

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL****PUBLIC REPORT**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>JOINT CABINET MEMBER AND CORPORATE DIRECTOR - PLACE</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Assistant Director – Neighbourhood and Communities</b>
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	<b>11 September 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM PARTICIPATION IN ENTERPRISE FOR SUCCESS PROGRAMME</b>
<b>Key Decision: No</b>	<b>Relevant Forward Plan Ref:</b>
<b>If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)</b>	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chair approved <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Councillor Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture</b>
<b>Relevant O&amp;S Chair:</b>	<b>Cllr Tahir Ali, Economy and Skills</b>
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>All</b>

<b>1. Purpose of report:</b>
<p>1.1 To seek approval for The Library of Birmingham's Business and Learning Team to work with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) as a Delivery Partner (Appendix 1) on a number of project activities as part of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Enterprise for Success program funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (Appendix 2).</p> <p>1.2 To seek approval to draw down funds totalling £200,000 to support the delivery of business support and advice at the Library of Birmingham and across the network of Community Libraries.</p>

<b>2. Decision(s) recommended:</b>
That the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture jointly with the Corporate Director of Place:-
2.1 Approves the Library of Birmingham's participation in the GBLEP Enterprise for Success Programme.
2.2 Gives approval for the drawing down of funds from SMBC in line with terms of The Funding Agreement.

<b>Lead Contact Officer(s):</b>	Dawn Beaumont, Head of Library Services Chris Jordan, Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods and Communities
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<b>3. Consultation</b>
<p>3.1 <u>Internal</u></p> <p>Officers from Community Libraries, Place Directorate Finance and Legal Services have been consulted in relation to this report and support its recommendations.</p> <p>3.2 <u>External</u></p> <p>There is a clear need and demand across the GBSLEP area for start-up business support. GBSLEP has carried out consultation and research reporting that self-employment rates in the area are below the national average, focussed LEP research has identified significant potential in the growing social enterprise sector. 58% of GBSLEP queries to the national Business support helpline were for pre-start support.</p>
<b>4. Compliance Issues:</b>
<p>4.1 <u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?</u></p> <p>In line with the Council priority around Jobs and Skills; a great city to succeed in. This programme will increase the provision of advice for pre-start up and business advice across the city. Increase employment opportunities for residents.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Financial Implications</u> (Will decisions be carried out within existing finance and Resources?)</p> <p>The agreement allows for The Library of Birmingham to draw down up to £200,000 in funds from the program to expand services (see Appendix 3)</p> <p>The match funding does not create any additional financial pressure on the service</p> <p>4.3 <u>Legal Implications</u></p> <p>The Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 requires the Council to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service.</p> <p>4.4 <u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u></p> <p>A copy of the Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Duty statement is appended – Appendix 4 together with the initial equality assessment screening EQUA68.</p>
<b>5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:</b>
<p>5.1 Officers at The Library of Birmingham were approached in early 2017 by SMBC to become a key Delivery Partner within the GBSLEP Enterprise for Success offer.</p>

5.2	SMBC will act as Accountable Body and employ project management and monitoring staff to ensure effective delivery and compliance with European funding requirements. The Library of Birmingham will draw down funds from SMBC.
5.3	<p>This funding will enable the Business Team at the Library of Birmingham to expand its Business Support and Advice services both within the Library of Birmingham and in Community Libraries across the city. Working in partnership with the GBSLEP over the next 14 months the team will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One to one Business Advice Sessions</li> <li>• Workshops and a network of support for start-up businesses within the city.</li> </ul>
5.4	The programme also includes the delivery of pop up advice sessions via the mobile library and the provision of targeted support within the prison library at HMP Birmingham. The project aims to support individuals and businesses to succeed in their communities through locally delivered support.
5.5	The main emphasis for the Library of Birmingham Business Team is pre and start-up business support through dedicated workshops, 1:1 Business and Intellectual Property advice and participation in national initiatives such as Global Entrepreneurship Week.
5.6	For many aspiring Entrepreneurs, there is often the need to find employment whilst developing their IP or business idea. For this reason, a partnership has been formed with Prospects/National Careers Service who deliver much needed careers guidance services from the Business & IP Centre, contributing to enhancing our overall service offer.
5.7	The Library of Birmingham is part of the Business & IP Centre Network, co-ordinated by the British Library, consisting of six Central Libraries in addition to the Library of Birmingham and includes Liverpool, Sheffield, Newcastle, Manchester, and Leeds.
5.8	The Library is also members of the Patent Libraries (PATLIB) UK Network, consisting of thirteen Local Authorities across the UK who offers IP advice. Our region covers Portsmouth/Plymouth in the South, up to Sheffield/Manchester in the North.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Evaluation of alternative option(s):</b>
6.1	Not to take part in the program or draw down the funding would mean that an opportunity to support library services to deliver on the council's priority for jobs and skills within the city would be lost.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Reasons for Decision(s):</b>
7.1	To bring in additional funding to support the delivery of library services to support priority outcomes in relation to job and skills.

Signatures		<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member	..... Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture	.....
Chief Officer	..... Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director - Place	.....

<b>List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:</b>

<b>List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):</b>
1. Partnership Agreement 2. Library of Birmingham Business Support Offer 3. Financial breakdown 4. Equality Impact Assessment EQUA68

<b>Report Version</b>		<b>Dated</b>	
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