

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning, Skills and Community  
Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 15 June 2015

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children and Economy

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Update on the development and  
implementation of the European Programme for  
the Liverpool City Region

**WARD(S)** Borough wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an update on the development and implementation of the European Programme for the Liverpool City Region.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the report.**

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The LCR Employment and Skills Board have held detailed discussions and consulted on the proposed allocations for the Inclusive Economy element of the City Region's European programme. This led to an allocation which was approved and submitted to the City Region's ESIF Committee on 26 February 2015. This approved allocation is attached as Appendix 1 and was submitted to the Department for Work and Pensions as Managing Authority for the ESF programme.

**4.0 COMMISSIONING CALLS - MARCH 2015**

4.1 The usual way of securing contractual agreements for European funding is by means of the publication of commissioning calls. These set out the broad themes or activities that are required with a level of funds available. Bidders are expected to submit an outline application (which outlines the proposed activities and costs) which is appraised by Department for Work and Pensions. If this is supported, applicants must submit a full and detailed application for review: bidders will have about 8 weeks to complete each application.

4.2 Department for Work and Pensions will complete a full appraisal on applications based upon value for money, eligibility and suitability, and will invite local areas to provide a perspective on local strategic fit. This will give the Liverpool City Region the opportunity to review applications and consider which ones best fit with local needs and priorities. The process and timescale by which this local view is captured is being developed by the LCR.

4.3 Government published a call for Access to Employment support for the City Region on Friday 27 March 2015, with a closing date of 22 May 2015. This covers the following funding:-

Investment area		ESF (£m)	YEI (£m)
1.1	Adults into work	10.900	0.000
1.2	Young people (not YEI eligible)	0.600	0.000
1.3	Youth Employment Initiative	19.684	19.684
TOTAL		31.184	19.684

4.4 The detail included under each investment area is in line with that requested by the City Region and endorsed by both the LCR Employment and Skills Board and the ESIF Committee in February 2015. The call outline has flexibility in that it lists a range of activities to be commissioned through the Youth Employment Initiative funding for the total funding, rather than allocating funding to specific headings.

4.5 The commissioning call is published on part of the Government website and the link to this has been distributed to Councils, relevant infrastructure organisations, partners and associations. This was supplemented by an Information Day on 2 April 2015, at which the City Region set out its priorities and desires to over 210 people from organisations who were interested in apply for European funding within the City Region. They were briefed to engage with the City Region on strategic issues and with Department for Work and Pensions on technical issues.

4.6 Government also released a call for Technical Assistance funding. This is designed to help local areas to bring forward a pipeline of applications for European funds, to communicate the impact that the funds are having locally and to conduct evaluations of activity. This is expected to be a single bid from the City Region as a whole for integrated support for both ESF and ERDF applicants.

4.7 The other method of securing contracts with providers for activities is through a procurement service which local areas can opt in to use. The City Region has agreed to opt in to the services offered by Skills Funding Agency, Department for Work and Pensions and Big Lottery Fund, and these bodies will be applying for European funds to be used through their opt in service.

## 5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The utilisation of European funding will enable organisations in the City Region to deliver services to residents and businesses in line with the LCR and Halton priorities. There will be a capacity issue in managing the funding applications that come forward and the relationships with the opt in service providers, however this is being looked at by the LCR.

## 6.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There is a need to identify match funding alongside the allocated European funding.

## 7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

There is a significant opportunity for the EU programme to benefit all of the Council's priorities. Specific projects will be developed to support Children and Young People, targeting the resources where they are most needed.

### 7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Overall the EU programme will assist in providing job opportunities for local people and will go some way in addressing the level of unemployment in Halton. The projects proposed will support the local economy, local businesses and the local community which in turn will skill up Halton's workforce and create more jobs locally.

### 7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The EU programme will promote healthier communities through jobs opportunities, the development of green transport and housing initiatives.

### 7.4 **A Safer Halton**

The EU programme will complement the initiatives of the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy and the good work of the Police and Community Safety and through its projects look to reduce the fear of crime.

### 7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The EU programme will act as a catalyst to attract developers and new businesses to the area by creating an attractive, well-accessed and serviced area, which provides a safe and attractive environment

for employees and visitors.

## 8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 There is a risk that local organisations will not be aware of the opportunities to bid in for European funding. This has been mitigated by communicating opportunities with networks and associations, including the Halton Employment Partnership and the Employment, Learning and Skills SSP amongst others. There is a risk that the applications do not meet the City Region's priorities and aspirations. This will be mitigated by the LCR providing a strategic fit assessment to Department for Work and Pensions.

## 9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 Equality and diversity are picked up within all European funding applications as a cross cutting theme for applicants to respond to. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with the report.

## 10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act

## APPENDIX 1 Liverpool City Region proposed usage of European Social Funds

	ESF £	YEI £	Total £	Numbers engaged (estimated)	Job outcomes (Estimated)
Coaching and mentoring support (YEG)	4,200,000	4,200,000	8,400,000	7,151	3,575
Open access information advice and guidance	1,465,000	1,465,000	2,930,000	7,982	2,395
Creation of 6 month wage subsidy jobs	1,350,000	1,350,000	2,700,000	460	184
Creation of 12 month wage subsidy jobs for those with multiple disadvantages	1,800,000	1,800,000	3,600,000	306	92
Support for those at risk of NEET	600,000		600,000	200	
Flexible integrated employment support for adults	10,000,000		10,000,000	3,448	690
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,215,000</b>	<b>4,615,000</b>	<b>19,830,000</b>	<b>12,396</b>	<b>3,361</b>
Support to young people who are detached from services	2,000,000	2,000,000	4,000,000	371	74
Employability and job related training	1,950,000	1,950,000	3,900,000	3,900	1,560
Digital and functional skills	1,300,000	1,300,000	2,600,000	2,167	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,250,000</b>	<b>3,250,000</b>	<b>6,500,000</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>1,560</b>
Longer term intensive mentoring support	1,450,000	1,450,000	2,900,000	988	198
Support for young people into enterprise	1,290,000	1,290,000	2,580,000	879	176
Travel support for young people	1,750,000	1,750,000	3,500,000	8,046	
Travel support for all ages	900,000		900,000	2,069	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,650,000</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>	<b>4,400,000</b>	<b>10,115</b>	<b>-</b>
Skills Show and road to the Skills Show	350,000		350,000	8,000	
Responsive skills fund	6,002,509		6,002,509	4,002	
Apprenticeship promotion and brokerage	275,000	275,000	550,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,627,509</b>	<b>275,000</b>	<b>6,902,509</b>	<b>12,002</b>	<b>-</b>

	ESF £	YEI £	Total £	Numbers engaged (estimated)	Job outcomes (Estimated)
Small grants for community and voluntary sector organisations	1,250,000		1,250,000		
Digital inclusion	1,250,000		1,250,000	4,310	
Financial inclusion	1,250,000		1,250,000	2,694	
Total	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	7,004	-
Promotion of access and development	600,000		600,000	3,448	
Development and delivery of responsive higher level skills	3,600,000		3,600,000	3,103	
Total	4,200,000	-	4,200,000	6,551	-
Creation of 6 month temporary jobs for young people	3,870,000	3,870,000	7,740,000	1,668	667
Strategic labour market information and intelligence	280,000		280,000		
Flexible employment support for those with most need	2,060,000		2,060,000	412	
Purchasing of additional open age information advice and guidance	365,000		365,000	730	219
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>51,207,509</b>	<b>22,700,000</b>	<b>73,907,509</b>	<b>66,334</b>	<b>9,830</b>

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