



Leader's Urgent Decision

LEADER

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

**Wards
All**

LBHF successfully secured £200,000 Department of Health funding to establish a pilot Health & Social Care apprenticeship scheme.

This report seeks Member approval to enter into contract with Skills for Care, the Department of Health delivery agency.

Reasons for Urgency:

Skills for Care have indicated that funding may be lost if contract negotiations are not swiftly concluded.

Date by which a decision is required:

22 September 2010

**CONTRIBUTORS
Regeneration &
Housing Strategy
Division
ADLDS
DFCS**

Decision taken by the Leader on 22 September 2010:

- 1. That approval be given to LBHF entering into contract with Skills for Care, whereby Skills for Care release £200,000 to the Council to provide a Health & Social Care apprenticeship scheme.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Acting Director of Housing and Regeneration to agree the detailed expenditure budget for the scheme.**

**HAS A EIA BEEN COMPLETED?
YES**

AUTHORISED BY:

The Leader has signed this report.....

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DATED: 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of the Government's current drive to increase apprenticeship programmes across the public sector, Skills for Care on behalf of the Department for Health (DoH) invited local authorities to submit tenders to increase the availability of Health & Social Care (H&SC) apprenticeships commencing 2008/2009.
- 1.2 The Economic Development team in Regeneration & Housing Strategy division successfully secured £200,000 funding to set up one of five such programmes across London.
- 1.3 The LBHF scheme is intended to offer up to 15 borough residents (aged 18-25) a job with the Council for one year, work placements in Community Services Department and in host Third Sector agencies and an opportunity to achieve NVQ level 2 in Health & Social Care.
- 1.4 In 2009/10 officers stalled in getting the scheme off the ground as:
 - Initial negotiations with Skills for Care on the nature of the scheme, beneficiary group and outputs were protracted and lacked agreement on key ambitions;
 - Contract negotiations were also lengthy; and
 - the Council has undergone a service re-commissioning round for health & social care service provision which has delayed the negotiation of apprentice work experience opportunities with specific host agencies.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Contract negotiations are now finalised. However the re-commissioning of health & social care services is currently concluding and officers have been advised by Skills for Care that further delay in contract closure is likely to jeopardise the funding availability.
- 2.2 This report therefore seeks Member approval for LBHF to enter into contract with Skills for Care, whereby Skills for Care release £200,000 to the Council to provide an apprenticeship scheme.
- 2.3 In addition, this report seeks delegated authority for the Acting Director of Housing & Regeneration to agree the detailed expenditure budget for this scheme. Officers will also agree with CSD DMT the delivery details of the scheme.

3. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

3.1 The proposed grant of £200,000 will be awarded to the Council to fund the scheme. A detailed expenditure budget will be agreed by the Acting Director of Housing & Regeneration.

3.2 There are no direct General Fund costs.

4. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)

4.1 Legal Services have negotiated the contract terms with Skills for Care.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department / Location
1.	LBHF Health & Social Care Apprenticeship Scheme bid	Kim Dero x 4229	Economic Development Team, Regeneration and Housing Strategy Division 3 rd fl HTHX
2.	Skills for Care correspondence	Kim Dero x 4229	Economic Development Team, Regeneration and Housing Strategy Division 3 rd fl HTHX