

**Subject: Employment Partnerships****Report of: Head of Inclusive Growth****Portfolio: Education, Inclusion and Skills**

## Report Summary

This report provides an overview of the Employment Partnerships Project and includes a proposed financial investment of £868,656 of NTCA Investment Funds to support the engagement and co-ordination of support for job seekers, engagement with employers and identifying gaps and duplication within provision.

## Reason for Delegated Decision

At its meeting on the 7th of June 2022 Cabinet agreed an allocation of up to £0.9m from the North of Tyne Investment Fund to enable the delivery of three Employment Partnerships and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with Investment Panel, the Mayor and the appropriate Cabinet Member, to consider and approve the business case and finalise delivery arrangements.

## Recommendations

The Chief Executive is asked to:

- Approve the investment of £868,656 North of Tyne Investment Fund: and
- Subsequent award of funding to each of the 3 Local Authorities and entering into funding agreements between NTCA and each authority below:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Newcastle City Council	£316,175
North Tyneside	£247,371
Northumberland	£279,624

## 1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

The project will invest in the development of effective local employment partnerships in the three local authority areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. These partnerships will build on the Youth Employment Partnership project that has been funded jointly by DWP and NTCA, broadening to cover all ages and all partners involved in local employment support activity in the three areas.

The investment will fund a Local Employment Partnership Coordinator and an Employer Liaison/Engagement Lead in each local area; six posts in all. These posts will provide dedicated capacity to develop local employment partnerships within each Local Authority area and will work as a part of a virtual NTCA wide team – working to engage residents and businesses in employment programmes which move people into/closer to work. To enable NTCA to measure the success of Employment Partnerships, costs (£16,000) have been included to appoint an external consultant to undertake the evaluation.

The Employment Partnership Business Case was externally appraised, and assessment of this appraisal was submitted to Technical Officers Group on 23rd June and Investment Panel on the 4th of July 2022.

## 2 Potential Impact on Objectives

Employment Partnerships will directly support NTCA residents of all ages, specifically those who are unemployed. This project's specific aim is to provide a significantly clearer picture to NTCA residents of the

employment support provision that is available to them, with the intention of allowing unemployed residents and residents wanting to access training to attain secure employment at a fair wage, to access the support and training needed to take the next step in their work journey. Employers will benefit from additional capacity to engage with them, understand their recruitment needs and identify support to address these needs.

## **2 Key Risks**

2.1 Programme risks are managed in line with agreed processes and individual project risks have been considered as part of the Business Case.

## **3 Financial and Other Resources Implications**

3.1 None

## **4 Legal Implications**

4.1 The Interim Monitoring Officer's comments have been included in this report.

## **5 Equalities Implications**

5.1 As required by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Combined Authority has considered its obligations regarding the Public Sector Equality Duty and there will be no anticipated negative impact on groups with protected characteristics from this proposal.

## **6 Inclusive Economy Implications**

6.1 The Combined Authority believe the approach taken will positively contribute to creating a more inclusive economy in the North of Tyne with specific positive impact on addressing the needs of residents seeking work.

## **7 Climate Change Implications**

7.1 The Combined Authority has considered the implications relating to climate change in decisions regarding the delivery of Employment Partnerships and believe there will be no negative impact as a result.

## **8 Consultation and Engagement**

8.1 Local Authority, DWP and stakeholders have been fully engaged in the development of Employment Partnerships.

## **9 Appendices**

None

## **10 Background Papers**

Meeting of Cabinet 7th of June 2022, Agenda Item 11 an allocation of up to £0.9m from the North of Tyne Investment Fund to support the delivery of Employment Partnerships.

## **11 Contact Officers**

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## **12 Glossary**

NTCA	North of Tyne Combined Authority
DWP	Department of Work and Pensions

**11. Sign-off**

1) Investment Panel: Yes	2) Mayor: Yes	3) Portfolio holder: Yes	4) Chief Finance Officer: Yes	5) Monitoring Officer: Yes
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