

Project Overview

Project Title	Employment Support West Yorkshire
Applicant Organisation	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Main Funding Programme	Gainshare funding for Investment Priority 2 - Skills and Training for People.
Current Forecast Project cost	£12,023,833
Funding Applied from the Combined Authority	£12,000,000
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	£23,833

The Employment Support West Yorkshire programme will provide support and advice and the opportunity to gain skills to 7,700 people of all ages, to help them move closer to, enter or return to the labour market and / or gain the skills needed to move towards work, or to progress within their current work. The programme will also pilot new local activity to support young people to access skilled well paid green jobs.

The programme is being developed in collaboration with West Yorkshire's five partner councils. Each partner council will deliver activities from April 2023 to March 2025, which meet local needs.

Activities on offer will include digital skills training, supporting participants to use modern job search techniques, employability skills training, work related literacy and numeracy support, careers information, effective interview techniques, job, sector-specific and/or vocational training including nationally recognised qualifications that are in demand with local employers. The programme will also offer housing, childcare or other specialist advice, for example drugs and alcohol, or signposting to relevant organisations and budgeting and debt advice.

The scheme will be funded from the gainshare funding for Investment Priority 2 - Skills and Training for People.

Business Case Summary

Strategic Case

The Employment Support West Yorkshire programme closely aligns to multiple local and national priorities and policies including, the Adult Education Budget Strategy, West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) and West Yorkshire Climate and Environment action plan (2030). The programme also aligns to three Mayoral pledges:

- Prioritise skills and training to ensure everyone has the skills they need to secure work
- Create 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people
- Tackle the Climate Emergency and protect our environment

The Employment Support West Yorkshire programme closely aligns to the Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Framework (part of the Strategic Economic Framework). It will support the Framework's 'accessing and progressing in good work' priority which has the ambition that 'everyone has the skills to be able to access good work and is supported to take up training in the workplace that enables progression and development of transferable skills.'

The programme will support 7,700 people to access support and advice to move them closer to, or return to the labour market, with a particular focus on participants from under-represented groups. This will include more people being supported who are not in education or employment (NEET), are

inactive or unemployed and more people gaining skills and qualifications that address barriers to work.

Economic Case

In West Yorkshire, there are 333,000 people considered inactive, 72,670 benefit claimants and 11,000 job postings / vacancies, compared to 4,000 before the Covid-19 pandemic.

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The programme will be reviewed regularly so it can respond to emerging needs, identified, through the pilots and any new national initiatives.

Commercial Case

The programme has been developed in partnership with the five West Yorkshire partner councils and builds on past experience and learning from delivering other employment and skills programmes. The Combined Authority will be responsible for the contract management of the programme with partner councils procuring services required, in line with public sector procurement procedures.

Financial Case

The total scheme costs are £12,023,833. The Combined Authority's contribution is £12,000,000 from the gainshare funding allocation for Investment Priority 2 – Skills and Training for People. Leeds City Council will fund the remaining £23,833, as its operating costs are more than its gainshare allocation.

The Combined Authority will enter into funding agreements with each of the partner councils, subject to the approval of this business case.

Management Case

The Employment Support West Yorkshire programme has been developed in consultation with the five West Yorkshire partner councils, to respond to local needs. The Combined Authority and partner councils have considerable experience of delivering employment and skills programmes and the programme has been developed based on learning and best practice from the delivery of these programmes.

The Combined Authority will be responsible for managing the programme and the Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Committee will have overall responsibility for oversight of the programme and will receive regular performance updates.