and entering into contracts for employment and skills projects, such contracts not to exceed £2 million; and • Delegated approval for contracts to be authorised by the Executive Director, Economic Regeneration, Growth and Environment or the Executive Director, Families and Wellbeing, following consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer to the Council, the Director of Finance and Information Services, and the Leader of the Council. <p>The decision now being taken, under that delegated approval, is to confirm Warrington Borough Council as a delivery partner in the Journey First ESF projects. These are joint Cheshire and Warrington Local Authorities ESF projects, aimed at helping people furthest from the labour market into work. There are two projects, one aimed at young people (up to age 25) and one covering all ages. However, in practice, staff will work across both strands to ensure a consistent and non-discriminatory offer to residents, irrespective of age.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council is the accountable body for the projects and has contracted with Department for Work and Pensions, the “Managing Authority”. The other delivery partners are Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington Borough Council, who will each sign Memoranda of Understanding with Cheshire East Council.</p> <p>The funding amounts involved are</p> <p>IP1.2 (young people) WBC match (costs of relevant current staff) £658k ESF funding £658k</p> <p>IP1.4 (all ages) WBC match (costs of relevant current staff) £605k ESF funding £605k</p>

Reason for decision	Employment and skills projects represent an opportunity for the Council to bring in external funding for delivery of services which are in line with corporate objectives. If the Council acts as a delivery partner, that can help to ensure a visible presence in local areas and targeting of those most in need. Income streams can help to maintain or increase capacity in front-line services. The Council can establish a track record and profile which will put it in a strong position when bidding for future opportunities in this area of work.
Decision Maker/Responsible Officer	Paula Worthington Director, Education and Early Help
Directorate	Families and Wellbeing
Lead Cabinet Member consulted (if applicable)	Councillor M Smith, Cabinet Member, Children's Services. Also consulted Lynton Green, Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive
Decision Date	23 July 2020
Date Decision was published / notified (normally within 2 clear working days of decision being made)	23 July 2020
Summary of options considered	<p>If these projects do not go ahead:</p> <p>The Council would have limited capacity to support our most vulnerable residents towards and into work.</p> <p>Cost savings that could be gained by people moving off benefits and having less call on other publicly funded services would not be realised.</p> <p>Those residents furthest from the labour market will find employment opportunities more limited as COVID19 has doubled the Claimant Count, so there are now thousands more people looking for work who do not have complex needs or multiple barriers.</p>
Interests declared	none
Background Papers (if applicable) <i>(period expires after 4 years from date of decision)</i>	https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-08/executive_board_decision_notices_-_10_april_2017.pdf Minutes & Decision Notices – 10 April 2017
Confidential / exempt information Category (if applicable)	n/a