

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – K.JONES

20th July 2015

SECTION A – MATTERS FOR DECISION

CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITY

Purpose of Report

To authorise a nine month secondment opportunity within the Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services Department.

Background

The Local Service Board established a partnership group to mitigate the impact of welfare benefits cuts some two years ago.

The group was initially supported by development officers funded from European Social Fund resources but this funding source came to an end in December 2014.

The partnership is currently working to mitigate risks to individuals being brought into the Universal Credit Regime. Policy and Resources Cabinet Board has already authorised a partnership agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions who are providing grant funding to the Council to help us assist universal credit claimants with money management support and digital support.

Some of the funding is needed to support a temporary development officer who will work with partners, including voluntary sector partners, to identify all of the sources of help and assistance that is available across the county borough. This exercise may also identify gaps in provision in certain geographic areas or gaps in types of provision. This an important exercise that will not only benefit the individuals needing support, but

may also help us bid for additional funding to address gaps as the Universal Credit programme is further rolled out.

Proposal

To second an existing officer with the requisite skills and experience to a development officer post which has been graded at Grade 7 under the Council's Job Evaluation Scheme within the Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services Department for a period of nine months.

Financial Appraisal

There is no demand on council resources as the development post is fully funded by the DWP grant which has been provided specifically for this purpose under the agreement referred to earlier in this report.

Recommended

That Members authorise the creation of a secondment opportunity at Grade 7 within the Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services Department for a period of nine months in order to fulfil the terms of the partnership agreement entered into with the Department of Work and Pensions and thus support those individuals affected by the introduction of Universal Credit.

Officer Reporting

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