

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PM TRAINING STAFFORDSHIRE LTD AND THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME

Submitted by: Neale Clifton

Portfolio: Economic Development, Regeneration and Town Centres Development

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To request approval from Cabinet to take forward actions in line with the PM Training Concordat Action Plan over the forthcoming 2 years as outlined in this report.

Recommendations

That the Council supports the delivery of a PM Training Concordat Action Plan which will include:

- ***Supply chain management - the Council and PM Training to continue to promote the partnership throughout the Boroughs supply chain.***
- ***Procurement link to Social Value Act – the Council to highlight PM Training as an exemplar organisation in achieving desired outcomes in relation to training and employment***
- ***Joint procurement with the Aspire Group – investigate opportunities to jointly procure goods and services***
- ***Work experience opportunities – investigate opportunities to provide structured work experience placements***
- ***Support for Social Enterprise West Midlands (SEWM) – the Council to seek to promote SEWM to its stakeholders and supply chain and consider becoming a Social Enterprise supporter of SEWM***

Reasons

In order to create enterprising futures for people, companies and communities to continue to work with PM Training and the wider Aspire Group to create local training and employment opportunities, to use procurement methods in line with the social value act and to promote and support Enterprising Futures – the social enterprise arm of the Aspire Group.

1. **Background**

PM Training is a leading social enterprise operating in both the private and public sectors. The vision is to create enterprising futures for all the people, companies and communities who work with PM Training.

In July 2010 Cabinet gave approval for the Council to sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding with PM Training. The purpose of this was to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities for people living in the borough of Newcastle in order to improve their life chances. The Memorandum of Understanding sets out the intention for the Council and PM Training to work together to prepare young people for work, provide apprenticeships, help companies improve their productivity and provide direct environmental services through the 'Homeworks' services.

Since this time much has been achieved. 447 young people in Newcastle have been supported into learning and into apprenticeships. These young people are generally among the poorest and most vulnerable in North Staffordshire and many have no formal qualifications yet despite this nearly 75% of those who complete their training go into a paid apprenticeship or job.

In February 2011 a successful supplier event was held at Keele Hall. This was a partnership event between the Council and PM Training, which resulted in 135 apprenticeship opportunities being created.

December 2011 saw the official opening of the new PM Training construction training centre in Chesterton, which provides training for qualifications and work experience to enable progress into apprenticeships and employment focusing on young people aged 16-18. The centre allows for around 150 more young people to train every year – 100 of these are expected to take up apprenticeships.

October 2012 the aspire Group won the National Housing Federation's Community impact Awards for "Building Futures" and in November 2012 the Aspire Group were recognised by Regeneration and Renewal as the best organisation in Britain for tackling worklessness. Both awards acknowledge the comprehensive approach in breaking the cycle of worklessness and supporting people into work.

In June 2013 the Council and PM Training held a second successful supplier event at Keele Hall, which resulted in 128 apprenticeship opportunities being created.

2. **Issues**

Since signing up to the Memorandum of Understanding PM Training has developed further in many areas and is now part of Enterprising Futures – the Social Enterprise arm of the Aspire Group.

Recognising that a partnership / memorandum of understanding already exists between the Council and PM Training and that there is a strong partnership between the Council and the wider Aspire Group, it was agreed that an action plan should be developed with the specific intention of continuing to create local training opportunities and supporting and promoting Enterprising Futures.

It is proposed that the following actions are taken forward over the next 2 years:

Supply Chain Management

The Council and PM Training to continue to promote the partnership through the Council's supply chain. A successful supplier event was held at Keele Hall in June 2013, which allowed for company targeting.

Joint Procurement

The Council and Aspire Group to investigate opportunities to jointly procure goods and services by agreeing a list of joint potential opportunities for jointly contracting services over the next two financial years and to assess the feasibility of joint procurement.

Common Assessment for Tenders

The Council and the Aspire Group to seek to develop a common assessment framework for all tenders/tenderers as part of the Pre Qualification Questionnaire process. The Council can confirm that the Government Procurement Service (GPS) framework is open for use by Housing Associations. The Aspire Group to investigate the potential to trial / pilot an initiative with like minded Staffordshire Councils.

Work Experience Opportunities

The Council receives many requests each year from young people wanting work experience, wherever possible the Council tries to support these requests taking on board resources to support them. PM Training offer a range of work experiences for PM Learners, whilst this is clearly a benefit for young learners there are a number of issues surrounding capacity to support the young people including which services are best placed to support this. It is therefore recommended that work experiences are investigated further in 2014 /15.

Support for Social Enterprise West Midlands (SEWM)

The Council is working within the Newcastle Partnership to seek partnership support to promote SEWM, as part of this the Council can consider seeking the support of stakeholders and our supply chain. Alongside this the Council over the forthcoming year can consider becoming a Social Enterprise Supporter of SEWM or a Social Enterprise Innovation Partner of SEWM.

It is proposed that progress against actions is reported back to the Portfolio Holder and the Aspire Group on a quarterly basis and be subject to a joint annual review.

3. **Options Considered**

In supporting the economic development of the Borough it is appropriate for the Council to consider supporting organisations to deliver apprenticeships and social enterprise. The Council has approved the delivery of a shared apprenticeship scheme operated by the Council and has recognised that working with external companies is a positive way forward.

By considering a range of apprenticeship schemes and partner companies the Council will be able to support a range of complementary schemes which will in turn offer greater opportunities and choice for our residents needing assistance. It is therefore considered appropriate to consider requests for support to deliver outcomes that align to the Council's corporate objectives.

4. **Proposal**

In line with the existing Memorandum of Understanding it is considered appropriate to continue to work with PM Training as detailed above to create local training and employment opportunities, to use procurement methods in line with the social value act and to promote and support Enterprising Futures – the social enterprise arm of the Aspire Group.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

It is considered appropriate to explore further opportunities where the Council can work with PM Training and the wider Aspire Group to create local training and employment opportunities, to use procurement methods in line with the social value act and to promote and support Enterprising Futures – the social enterprise arm of the Aspire Group.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

All of the Council's corporate priorities are addressed to some degree but the main focus is on A Borough of Opportunity and A Co-operative Council delivering high-value, community driven services

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

The Council and PM Training are mindful of and will seek to work within the “small lots” provisions contained within the EU procurement rules up to a ceiling value of 20% (subject to a limit of £64,846 in relation to Works Contracts) of total values to encourage Small to Medium Enterprises within defined neighbourhoods and to encourage innovation in training and supply of local labour.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

PM Training was awarded Investors in Diversity (Stage 2) 2010. Since then all four PM Training Centres in Newcastle under Lyme, Stoke on Trent, Leek and Stafford have been reaccredited to 2014. PM Training is currently looking to progress to Stage 3 – Leaders in Diversity.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

Supporting the proposed recommendations will require office time which can be met through existing resources.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Subject to Cabinet approval to progress the current risk assessment will be updated.

11. **Key Decision Information**

It will impact on all wards

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Cabinet 21/07/10 resolved that Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council sign up to a memorandum of Understanding with PM Training.

13. **List of Appendices**

None

14. **Background Papers**

Memorandum of Understanding
Updated Risk Assessment