Report to The Leader

Wards: All

14 March 2025

Approval for Procurement exercise for Wave 6 of Skills bootcamp training/upskilling with the associated delegated authority

Report of the Corporate Director for Legal and Partnerships

This item is not exempt
Therefore exempt reasons are not applicable

This is a key decision. The matter is in the Forward Plan No: 0007/25

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

1.1 The council has been commissioning education and training provision since 2022 through the Skills Bootcamp programme to complement training that is provided internally through the Council's internal training service.

1.2 The Town Clerk's service has developed a Dynamic Purchasing System to facilitate the associated Procurement exercises associated with the next wave of courses.

Recommendations

2.1 That the leader approves via the appropriate route of delegated authority to the Director/Assistant Director of Economic Development and Regeneration for the tendering/procurement exercise for Wave 6 of Skills Bootcamp training initiatives via the established Dynamic Purchasing System to meet the requirements of the Council to call upon provision for training providers of Education training where required.

2.2 The proposed budget for funding (now confirmed as per 26/2/25) via the DfE is £11,115,416.00.

To delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Economic Development and Regeneration to specifically run further competition tender exercises and manage future bids and associated contract award and budget management utilising the DPS.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Hull City Council has applied for Wave 6 Skills Bootcamp grant funding from the DfE. The scope of the project as in previous projects in Wave 2,3,4 and 5 is to seek one or more service providers across all lots to deliver specialist technical Skills Bootcamps.

3.2 The Council has a continuing requirement for training providers to support the delivery of training for Council staff and residents within the city with a view to continuously improving and upskilling and therefore ultimately providing new and often unique employment opportunities.

4. Impact on other Executive Committees (including Area Committees)

4.1 There is no impact on any other Executive Committee.

5. Background

5.1 The Skills Bootcamps are led and administered by HTAE on behalf of the Hull City Council and the Dfe. The delivery programme will address employer led demand and will provide opportunities to train, upskill and contribute within the Digital and Technical sector. The project is open to all delivery providers that meet the eligibility criteria and will support the Authority to achieve its aim in contributing and commitment to retraining and upskilling.

The aim of the Skills Bootcamps is to deliver flexible training programmes lasting up to 16 weeks based on employer/sector “in demand” skills can be regulated (qualification) or non-regulated (based on the alinement of industry standards) enabling adults to do training around work and other commitments, looking to gain work, additional responsibilities and or access new opportunities and will offer a guaranteed job interview once the course has been completed.

The scope is to seek service providers to deliver various specialist technical Skills Bootcamp training. Each Skills Bootcamp shall be delivered by one Service Provider, with providers having the choice to bid for one or more Skills Bootcamps. The opportunity to bid though shall only be available to Service Providers who have submitted a completed Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ) via the DPS, and the SSQ has been evaluated successful by the Authorities Procurement team.

Service Providers shall be expected to deliver high quality flexible training programmes to address the needs of adults aged 19+. Delivery is based at level 2 – 6 with a maximum delivery of 16 weeks and a minimum of 60 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) based on employer sector demand.

The contract will be until 31st March 2026 and will be administered by Hull Training and Adult Education (HTAE), Hull City Council. Scrutiny and Overview will be undertaken by the Executive Advisory Board (EAB) and all performance and KPIs monitored under existing Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) benchmarks

6. Issues for Consideration

6.1 The requirement to comply with Procurement Legislation Education service provision falls within the procurement Light Touch Regime. That regime provides the Council with greater flexibility in relation to securing its requirements, so long as it develops procurement processes that accord with the principles of fairness and transparency. Dynamic Purchasing Systems are long term procurement arrangements (10 years) that enable new suppliers to join the system from time to time, subject to such suppliers meeting the quality thresholds set by the Council. Once established users in the service area can commission the requirements from suppliers on the system. The Town Clerk's service now has experience of establishing a number of systems to enable their use by service areas. The systems have simplified the commissioning process and largely been welcomed by suppliers. The Council has been utilising an established DPS for the last 3 years with excellent results that have provided training and employment opportunities aligned with a compliant procurement route to learning providers.

6.2 Speed of access to suppliers. A key element of a system is that it enables opportunities to be made available to trainers on the system that can fulfil the Council's requirements. The areas of the Council that have a need for short term requirement are now better understood and lots can be established to cover the differing needs of Learning and Development for internal training, Hull Training for citywide provision, and I-Pass for the requirements of those who have a need for access to Learning and Development associated with their physical and sensory needs.

7. Equalities Impact Information

7.1 No negative impact has been identified against any of the protected characteristics, no detailed Equality Analysis is therefore required.

8 Options and Risk Assessment

8.1 The preferred option would be to approve the use of the DPS through the appropriate delegated authority to allow Wave 6 to proceed accordingly and utilise the funding provided by the DfE to identify skills gaps and provide the relevant training and learning disciplines with a longer term view to providing employment opportunities for the residents of the city.

8.2 Do nothing – if the council proceeded not to approve the use of the DPS for Wave 6 funding for Skills bootcamps the opposite effect would take place – the appropriate funding would not be able to be utilised for identifying the skills gaps within the city and therefore denying the subsequent employment opportunities. There is also the risk that funding would not be provided for future waves should wave 6 funding not be approved to be spent via the DPS route.

9. Comments of the Monitoring Officer (Town Clerk)

9.1 The Council receives funding from the Department for Education for the Council to provide skills bootcamps. Skills Bootcamps are designed for individuals to develop new skills that employers in the local region are looking for.

The use of the funding for the proposed services is noted and supported, it will need to remain compliant with the terms and conditions of the grant funding from the department for education.

The proposed use of the Dynamic Purchasing System to tender the services is fully compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015. (PG)

10. Comments of the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance and Transformation)

10.1 The Section 151 Officer supports the tender of the wave 6 bootcamp. The contract will be funded by the Department of education (DFE). (SM)

11. Comments of the Assistant Director OD & HR and compliance with the Equality Duty

11.1 The content of the report is noted. There are no staffing or equality issues arising for the council from this decision. KH

12. Comments of Overview and Scrutiny

12.1 This report is due to be considered by the Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on the 13th of March 2025. Any comments or recommendations agreed at the meeting, will be submitted to the Leader, for consideration alongside the final report. Ref: Sc8624 [MK].

13. Comments of the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

13.1 The decision to procure further Bootcamp Training contracts, which are external funded through the Training Dynamic Purchasing System can be supported. This additional provision further enhances the ability to upskill individuals' skill set and provide employers with the much-needed boost to productivity.

Ian Anderson, Corporate Director for Legal and Partnerships

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Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: - A list of background documents must be included. These documents are then available (if not exempt) for public inspection.

Implications Matrix

This section must be completed and you must ensure that you have fully considered all potential implications

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report

If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, Overview and Scrutiny and the Climate Change Advisor and any other key stakeholders i.e. Portfolio Holder, relevant Ward Members etc prior to submitting this report for official comments	Yes
I have considered whether this report requests a decision that is outside the Budget and Policy Framework approved by Council	Yes
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes
The report is approved by the relevant City Manager	Yes
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	Yes
I have considered the potential media interest in this report and liaised with the Media Team to ensure that they are briefed to respond to media interest.	Yes
I have included any equalities and diversity implications within the report and where necessary I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	Yes
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	Yes
Any human rights implications are included within the report	Yes
I have included any community safety implications and paid regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act within the report	Yes
I have liaised with the Climate Change Advisor and any environmental and climate change issues/sustainability implications are included within the report	Yes

I have included information about how this report contributes to the City Plan/ Area priorities within the report	Yes
I have considered the impact on air quality, carried out an appropriate assessment and included any resulting actions or opportunities necessary to improve air quality in the report.	Yes