
TEES VALLEY WORKS

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor David Lyonette,
Regeneration and Planning Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to:
 - (a) seek endorsement for the Tees Valley Works Project September 2005 – August 2007;
and
 - (b) to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the other Tees Valley Authorities with Hartlepool Borough Council as lead and accountable body for this initiative.

Information and Analysis

Background Information

2. The Project has two elements both relating to the delivering of training to meet present and future skill needs within the Tees Valley.
3. The Tees Valley Local Authorities have been working together over the last year to provide a holistic range of personal development and employment/customised training to local people with the aim of increasing employment take up. Joint applications for two projects have been submitted to Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council for their 2006 ESF (European Social Fund) Co-financing round.

Tees Valley Works Project

4. The first element of the project will provide local people with a holistic range of personal development and customised training relating to existing and emerging skill needs. The project will be delivered throughout the Tees Valley utilising the extensive expertise of voluntary groups and local facilities.
5. It is anticipated that 515 individuals will be trained:
 - (a) 335 working towards a nationally recognised qualification;
 - (b) 165 number achieving nationally recognised qualifications;
 - (c) 366 completing their course;
 - (d) 124 in paid employment on leaving;
 - (e) 201 moving to further training or education.

6. This aspect of the project will operate from September 2005 – August 2007 utilising funds of £714,554 from LSC/ESF Co-financing. These funds will cover staff costs, training etc. A Project Co-ordinator and an Administrator will deliver the project, and a Quality Officer will be appointed to ensure that all training is to the required standard. Hartlepool Borough Council will employ all employees on behalf of the Tees Valley Authorities.
7. The second element aims to encourage the social and economic inclusion of women by widening IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) services, training and employment opportunities and improving their access to local mainstream provision. Provision will be planned during school term-time and school holidays with childcare facilities provided to ensure those learning opportunities are maximised.
8. It is anticipated that 250 females will be assisted with:
 - (a) 45 achieving a part qualification;
 - (b) 90 number in work on leaving;
 - (c) 18 number moving in non-traditional occupations;
 - (d) 123 number moving into further training or education;
 - (e) 3 number of trainers trained.
9. This aspect of the project will operate from September 2005 – August 2007 utilising funds of £244,450 from LSC/ESF Co-financing. These funds will cover staff costs, training and other funding such as childcare. The project will be delivered by a Project Co-ordinator and a part-time Administrator employed by Hartlepool Borough Council on behalf of the Tees Valley Authorities.

Financial Management

10. Hartlepool Borough Council is the accountable body for this scheme. Darlington Borough Council is not required to put any funds into this scheme. The Council is requested as a partner to find suitable office space when the project workers are working in Darlington. This can be accommodated within the Economic Regeneration and Tourism Section upon a rotational hot desk basis or with one of the deliverers.
11. The role of the Council is to work with the Tees Valley Works Officers and work with local partners within Darlington to source potential training beneficiaries, training providers and public and private sector jobs

Summary

12. This is a truly strategic sub-regional initiative bringing the five Local Authorities, Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council and training providers to work together to improve skills in the local labour market and meet existing and future skill needs.

Outcome of Consultation

13. The five Local Authorities consulted with the voluntary sector and training providers and secured their support and commitment to the project.

Legal Implications

14. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

15. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

16. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

17. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Key Decisions

18. This is a key decision as it affects more than two Wards of the Borough.

Recommendation

19. It is recommended that :-
- (a) Members support the Tees Valley Works Project from 2005 – 2007;
 - (b) Members agree to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the other four Local Authorities in Tees Valley with Hartlepool Borough Council as lead and accountable body for this initiative.

Reasons

20. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
- (a) To support a holistic Tees Valley initiative aimed at training unemployed individuals in the existing and emerging skills base.
 - (b) To support the local economy by tackling skills shortages and providing unemployed individuals with the skills they require to find employment.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Background Papers

- (i) Tees Valley Works LSC Co-financing bids
- (ii) Tees Valley Works Service Level Agreement with Hartlepool Borough Council as lead

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