

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF DECISION**

TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 22/10/20	Ref No: CS 643
Responsible Officer: Paul Cooke, Strategic Lead Educational Services	
Type of Decision (please refer to MO Guidance):	
Key <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information Status: <i>(can the report go in the public domain)</i> Yes. It will be disseminated to interested organisations, for example, schools. It will not have restricted access.	
Title/Subject matter: Request for Quotation to deliver a Pilot Alternative Provision within a business for young people aged 14-16	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance:	
(i) Is the decision within an Approved Budget?	Yes (EL16191)
(ii) Is the decision in conflict with the council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans?	No
(iii) Does the decision amend existing or raise new policy issues?	No
(iv) Is the decision significant and/or does it meet the £100,000 threshold for recording?	Yes
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	No

Summary:

A commission to improve people's skills, job prospects and help businesses was launched in Bury in 2016. The Bury Life Chances Commission aims to ensure that schools, colleges and companies work together so that young people of all abilities can maximise their potential and employment opportunities. Of key concern is the perceived difficulty in recruiting young people with the skills, attitude and work readiness attributes that employers need. Whilst the local business base have expressed their concerns they have also expressed a desire to support education providers to understand their skills needs.

The then Leader of the Council, Rishi Shori, agreed for a project to be developed to support Bury schools to pilot a programme aimed at young people with barriers that may be preventing them from enjoying and participating in school life. Activity was to support them into remaining in Education, moving into training, further education, traineeships, Apprenticeships or employment.

A procurement process was undertaken and the successful organisation was MPLOY Solutions Ltd. The pilot was originally approved for a period between 01/03/2019 to 31/08/2020. It was anticipated that the project would be completed by the end of August 2020 so a full evaluation report could be completed by the end of September 2020 and a final outcomes report showing young peoples' destinations should be completed by the end of November 2020.

The outcomes from the evaluation were intended to help determine proposals for similar provision and all reports were to be shared with Bury Council Life Chances Commission and GMCA partners.

However due to Covid19 and the current restrictions, MPLOY have been unable to provide work placements or continue the work they had been undertaking with schools since lockdown in March 2020. There are continuing restrictions that prevent work placements for school pupils currently and in the foreseeable future, so it is therefore proposed that the pilot is extended for seven months until 31.3.2021. During this period MPLOY will conduct a more in-depth research project that will analyse the project as it was delivered, draw conclusions on good practice and learning points and make recommendations on how future models might be shaped and worked. The report will be disseminated to interested and relevant stakeholders for discussion and consideration, as it applies.

The value of the contract was agreed at a maximum of £50,000. This will not be increased due to the requested extension. The contract has already partly been paid in instalments as the contract has been delivered.

For further information contact Tracey Flynn or Simon Joos.

Decision required

1. Agree to the extension to the pilot to enable MPLOY Solutions Ltd to undertake a research project as described above. The outstanding value of the contract still to be paid is £10,000.



Wards affected: All

Consultations: There has been discussion with Economic Development team staff who we have been working in partnership with on the project.

Scrutiny & Review Committee Interest: No

Options considered: The only other option is to continue to pause the original contract because pupils on work experience would be at risk and are not insured (maintained schools). However, this is not the most productive option.

Decision [with reasons] **XXX**

Decision made by:	Signature:	Date:
Director		
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member		
Lead Member		
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. Where, in accordance with the requirements of the Officer Delegation Scheme, a Chief Officer consults with the appropriate Cabinet Member they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained if required, to confirm that he/she has been consulted. Please refer to the MO Guidance.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**
3. Where there is any doubt, Corporate Directors should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer.

