

**CABINET REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member (Children Schools and Families)  
Cabinet Member (Regeneration)

**SUBJECT:** 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2011  
Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/ European Social Fund (ESF) Provision (Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011 – 2013 Youth Programme)

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Peter Morgan  
Strategic Director Children’s Services  
Andy Wallis  
Planning and Economic Development Director

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Eddie Sloan 3410  
Mo. Kundi 3447

**EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL:** No

<p><b>PURPOSE/SUMMARY:</b></p> <p>To inform Members of the Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011 –2013 Youth Programme, and to seek Cabinet Member approval to enter into a contract with the Skills Funding Agency to deliver the Sefton element of the project.</p>
<p><b>REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:</b></p> <p>Cabinet Member approval is required to extend the current contract with the Skills Funding Agency, and to accept the offer letter for the Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011 –2013 Youth Programme project for Sefton.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION(S):</b></p> <p>It is recommended that Cabinet Member for Children’s Services:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree that, subject to the bid being successful, authorise Officers to accept the officer letter and to enter into a contract with the Skills Funding Agency for the Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011 – 2013 Youth Programme project for Sefton, and</li> <li>2. Agree that Management and Delivery of the NEET project be transferred to Council’s Planning and Economic Development Department, as out lined in paragraph 4.0 of the report.</li> </ol> <p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Note the report, and</li> <li>4. Request further progress reports.</li> </ol>

**KEY DECISION:** None

**FORWARD PLAN:** None

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** After the expiry of "Call in Period"

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:** Any proposals not to support and continue with the provision of such services risks future provision becoming unsustainable, and loss of pre matched funding for this purpose.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None

**Financial:**

There are no calls on Council's financial resources as all costs associated with management and delivery of the project will be met in full by the project.

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>	<b>2014/ 2015 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
Specific Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	188,540	262,025	196,598	0
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources	0	0	0	0
Funded from External Resources	188,540	262,025	196,598	0
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? YES	When? 31 <sup>ST</sup> December 2013			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	Provision will cease			

**Legal:** A legal agreement will be drawn up between the provision delivery agents and Sefton Council.

**Risk Assessment:** NA

**Asset Management:** NA

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

**LD 00016/10** - Legal

**FD 600** - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

Children, Schools and Families

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>		<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1	Creating a Learning Community	/		
2	Creating Safe Communities		/	
3	Jobs and Prosperity	/		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		/	
5	Environmental Sustainability		/	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		/	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		/	
8	Children and Young People	/		

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Report to Cabinet Member for Children's Services (7<sup>th</sup> December 2010), and Cabinet Member for Regeneration (15<sup>th</sup> December 2010) entitled Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Financed Provision

## 1.0 Background

1.1 Cabinet Member for Children's Services (7<sup>th</sup> December 2010), and Cabinet Member for Regeneration (15<sup>th</sup> December 2010) at their respective meetings considered a report entitled Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Financed Provision, which provided background information on Learning & Support during KS4 project (contract value £699,999) and Retention in Post 16 Learning project (contract value £574,169). The report highlighted the current delivery arrangements whereby Sefton Council is the accountable body, and manages the two projects, but partners undertake the actual delivery. Cabinet Members noted the successful delivery model, and agreed to extend the end date of the two projects from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, which would result in Sefton Council being able to attract additional £78,025.50 grant.

1.2 The Skills Funding Agency and European Social Fund have now combined the Learning & Support during KS4 and the Retention in Post 16 Learning strands into one single activity labelled Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011 –2013 Youth Programme. As with previous two projects SFA funding will be co-financed with the European Social Fund, and again there will be no call on Sefton resources.

1.2 An Invitation to Tender (ITT) was issued by the SFA for new activity under the Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011-2013 Youth Programme in October 2010, with a deadline for submission by 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010. In light of the very tight deadline Officers have responded to the Invitation to Tender, and if successful this will give Sefton Council the opportunity to draw down £647,163 of co-financed funding from April 2011- December 2013. The decision making time table is as follows:-

ITT evaluation completed by SFA	- 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
Contract award decision	- 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2011
Notification letters issued	- 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
Formal contract award letter issued	- 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2011
Project start	- 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2011

## 2.0 Key Components

2.1 The project will run from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and will support 295 young people, aged 14-18 (or up to 25 for young people with LLDD) in Sefton who are not in education, employment or training.

2.2 The project will focus on the following priority areas for Sefton:

- Supporting LLDD/Vulnerable Groups e.g. looked after children & young parents
- Developing Employability Skills
- Developing bespoke packages of support

2.3 Young people supported on this project will be assessed and offered customised packages of support resulting in the young person going onto further education or employment with training. Sefton Education Business Partnership (EBP) will assume responsibility for young people in Key stage 4 (aged 14-16) with the focus on

“prevention of NEET”. The Connexions Service will take responsibility for re-engaging with young people post 16 who are already in NEET.

Key activities covered by this project will include: -

- Identification of young people
- Assessment of needs
- Action Planning
- Mentoring support
- Customised programme of activity
- Supported work based learning opportunities.

### **3.0 Delivery Arrangements**

3.1 Service Level Agreements will again be agreed at the onset of the project with delivery partners named in the application. Clearly defined roles, responsibilities, the nature of activities and what was expected from the provider and all partners, together with financial and monitoring details will be included in the agreements.

3.2 The Authority has extensive experience in managing and monitoring the performance of externally funded projects and their beneficiaries, ensuring that delivery partners meet identified targets and contractual milestones and outcomes are achieved.

3.3 These arrangements will remain in place until the end of the projects on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, or any revised end date be agreed by the SFA. If a revised date is agreed by the SFA, then contracts with delivery partners be amended.

### **4.0 Management Arrangements**

4.1 In light of the changes taking places in the Children’s Schools, and Families Services, it is now proposed that management and delivery responsibility for the project be now transferred to Planning and Economic Development Department. However Children’s Schools and Families Services will continue be involved with the project from a strategic, and policy perspective, and regular progress reports will be presented to Cabinet Member for Children’s Services.

### **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 The total cost of the project if successful, is £647,163. There will be no call on Sefton resources as all costs associated with its management and delivery will be charged to the project.

### **6.0 Legal Implication**

6.1 Sefton Council is the accountable for the two existing ESF Projects. As the Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011 –2013 Youth Programme is a continuation of existing two strands, it is proposed that Sefton Council continues to be the accountable body for the NEET Project.

### **7.0 Risk Assessment**

7.1 As with any externally funded projects there are some risks involved with this project, and these have been identified below together with their likelihood, impact, and mitigation measures required to address them.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Not sufficient or suitable delivery partners	High	Low	Suitable Partners have already been identified and signed up	PEDD
Not achieving sufficient number of beneficiaries to cover costs	High	Low	Key partners such Connexions and Sefton Education Business Partnerships have extensive experience in identifying and working with target groups.	Delivery Partners
Young People not completing their Programme	High	Medium	This will be mitigated by recruiting more beneficiaries at the start of the Programme, recognising that some will drop out during the course of the project.	Delivery Partners and PEDD
Capacity and experience within PEDD to manage and deliver the project	High	Low	PEDD has extensive experience in managing outcome based ESF/SFA project, and capacity has been identified to under take this project.	PEDD
Cash Flow/ budgetary constrains within PEDD	High	Low	Payment is only made once delivery partners have produced evidence of outputs achieved, and funding drawdown from grant bodies.	PEDD
Lack of sufficient employers engaged to provide suitable work based learning opportunities	High	Low	<a href="#">Sefton@work</a> currently works with a range of local employers, who would participate in this project.	PEDD
Delivery Partners pull out of the project	Low	Low	There are number of delivery partners, who are not currently involved with this protect, but would be suitable replacements for any delivery partners that drop out.	PEDD

## 8.0 Summary

8.1 Sefton Council is currently managing two Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Financed projects until March 2011. In future these two strands have been combined into single activity labelled Greater Merseyside Provision for NEET ESF 2011 –2013 Youth Programme. Sefton Officers have responded to the ITT, the outcome of which will announced in January/February 2011. If successful this will give Sefton Council the opportunity to draw down £647,163 of co-financed funding from April 2011- December 2013.

- 8.2 As with existing two ESF projects Sefton Council will continue to be the accountable body. However, there are no financial implications, as both the management and delivery costs will be charged to the NEET Project.
- 8.3 The two existing ESF projects are currently managed by Children's Schools and Families, with Planning and Economic Development Department ensuring that all contractual, monitoring and compliance procedures are met. In light of the changes taking place within the Children's, Schools and Families Services it is proposed that management responsibility for the NEET, together with contractual, monitoring and compliance procedures should now all rest with Planning and Economic Development Department.