

OFFICER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

KEY DECISION YES

DIRECTORATE: REGENERATION & PLACE

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

SUBJECT: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND WORKLESSNESS SUPPORT SERVICE CONTRACT EXTENSION

1.0 DECISION

- 1.1 The Director of Regeneration and Place has agreed to enter into a contract extension with Involve Northwest for the delivery of the Worklessness Support Service for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, to the value of £1,108,749.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The Worklessness Support Service is helping to address worklessness in Wirral. Wirral is an area which has levels of worklessness exceeding regional and national averages. The Wirral Ways to Work programme has been identified as an essential activity in the Economic Strategy 2021-26 to tackle the level of worklessness across the borough. The Worklessness Support Service is a key element of the Ways to Work Programme delivering accessible community-based services which ensure that out of work residents are provided with the relevant one to one support to compete both for jobs currently available in the labour market and for future opportunities created through the wider regeneration programme. This programme is designed to focus on those furthest away from the labour market and in the most deprived communities in Wirral, complementing the mainstream services provided by the Department of Work and Pensions.
- 2.2 Following the decision to accept UKSPF and Public Health Funds for the delivery of the Wirral Ways to Work Programme, the Director of Regeneration and Place has agreed to enter into a contract extension with Involve Northwest to deliver the Worklessness Support Service on behalf of the Council to address levels of worklessness in Wirral.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

- 3.1 The recommendation is made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. It is also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendation reflects the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

4.1 Not applicable.

Signed:



Officer: David Hughes

Title: Director of Regeneration & Place

Date: 7th February 2024

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Sarah Dodd, Senior Economic Lead.
Date: 8 February 2024

Date of Publication: 13 February 2024
Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 16 February 2024