



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Leader
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Adult & Prevention Services
DATE:	14 February 2019

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Health and Adult Social Care

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES ☒ NO ☐

SUBJECT:

SOCIAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), Blackburn with Darwen Council have submitted a 3 year programme of activity to better understand and overcome barriers to social integration in the borough.

In the Autumn, funding from MHCLG was approved for Year 1, and this has left a significant time pressure to deliver the agreed programme for Year 1 (2018/19).

We are anticipating confirmation of Year 2 funding by the end of the financial year, March 2019. There is an expectation that we will demonstrate funds committed by March 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

2.1 Approves the delegation of authority to the Director of Adult Services and Prevention in conjunction with the Director of Finance and Customer Services, in consultation with Leader of the Council, to award contracts to partner organisations to deliver elements of the Social Integration Programme following a competitive commissioning process led by the Social Integration Programme Team.

2.2 Notes that the Local Integration Partnership Board will continue to provide programme Governance to ensure monitoring and evaluation of contracts commissioned in the delivery plan.

2.3 Notes that further reports and presentations will be made to the Executive Board to report on the overall progress of the Social Integration Strategy at a frequency that is able to capture meaningful progress.

3. BACKGROUND

Governance

A Local Integration Programme Board is steering the development of the Social Integration Strategy for Blackburn with Darwen. The Board is Chaired by the Leader of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council with, the Chair of YMCA, Blackburn as 'Vice Chair'.

Delivery Plan

The Programme Delivery Plan, drafted after consultation with public, private and voluntary sector partners was approved by MHCLG in October 2018.

Our Community, Our Future

Late October and November 2018 saw over 100 people from a variety of local organisations and businesses come along to a series of co-production workshops, and the Our Community, Our Future Strategy was then launched in December.

Budget

Whilst approval was only received in October 2018, March 2019 marks the end of Year 1 of Programme delivery.

The funding allocation announced from MHCLG for 2018/19 is £343k.

The funding profiled for 2019/20 is £1.7m. The council is confident of being able to commit a proportion of this funding before the end of 2018/19, providing commissioning activity can be undertaken, and funding committed in the current financial year.

Activity to be commissioned will be funded both from the 2018/19 and 19/20 budgets.

Taking the usual step of seeking approval from Executive Board following the completion of the commissioning process would increase the length of the process beyond the end of March 2019, accordingly approval is being sought for a delegated officer decision. This would facilitate contracts being awarded and financial commitments could also be demonstrated to MHCLG.

Key Commissioning Activity

- The Programme Team will advertise opportunities on The CHEST and will ensure promotion to alert potential partners and stakeholders (February 2019).
- The Programme Team have worked with Young People's Services, supporting the commissioning. There is an ambition to have young people involved in design and delivery of Youth Voices and Youth Ambassadors (February/ March 2019).
- The commissioning format breaks down programme areas into individual lots (detailed above). This allows organisations to compete for single projects or combinations of projects.
- The commissioning will encourage collaborative proposals.
- Time permitting and where there are no conflicting interests, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Local Integration Partnership (LIP) Board, and other key stakeholders from the LIP Board will be invited to be part of the decision making process.
- Preferred providers will be made a formal award in this financial year (March 2019)

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

As some projects span both the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial year, the Council wishes to commission projects which cover both years – rather than repeating a lengthy commissioning process.

This means the need to commission and show a financial commitment in 2018/19 (by the end of March 2019).

Should funding not be committed in the current financial year, there is a risk that any future funding allocation from MHCLG will be significantly reduced.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no adverse policy issues.

The council has set out its ambition under the social integration strategy very clearly. Work in the policy area is of high priority and has a strategic fit with the Government's own social integration strategy green paper.

As a selected Partner with the MHCLG we will be required to evaluate and monitor progress to show how the investment will achieve the agreed outcomes in our delivery plan.

As a broader community based programme the strategy and programme has synergy with the council's Corporate Plan and future Vision beyond 2020.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Because taking the usual route of seeking approval from Executive Board following the completion of the commissioning process would increase the length of the process beyond the end of March 2019, we are seeking to gain approval for a delegated officer decision. With a delegated officer decision, contract awards can be made and financial commitments demonstrated to MHCLG.

The council is looking to commission the following programmes for delivery to start as soon as possible and complete by March 2020 with:

- Community Voices (£70,000)
- Community Ambassadors (£140,000)
- Youth Voices (£25,000)
- Youth Ambassadors (£120,000)
- Workforce Integration Ambassadors (£15,000)
- Work Placements and Apprenticeships (£150,000)

The total value of the above commissions is £520k utilising the 2018/19 allocation and a proportion of the 2019/20 allocation subject to MHCLG being able to allocate against committed expenditure.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Contracts will be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules. As these contracts fall under the Light Touch Regime they will be below the threshold of £598,148 then advertising in OJEU is not necessary. Contracts will need to be in an approved form.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding from MHCLG could be at risk if we are unable to make awards and commit funding in this financial year.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 ☒ Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

None

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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CONTACT OFFICER:	Rebecca Ramsay
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DATE:	29 th January 2019
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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