

Decision Schedule

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 20 January 2020

The Cabinet Member took the following decisions on 20 January 2020. They will become effective at Noon on 28 January 2020 with the exception of any particular decision, which is the subject of a valid "call-in".

The deadline for submission of a 'Call-in' request form is 4.00 pm on 27 January 2020.

Information relating to the 'Call-in' process can be found via [Democratic Services](#).

Reports relating to staffing issues/Confidential reports are not circulated to all members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

E&S 01/20

Newport Commitment

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

The objective of the Newport Commitment was to ensure that the long term unemployed and young people in the city of Newport secured a job, post education and training that allowed them to be the best they could be; a job that unleashed and grows their own talents and skills and enabled them to contribute fully to the prosperity of the city. At the same time, the Newport Commitment sought to drive skills development and educational attainment in the city, by connecting young people, schools and wider educational institutions with business and employers.

The Commitment was already in place in Cardiff and Bristol and used a web-based platform to link young people and the unemployed with training and employment opportunities

Decision

That the Council adopted the Newport Commitment in partnership with local employers, primary and secondary schools to enable individuals to access work and training opportunities.

Consultation

Head of Law and Regulation, Head of People and Business Change and Chief Education Officer.

All members were consulted and provided with an opportunity to comment. Any comments received and response thereafter are set out in the report.

Implemented By: Chief Education Officer
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

European Social Fund (ESF) Bids – Journey 2 Work (J2W) Extension

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

In June 2017 a Cabinet Member Report was approved supporting Newport City Council's delivery of the Journey 2 Work operation as the Lead Beneficiary on behalf of the three Joint Beneficiaries (delivery partners) as noted below:

- Newport City Council
- Cardiff City Council
- Monmouthshire Housing Association

Newport City Council was successfully applied to the Welsh European Funding Office for an extension to the Journey 2 Work regional operation up until December 2022, adding an additional 2 years and 4 months to the delivery period and £994,696 of ESF Grant. Newport City Council would remain as the Lead Beneficiary managing the delivery and performance of the operation on behalf of the Joint Beneficiaries across the South East Wales region.

The Central Lead Team, employed by Newport City Council is 100% funded through the ESF Grant and currently consists of the following roles that manage the delivery and monitor performance of the Joint Beneficiaries within each operation:

- Central Lead Manager
- Central Lead Coordinator
- Central Lead Finance, Monitoring & Governance Officer x 3
- Central Lead Administrator

All Central Lead Team posts will be 100% funded by the ESF Grants provided through the Inspire 2 Achieve (45.72%), Inspire 2 Work (20.57%), Journey 2 Work (18.18%) and Skills at Work (15.53%) Operations and recruited on a fixed term contract up until the end of the operations in December 2022.

As the Lead Beneficiary for the Journey 2 Work operation, Newport City Council will be responsible for managing the performance of the operation and overseeing the delivery of each Joint Beneficiary. This included:

- Managing performance of Joint Beneficiary progress towards operational targets as agreed with the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).
- Completion of regular monitoring and compliance checks ensuring Joint Beneficiaries adhere to WEFO guidance.
- Reporting and submission of participant outcomes and financial expenditure to WEFO Project Delivery Officers and via WEFO online.
- Collation and storage of required documentation to evidence participant outcomes and financial expenditure.
- Correspondence with WEFO to resolve queries and distribution of information to Joint Beneficiaries.
- Communication with all Joint Beneficiaries on a regular basis ensuring WEFO updates and guidance were received.
- Preparations for WEFO claim verifications and European Funding Audit Team inspections.
- Development of legal agreements between Newport City Council as the Lead Beneficiary and the individual Joint Beneficiaries.
- Creation of a regional procurement framework where appropriate and monitoring of Joint Beneficiary procurement activity.
- Ensure the operation is adequately promoted and all marketing adheres to WEFO guidelines.

Decision

To accept an extension of the regional ESF Journey 2 Work operation up until December 2022.

Consultation

Head of Law and Regulation, Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

All members were consulted and provided with an opportunity to comment. Any comments received and response thereafter are set out in the report.

Implemented By: Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing
Implementation Timetable: Immediate

COUNCILLOR G GILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Date: 20 January 2020
