
Cabinet

12 December 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Councillor Dr K Sandhu

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Business, Investment and Culture

Ward(s) affected:

Binley and Willenhall, Foleshill, Henley, Radford, St Michaels, Westwood and Woodlands

Title: Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund (CWGLEF) – Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing Programme for Coventry

Is this a key decision?

No - although this affects more than 2 wards of the City, the proposals are not expected to have a significant impact on businesses or residents

Executive summary:

In April 2023, the Department of Culture Media and Sport launched the Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund (CWGLEF). This is funding for the West Midlands Combined Authority Area with some of the funding ring-fenced for Birmingham City Council only - as the city host of the Commonwealth Games. A total of £67.9m in funding is available until March 2025. Commonwealth Legacy Fund funding is allocated across four funding pillars. These are:

- Inclusive Communities
- Economy and Tourism
- Culture and Heritage
- Wellbeing and Sustainability

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is the accountable body for CWGLEF. WMCA have chosen to use a mixture of funding modules to allocate funds under the four pillars, this includes: competitive grant awards, competitive supplier awards, direct award contract, WMCA in-house delivery and 'Double Devolution' to Local Authorities.

The Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing fund is part of the Economy and Tourism Pillar and totals £5.75m. Coventry City Council's share of this is £801,714 and needs to be spent by 31st March 2025. This funding was 'double devolved' with Coventry City Council able to choose how the funding was spent (from a list of five pre-determined options).

Coventry City Council plans to use this funding to increase our capacity to provide employment and skills support to those most in need including: 16-29 year olds, who are not in employment education or training (NEET), those aged 50+ and women who are in low paid work or economically inactive. This funding will provide support for a minimum of 300 Coventry residents with a minimum of 236 supported to engage in job searching following support.

The report requests that Cabinet:

- note the use of the powers afforded under Paragraph 2.3.2 (c) of Part 3F of the Council's Constitution (if no time to go to Cabinet) by Director of Business Investment and Culture, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Chair of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) to accept this funding; and
- Approve the programme deliverables, outputs and outcomes as described further in the report.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1) Note the use of the powers afforded under Paragraph 2.3.2 (c) of Part 3F of the Council's Constitution (if no time to go to Cabinet) by Director of Business Investment and Culture, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Chair of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) for the acceptance of Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund (CWGLEF) – Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing funding in the amount of £801,714.
- 2) Approve the programme deliverables – target groups, outputs and outcomes as described above and set out in more detail in paragraphs 1.6 -1.10 of this report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment Form

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund (CWGLEF) – Jobs, Skills, and Wellbeing Programme for Coventry

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund (CWGLEF) is a fund managed by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). The fund’s purpose is to provide opportunities for residents in the West Midlands area to benefit from the legacy of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. For example, through boosting the local economy with a stronger tourism sector, improved cultural assets, or increased community sports and wellbeing activity.
- 1.2 CWGLEF was launched in April 2023. The funding is primarily for the West Midlands Combined Authority Area, although small amounts may also benefit ‘non-constituent’ members. Some of the funding is ring-fenced for Birmingham City Council only, as the city host of the Commonwealth Games.
- 1.3 The total value of CWGLEF for WMCA area is £67.9m: This is split into 4 ‘Pillars’ and 16 individual programmes as shown in the below table. The Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing Fund, detailed in this paper, is highlighted in yellow.

Pillar	Programme	Budget	Funding Model	Beneficiary Area
Inclusive Communities	Commonwealth Inclusive Communities Grants Fund	£10.5 Million*	Competitive Supplier Contract Competitive Grant Agreements	All Constituent LAs All Non-Constituent LAs
	Legacy Trailblazers	£5 Million	Supply of Service Agreement (United By 2022 Legacy Charity)	All Constituent LAs
	European Athletics Championships 2026	£3 Million	Double Devolution	Birmingham City Council
	Social Economy	£2 Million*	Competitive Supplier Contracts	All Constituent LAs
	Inclusive Practice Framework	£0.3 Million	In House WMCA delivery	All Constituent LAs
Economy, Trade and Tourism	Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing	£5.75 Million*	Double Devolution	All Constituent LAs
	Major Events Funds	£6 Million	Double Devolution	All Constituent LAs Non-Constituent LAs if selected
	West Midlands High Growth	£3.25 Million*	Competitive Supplier Contracts	All Constituent Authorities
	Global West Midlands	£0.7 Million	Double-Devolution	All Constituent Authorities
	Global West Midlands	£13.4 Million	Direct Award Contract (West Midlands Growth Company)	All Constituent Authorities
	European Athletics Championships 2026	£10.7 Million	Double-Devolution	Birmingham City Council
Culture and Heritage	Creative Commissions	£2.5 Million	Double-Devolution	All Constituent Authorities

	and Place Based Grants			
	Strategic development and conference	£0.6 Million*	In House WMCA delivery	All Constituent Authorities
	International Grants, Skills and Business Programme and the Mayor's Talent Fund	£1 Million	Competitive Grants Agreements	All Constituent Authorities
Wellbeing and Sustainability	Sandwell Aquatics Centre	£2 Million	Double-Devolution	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
	Community Green Grants Fund	£1.2 Million*	Competitive Supplier Contract Competitive Grants Agreement	All Constituent Authorities
TOTALS	16 Programmes	£67.9 Million	N/A	N/A

- 1.4 **WMCA administer the fund:** DCMS have made WMCA the lead accountable body for CWGLEF. Some of the funds are being 'Double-Devolved' as shown in the above table. This includes the Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing fund. To clarify how 'Double Devolution' worked in this instance; CCC were allowed to determine the focus of the funding from a pre-determined list of five options. These were:
- Locally Targeted Jobs and Skills.
 - Regional Careers Programme for 14-19 Year Olds.
 - Jobs and Skills Hubs in Deprived Localities.
 - Paid Work Placement Model and Bursary Support for Pre-Apprenticeship Courses.
 - Locally Targeted Jobs and Skills. This was the option chosen by Coventry City Council
- 1.5 **Total value of CWGLEF Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing fund for CCC is £801,714:** This is split into two funding years detailed in 1.6 and 1.7. Although the funding period notionally started on the 1st of April 2023 the Funding Agreement was not received until 29th September 2023. This was due to delays in the process between DCMS and WMCA. This has caused significant delays in starting Year 1. CCC have therefore agreed a reprofile of funding and outputs/outcomes with WMCA. 30% of the funding and outputs/outcomes are allocated for Year 1, with the remaining 70% being allocated for Year 2.
- 1.6 **£240,514.28 for Year 1 (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024):** This will support a minimum of 90 Coventry residents with locally based jobs support, of which a minimum of 71 will be supported to engage in job searching following support.
- 1.7 **£561,200 for Year 2 (1st Apr 2024 – 31st March 2025):** This will support a minimum of 210 Coventry residents with locally based jobs support, of which a minimum of 165 will be supported to engage in job searching following support.
- 1.8 **Targeted employment support:** The funding will be used by CCC's Employment and Skills Service to increase our capacity in providing support to those residents most in need. Key target groups will be those who are 16-29 years old and not in employment, education or training (NEET), 50+ unemployed/economically inactive residents and women who are in low paid work or economically inactive.

- 1.9 **Place based employment support:** The funding will support Job Coaches to work within communities in close partnership with existing community groups and the voluntary and community sector. Target wards and Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA's) within those wards are shown in the below table:

Ward	MSOA's
Foleshill	South Foleshill, Upper Foleshill, Courtaulds/Edgewick
St Michaels	Hillfields, Charterhouse, City Centre
Henley Ward	WEHM (Wood End, Henley, Manor Farm), Potters Green/Mount Pleasant
Binley and Willenhall	Willenhall, Aldermoor, Ernesford Grange
Radford	Lower Radford
Westwood	Canley (excluding Canley Gardens)
Woodlands	Tile Hill (especially Jardine Crescent)

- 1.10 **Improving residents' wellbeing:** The project will show the impact of employment support on participants overall wellbeing. This will be done through surveying the participants at the start of their support and when they leave the programme.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal:

- 2.1. The Council could have chosen to decline the opportunity to accept this funding. This option is not recommended.
- 2.2. The recommended option is for Coventry City Council to accept the funding and deliver the outputs and outcomes as set out above.

3. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 3.1. This is a retrospective decision; Cabinet is asked to note the decision taken in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

4. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

4.1. Financial Implications

- 4.1.1 The report seeks retrospective authority to accept £801,714 of external CWGLEF grant for the purposes set out in section 1 of the report.
- 4.1.2 There are no match funding requirements.
- 4.1.3 The WMCA is the nominated Accountable body for the CWGLEF. However they will, in awarding monies to the City Council, pass delivery risk to the City Council through formal legal Grant Aid Agreements. See section 6.2 which outlines the approach to risk management.

4.2 Legal implications

- 4.2.1 This report seeks to inform Cabinet of the decision to accept a grant award taken under powers afforded under Paragraph 2.3.2 (c) of Part 3F of the Council's Constitution. Legal are satisfied that this power has been properly exercised.

4.2.2 s1 Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence and as such the Council has the power to receive grant funding and enter into a grant agreement.

4.2.3 The Council will need to ensure that the terms of and conditions of the grant award are adhered to. The Council's Employment and Skills Service will be responsible for ensuring that the grant is managed correctly, and Legal Services will provide the necessary support to address any legal issues associated with the acceptance of the grant awards.

5. Other implications

5.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan ?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

The CWGLEF will make a very important contribution in increasing the capacity of CCC's Employment and Skills Team to provide support to those residents most in need. It will be used in addition to the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) Communities and Place/People and Skills Grant Funding to create a better impact for our residents.

The funding will help to address the objective of "Improving Outcomes and Tackling Inequalities Within Our Communities", by helping local people to gain the confidence and skills to gain good quality employment.

The funding will also help address the objective "Improving the Economic Prosperity of the City and Regions". Participants supported to enter employment will be able to contribute more to the local economy. This will also help businesses to fill vacancies supporting business sustainability and growth. Those supported into work will also be less likely to be claiming out of work-related benefits and be in a better position to pay Council Tax, supporting the objective of the "Continued Financial Sustainability of the Council."

The funding will support the objective of "Tackling the Causes and Consequences of Climate Change", by supporting residents to gain employment in 'green skills' sectors. The project delivery team will benefit from being integrated into the wider Employment and Skills Team which is leading on the Coventry Skills Strategy priority of ensuring that Coventry's skills system is equipped to support residents to gain the green skills required to support the transition to Net Zero.

Finally, the funding will contribute to the Council's aim to act as 'leader and enabler' for the city, ensuring that through our relationship with WMCA and with key community partners, the very best outcomes are achieved for our residents and businesses.

5.2. How is risk being managed?

Coventry City Council has a long track record of delivering externally funded employment and skills projects, and the risks associated with this type of work are well understood. For example, there are financial risks such as the failure to deliver outputs or financial targets, and the risk that this could lead to funding clawback. Risks of this kind are mitigated by ensuring that sufficient programme management resource is available to enforce adherence to the funder's rules, and to work closely with delivery partners to ensure they are producing eligible outputs on time and on budget. There is sufficient experience in the Employment and Skills Service to manage these risks appropriately at service or division level and an entry on the corporate risk register will not be necessary for this.

5.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

The principal impact on the organisation will be securing funding for staff directly employed by the Council working on employment and skills activities. This will provide funding which will support the retaining of highly skilled staff currently working on projects which are due to come an end on the 31st December 2023. There are no impacts on ICT, accommodation, assets etc.

5.4. Equalities / EIA?

A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix A to the report. As this funding provides additional capacity to deliver employment and skills support to Coventry residents, there is a clear net positive equalities impact. Equalities impact work has also been completed for the Skills Strategy, which will inform the approach to this work.

5.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

Our Skills Strategy sets out a clear priority to ensure our skills provision has a strong focus on green skills. This funding will support this by adding capacity to our employment support work and help to ensure residents are able to access the available 'green skills' provision, are given good quality 'green skills' careers advice and are connected to employers offering jobs.

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