

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Kylie Molyneux, Corporate Procurement and Projects Officer
Implementation Date of Decision:	10 October 2022

MULTIPLY PROGRAMME

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To seek approval for the appointment of 7 suppliers as listed at 2.1 below onto a panel which can support the Multiply Programme:

Blackpool Council is looking to appoint a framework panel which we can use to support the Multiply Initiative.

Multiply was announced in the Autumn Spending Review and in the Levelling Up White Paper – being part of a range of initiatives that aim to boost adult skills. The programme is for 19+ adults who do not have a GSCE at Grade 4 (or equivalent) and aims to help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work – from household finances, to helping children with homework, to making more sense of the facts in the media and improving employability / job prospects.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of the following 7 contractors to sit on a framework panel for the above lots – the consultants have been made aware that there is no guarantee of volume of work and they will be utilised on ad hoc basis.

Blackpool and the Fylde College (Blackpool)
Compete Tuition (Harrogate)
Groundwork (Wigan)
Inspira Cumbria (Penrith)
Lancashire Women (Accrington)
Learning Curve Group (Durham)

PHX Training (Carlisle)

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 A formal tender exercise was undertaken between July – September 2022 to select a panel of suitable providers to sit on a framework panel from October 2022 – March 2023 with the option to extend incrementally for a further 2 years (subject to contract review and budget availability).

The tender process was undertaken via the Authority’s electronic tendering portal, The Chest.

7 providers submitted tender submissions, all 7 demonstrated the required competencies to be invited on to the framework panel.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes/

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Multiply was announced in the Autumn Spending Review and in the Levelling Up White Paper – being part of a range of initiatives that aim to boost adult skills. The programme is for 19+ adults who do not have a GSCE at Grade 4 (or equivalent) and aims to help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work – from household finances, to helping children with homework, to making more sense of the facts in the media and improving employability / job prospects.

Indicative Outcomes for the programme include the following:

- a. Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.
- b. Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.
- c. Increased number of adults participating, acquiring and evidencing skills through non-qualification provision, or towards a qualification, including online learning.
- d. Improved labour market outcomes.
- e. Increased adult numeracy (by supporting learners to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

n/a

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 The tender process has been undertaken in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and is in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

The Council will enter into formal contracts with contractors – it is noted in the contract that there is no guaranteed volume of work and the work required will be on an ad hoc basis.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

- 9.1 None – the works will be funded from existing budgets.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 All providers have signed the Council's Supplier Charter which includes a commitment to consider how they can make a positive contribution to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Blackpool in order to help achieve the Council's priorities.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Key internal stakeholders were engaged on the evaluation panel.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the appointment of the following 7 providers to sit on a framework panel – the providers have been made aware that there is no guarantee of volume of work and they will be used on ad hoc basis.

Blackpool and the Fylde College (Blackpool)
Compete Tuition (Harrogate)
Groundwork (Wigan)
Inspira Cumbria (Penrith)
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14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The 7 providers bids received demonstrated the ability to deliver the required competencies in line with the Council's requirements as detailed in the service specification.