



## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 17 March 2021**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>WIRRAL WAYS TO WORK</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The report provides for consideration the final recommendations of the Economy Regeneration and Development committee in respect to Wirral Ways to Work. The report requests that Policy and Resource Committee authorise the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director for Regeneration and Place to enter a contract extension and sign the supplier contract with Involve Northwest to continue delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Worklessness Support Service. And to authorise an option for the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter a 3-month contract extension from July to September 2021.

The full report was presented to the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee Report on 4 March 2021 is attached as an appendix.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Economy Regeneration and Development Committee request that Policy and Resources Committee approve the following recommendations:

- Authorise the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director for Regeneration and Place to enter a contract extension and sign the supplier contract with Involve Northwest to continue delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Worklessness Support Service.
- Authorise an option for the Director of Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter a 3-month contract extension from July to September 2021 to cover off the risk of awaiting a grant funding agreement from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and then proceed to a full extension once confirmation of EU funds is received, should this option need to be utilised.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 This matter is being referred to Policy & Resources Committee because the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee is requesting recommending the authorisation of the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director for Regeneration and Place to enter a contract extension and sign the supplier contract with Involve Northwest to continue delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Worklessness Support Service whilst the Council awaits formal award of European Social Fund (ESF). This decision will require funding to be made available by virement between budget funds and in accordance with the Council's Constitution the virement of funds requested by a Committee or Officer in excess of £100,000 is reserved to Policy & Resources Committee.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Do Nothing: The council takes no action and does not extend the contract with Involve Northwest from 1st July 2021. This option would significantly impact Involve Northwest by jeopardising the jobs of 35 staff employed to deliver the contract. Doing nothing would seriously reduce highly valued employability provision within Wirral which supports unemployed and inactive adults and young people into jobs and training.
- 2.2 Delay/reduce the commissioned service: If the Council chooses to delay or reduce the commissioned service beyond 1st July 2021 (until a finalised grant agreement is formally awarded via the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority), this will seriously risk the financial viability of Involve Northwest. The charity would declare staff redundancies thereby losing the staff to run the contract before it is formally awarded. Delay would therefore also seriously jeopardise Wirral Council's ability to deliver any future expected outputs of the Ways to Work Programme.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 This report seeks authority for the Council to enter into an extension of a supplier agreement with Involve Northwest whilst the Council awaits formal award of European Social Fund (ESF). Following a competitive tender exercise, Involve Northwest has been selected as preferred supplier to deliver the Worklessness Support Service, which is part of the Wirral Ways to Work Programme. The contract is due to expire on 30th June 2021, however there is scope within the current contract to extend for 16 months until October 2022.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The financial implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The legal implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.
- 5.2 the Policy & Resources Committee is charged by full Council to provide a co-ordinating role across all other service committees and retain a 'whole-council' view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management. In particular, this includes specific responsibility for a decision regarding land and property including major acquisition and disposals, which includes reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, £100,000;
- As part of the matter of business that was the subject of the report to Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee falls under that responsibility reserved to the Policy and Resources Committee, the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee's proposed resolution is presented as a recommendation.
- 5.3 As the decision in this matter is the subject of a recommendation from another Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee must take into account the resolution of that Committee and give due regard to the guidance and comments made by its members. The Policy and Resources Committee must not, however, consider itself bound by that Committee's recommendations or otherwise fetter its discretion; its Members must come to their own decision. In doing so, the Committee must satisfy itself that it has been provided with all relevant information or a suitable précis to enable it to comply with its duties and make a lawful decision.

## **6.1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 The resource implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

## **6.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

The relevant risks are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021

## **7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The engagement/consultation are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

## **8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The equality implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The environment and climate implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Minute Extract  
Appendix 2 – Committee Report

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Liverpool City Region Employment & Skills Portfolio Holders meeting 13.01.2021 – Item 3**

**ESF Update DWP ESF/YEI Call guidance:** <https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investmentfunds/youth-employment-initiative-oc50s21p1801>

**Evaluation of Ways to Work Liverpool City Region (Draft) December 2018. Centrifuge Consulting**

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Delegated Decision Report of the Portfolio Holder for Jobs and Growth - European Structural and Investment Fund Programme for England 2014-2020: Wirral Ways to Work Programme Extension	6 July 2021
European Structural and Investment Fund programme for England 2014-2020: Wirral Ways to Work Programme	7th March 2019