

Haringey Council

Written Statement/Record of a decision made by an officer under delegated authority

Decision Maker (Post Title)	Interim Assistant Director of Regeneration and Economic Development
Subject of the decision	Acceptance of the funding from UFI Voc/Tech in respect of a grant to deliver piloting and testing of a Central London Transferable Skills App for use by adult learners.
Date of decision	December 16, 2024
Decision	For the Interim Assistant Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to approve acceptance of a grant from UFI to LB Haringey for £60,000 over 12 months commencing January 2025 in accordance with Contract Standing Order (CSO) 17.1 that where the Council receives a grant from an external body, the process for approving or varying the agreement for the grant shall be the same as that set out in CSO 9.07 (i.e. the Director may approve receipt of a grant valued at less than £500,000).
Reasons for the decision	LB Haringey has received a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) from UFI to develop and test a prototype digital solution to recording and monitoring acquisition of transferable skills (5Cs). The GFA needs to be signed before the funding can be drawn down from UFI up to a maximum of £60,000 over the course of 12 months, beginning in January 2025.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision	<p>Option to not accept – not accepting the grant would mean Haringey would miss out on an opportunity to lead a sub-regional project to develop and test a digital solution to record and measure progress in transferable/functional skills. Furthermore, if the pilot is successful, there could be potential to acquire further funding to extend use of the app beyond central London. There is already a national interest in this through UFI and HOLEX – the national association of adult learning providers.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Option to commission delivery through sub-contracting – this grant will allow for procurement of a digital solution (app), this could be through Haringey’s digital services. The funding also enables testing with learners in two phases, initially engaging 50 learners within Haringey, followed by engagement of 250 learners and testing across Central London (CLF) boroughs, and with employers.</p>

	Commissioning of this service would not be possible, as it relies on existing networks within the CLF sub-region and a commitment from CLF boroughs to contribute £10k 'in-kind' match funding to support this testing.
<u>Conflicts of interest — Executive decisions</u> Details of any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision and details of dispensation granted by the Council's Head of Paid Service	N/A
<u>Conflicts of interest — Nonexecutive decisions</u> Where the decision is taken under an express delegation e.g., by a committee, the name of any Member who declared a conflict of interest in relation to this matter at the committee meeting,	N/A
Title of any document(s), including reports, considered by the officer and relevant to the above decision or where only part of the report is relevant to the above decision, that part) These documents need to be attached to the copy of this record/statement kept by the Authority but must not be published if they contain exempt information	N/A
Reasons for exemption with reference to categories of exemption specified overleaf or Reason why decision is confidential (see overleaf Decisions containing exempt or confidential information falling within the categories specified overleaf are not required to be published.	N/A
Signature of Decision Maker	
Name of Decision Maker	Anna Blandford

<p>Does the decision need to be published?</p> <p>Yes X</p>	
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Not for Publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

This document is **not for publication** as it contains information classified as exempt under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).

DECISION REPORT

Report for: Interim Assistant Director of Regeneration and Economic Development

Item number: N/A

Title: Acceptance of the funding from UFI Voc/Tech in respect of a grant to deliver the piloting and testing of a Central London Transferable Skills App for use by adult learners.

Authorised by: Helen McDonough, Head of Inclusive Economy

Lead Officer: Julie Khan, Employment and Skills Lead

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. To accept the funding from UFI Voc/Tech in respect of a grant to deliver the piloting and testing of a Central London Transferable Skills App for use by adult learners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. For the Interim Assistant Director of Regeneration and Economic Development to approve acceptance of a grant from the UFI Voc/Tech to LB Haringey for £60,000 for 12 months from January 2025, as allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 17.1 (i.e. where the Council receives a grant from an external body, the process for approving or varying the agreement for the grant shall be the same as that set out in CSO 9.07 (i.e. the Director may approve receipt of a grant valued at less than £500,000)).

3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1. LB Haringey has received a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) from UFI to develop and test a prototype digital solution to recording and measuring acquisition of transferable skills (5Cs). The GFA needs to be signed before the funding can be drawn down from UFI up to a maximum of £60,000 over the course of 12 months, beginning in January 2025.

4. Background

- 4.1. Haringey Learns submitted a proposal to UFI Voc/Tech to develop an innovative digital solution

for recording and measuring transferable skills, known as the 5Cs. Learners currently face challenges in how they demonstrate their competence in transferable skills to potential employers as they are not generally measured or recorded. Paper based solutions are ad hoc and not standardised across adult learning services. UFI have accepted the proposal and are keen to support this project as a test pilot to find a digital solution and test its use with learners and employers.

- 4.2. Employers continue to seek employees with key functional skills including communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and cohesion (5Cs), yet these transferable skills are often difficult for learners to measure and to demonstrate to potential employers.

5. **Alternative options considered**

5.1. **Option to not accept –**

not accepting the grant would mean Haringey would miss out on an opportunity to lead a sub-regional project to develop and test a digital solution to record and measure progress in transferable/functional skills. Furthermore, if the pilot is successful, there could be potential to acquire further funding to extend use of the app beyond central London. There is already a national interest in this through UFI and HOLEX – the national association of adult learning providers.

Option to commission delivery through sub-contracting – this grant will allow for procurement of a digital solution (app), this could be through Haringey’s digital services, or wider procurement if Haringey is unable to deliver the prototype digital solution. The funding also enables testing with learners in two phases, initially engaging 50 learners within Haringey, followed by engagement of 250 learners and testing across Central London (CLF) boroughs, and with employers. Commissioning of this service would not be possible, as it relies on existing networks within the CLF sub-region and a commitment from CLF boroughs to contribute £10k ‘in-kind’ match funding to support this testing.

6. **Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 6.1. This grant will support the activity to deliver Theme 8 –Place and Economy of the **Corporate Delivery Plan**, and directly supports the action - Employment & Skills - Haringey residents can easily access education and skills training. This project will directly engage learners in developing transferable skills and measuring their progress and enable them to demonstrate these to potential employers.
- 6.2. Underpinning the Corporate Delivery Plan, this work will support the delivery of **Opportunity Haringey**, Our Inclusive Economy Framework – Theme 3 – Good Work and Skills. Helping learners recognise their transferable skills from life experience, and build on these to understand how they can be applied to a working environment.

7. **Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director for Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

7.1. **Procurement**

"Fin Admin notes the contents of the report and has no objections to the recommendations laid out at section 2 of the report under 17.1 (approving or varying the agreement for the grant shall be the same as that set out in CSO 9.07).

Will West Financial Compliance Officer - Master Data, on behalf of Lesley Francis, Head of Fin Admin 12.12.2024"

7.2.Finance

The £60k from UFI is broken down into Project Management - £15k (which comes into all phases of the project) and £45k for developing digital solution. The acceptance of this grant from UFI for the development and testing of a digital solution to record and measure transferable skills for adult learners does not require any match funding from the Council and will fully fund the development and testing of the digital solution/app. It has no budgetary implications.

7.3.Legal

- 7.3.1 The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 7.3.2 Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 17.1 an Assistant Director has authority to approve acceptance of the grant which this report relates to (i.e grants below £500,000 in value).
- 7.3.3 The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the Interim Assistant Director of Regeneration and Economic Development from approving the recommendations in this report.

8. Use of Appendices

- None

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Not applicable