

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2012

EXB111 ERDF MERSEYSIDE BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Merseyside European Development Fund (ERDF) Business Support Programme.

The Board was advised that Government policy to migrate business support from the public to the private sector, had resulted in a number of business support agencies either ceasing to exist or having curtailed their activities. As a result, the provision of business support to certain company types in the Liverpool City Region had declined. However, it was reported that the Liverpool City Region Local Authorities and partners had jointly brought forward a funding bid under ERDF Priority 4.2 to address a number of gaps in current and future business support provision for the City Region.

The ERDF Merseyside Business Support Programme, recently approved by Government, would lever £381.852.41 into support for growing businesses in Halton. The Programme was based on four key principles:-

- Providing infrastructure for growth and investment;
- Stimulating enterprise and innovation;
- Capturing the economic potential of all communities;
- Transforming perceptions of deprived communities.

Liverpool City Council was the Accountable Body for the programme, with delivery across the City Region through 13 partner agencies, including the local authorities (excluding St Helens) and voluntary sector organisations. It was noted that the Halton element would deliver initial evaluation of business needs followed by the provision of a more specific intervention which met the particular needs of individual businesses.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The project delivery arrangements for the Halton element of the ERDF Merseyside Business Support Programme be agreed; and

Members welcome the additional investment being allocated to deliver Business Support activities in Halton.