

Appendix O

Skills Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel: Delivery of the Work Programme – Policy Review Recommendations 2012/13

Review Progress Summary				
● not on schedule	● on schedule	● undeliverable	● achieved	Total
0	2	0	5	7

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Timescale	RAG	Progress
A	That the Council and Work Programme providers continue to develop formal and informal channels of communication in order to inform and influence the delivery of the Work Programme for the benefit of Sunderland residents.	<p>Council representatives will continue to participate in/provide input to the regional working group, facilitated by ANEC, which forms the primary link with the Work Programme prime contractors at a strategic level.</p> <p>At an operational level, continue to maintain regular contact with prime contractors and their sub-contractors, to provide intelligence on current and future job opportunities to inform Work Programme delivery.</p>	Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager	March 2013	●	<p>Officer representatives from the Policy team continue to attend the regional working group facilitated by ANEC.</p> <p>On an operational level, regular contact is made with the Prime and Sub contractors of the Work Programme, in order to identify suitable candidates for vacancies which come to the attention of Council officers (for example as a result of Social & Economic clauses in contracts).</p>




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B	That the DWP be encouraged to produce regular and tailored performance data for the Council and its partner organisations at city-wide level and across Regeneration Areas	<p>Agreement will be reached on the terms of the Data Sharing Agreement with the Work Programme prime contractors, Avanta and Ingeus.</p> <p>Officers within Strategic Policy and Performance Management will incorporate Work Programme data returns within the Quarterly Performance Report for Aim 4 Group of the Economic Leadership Board.</p>	<p>Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager</p> <p>Mike Lowe, Head of Performance SPPM</p>	<p>Sept 2013</p> <p>Dec 2013</p>	●	<p>Following advice from legal, it was decided Sunderland Council would not sign the Data Sharing Agreement with the prime contractors. The benefits of doing so were not clear and the risks relating to compliance were viewed as being too high.</p> <p>Performance data is published with sufficient regularity and depth to suffice the current needs of the Economic Leadership Board members.</p>
C	That Work Programme providers look to develop their role and involvement in local economic policy at a strategic level – for example through involvement in the North Eastern LEP, the development of Sunderland Economic Masterplan and the Local Strategic Partnership	<p>This recommendation be communicated to the providers</p> <p>Members of Aim 4 Group will consider how best to integrate the activities of the Work Programme prime contractors into strategic planning and the shaping of local economic policy, as part of the Employment Strategy.</p>	<p>Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager</p> <p>Vince Taylor, Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance Management (via the Chair of Aim 4 group)</p>	<p>April 2013</p> <p>July 2013</p>	●	<p>This recommendation was communicated to the Work Programme prime and sub-contractors operating in Sunderland and welcomed by them.</p> <p>Providers joined discussions at Aim 4 Group which were helpful to its work. Economic Leadership Board currently reviewing sub group structuring and replacing the four Aim Groups with three Result Groups.</p>
D	That the Council examines ways of informing Work Programme providers of potential new	Council officers will continue to participate in regular network meetings with Work Programme	Karen Alexander, Employment	March 2013	●	Information continues to be cascaded.


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	investment in the city at the earliest possible opportunity in order that they are able to prepare for potential sectors of employment growth	representatives where information about inward investment opportunities and growth sectors is cascaded.	and Training Manager			
E	That the Council looks to continue to do everything in its power to maximise local employment opportunities through the operation of its procurement process	<p>When relevant to the subject matter, social value benefits will be considered for services (specifically over the EU threshold) at the pre-procurement stage and during the procurement. A systematic tool to be developed to consider social value when setting evaluation criteria, contract scope and performance regimes. Colleagues within Business Investment and Corporate Procurement will work closely with commissioners to ensure a value for money approach is followed when assessing contract opportunities.</p> <p>Led by the Aim 4 Group, steps will be taken to encourage other partners in the city to incorporate Social and Economic clauses in development contracts.</p>	<p>Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager</p> <p>Vince Taylor, Head of SPPM (via the Chair of Aim 4 Group)</p>	<p>Sept 14</p> <p>Dec 2014</p>	 	<p>A systematic process is in place to consider the suitability of including a requirement for Social & Economic clauses to be built into procurement contracts. A current example of this is the building of the new Washington Leisure Centre.</p> <p>See D above re Economic Leadership Board review of sub group structures.</p>
F	That the Council as a major employer in the city continues to maximise the use of work placements	Consideration will be given to how a greater number of work experience placements can be offered across all Council directorates, to benefit both NEET young people and	Dave Rippon, Head of HR and OD	June 2014		Apprenticeship vacancies have been created under Responsive Local Services, where it is planned 36 new apprentices will be recruited in March-April 2014.

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		unemployed adults, helping them to move closer to employment. Opportunities for work experience within the Council will be shared with Jobcentre Plus, so that suitable individuals can be identified to take up the placements.				This is the second intake of apprentices into this area and consideration should be given to spreading this good practice across other service areas.
G	That the Work Programme providers continue to develop their links with local businesses and look to work more closely with SMEs in the city.	The Council will continue to maintain an understanding of the Work Programme 'offer' for employers and will encourage the business community, particularly SMEs, to make contact with Work Programme providers in order to take up that offer.	Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager	Feb 2014		The broad range of employability support services which operate across the city is frequently discussed with local businesses, to help with their recruitment needs, as part of the general advice and support given by the Business Investment Team.