



## OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

Title of decision	UKSPF HILLINGDON HOMELESS, EMPLOYMENT, SUPPORT PROJECT (HESSP)
Reference No.	1060
Date of decision	Tuesday 12 March 2024
Call-in expiry date	Tuesday 19 March 2024
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Relevant Wards	All

### Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Councillor Ian Edwards – Leader of the Council Councillor Eddie Lavery – Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Decision	<b>Approved</b>  That the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services accepted the tender from SEETEC PLUS LTD for the PROVISION OF A HILLINGDON HOMELESSNESS & EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROJECT for a FOURTEEN MONTH period from 31 JANUARY 2024 to 31 MARCH 2025 and at the value of £178,558.92.
Reason for decision	<p>This project has been set up as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund ('UKSPF') allocations via West London Alliance (WLA) following consultation with the GLA. UKSPF funding is a replacement of the previous European Structural and Investment Funds ('ESF') Programme. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a new funding stream for local investment and the current allocation of funding must be spent by the end of March 2025. The significant change to previous ESF programmes is that all local authorities receive an allocation via a funding formula based on population. It supports central government's levelling up agenda and help places across the UK to deliver on local priorities, such as communities and place, support for local businesses and people and skills.</p> <p>It is noted that the funding allocated via the WLA can only be committed to delivering employment support projects and that the allocation comes with outputs and outcomes, such as helping residents secure employment. The WLA have agreed a set of outputs and outcomes which are to be delivered by each of the West London Boroughs.</p>

Whilst not yet confirmed by central government, there is every likelihood that the UKSP funding approach will be extended beyond March 2025. With the prospect of further funding in the offering, it is in Hillingdon's interest, as a borough that has not previously delivered employment support projects, to demonstrate it can manage successful UKSPF projects. Additionally, UKSP funding allows Hillingdon to deliver projects that address specific local challenges. Hillingdon have agreed to provide employment support for economically inactive people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. It will provide intensive and wrap-around support to move people closer to and into employment. Getting a job is an important part of leaving homelessness behind or preventing homelessness in the first place.

Seetec Plus Ltd have supported those individuals with a variety of complex needs to gain and sustain employment/ self-employment through bespoke package of support to enable them to understand and maximise skillsets and strengths. This includes:

- Intensive Support, driven by their Customer Service Standards, and clear employment focused Action Plans are developed with SMART actions to create a service with regular engagement with a clear pathway to work identified and evolved throughout the participant journey.
- 'Better Off Calculations' to enable individuals to understand their financial situation (e.g., identifying benefits eligibility), supported by signposting and specialist interventions, by Hillingdon's, Housing Options team.
- Finance Benefit Debt sessions.
- Individuals with specific health and wellbeing needs are also provided with specialist health and wellbeing support through Seetec Plus Ltd's third party supply partner. This includes peer-to-peer workshops, increasing communication and empathy through group activities, and signposting to community Health & Wellbeing support, e.g., working alongside supply partners who undergo health checks on behalf of the NHS and offer interventions for smoking cessation.

Over the past two years, Seetec have delivered the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Restart Employability Programme in the London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) on behalf of Ingeus. During this period, they successfully engaged with 3,004 participants, enabling 1,283 individuals to secure employment or self-employment. 659 of those reached the Threshold Earning Requirements Outcome which represents 104% of contract to date expectations (as of June 2023).

	Seetec Pluss (Seetec), deliver £426m of employability programmes nationally, engaging with over 117,933 participants. They understand the critical importance of these services in supporting individuals, especially those facing complex challenges, including those who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness on their journey towards stability/sustainable employment. Due to their wealth of experience, commitment to excellence, and comprehensive track record we recommend that Seetec Plus Ltd are awarded this contract.
<b>Alternative options considered and rejected</b>	<p>WLA have awarded this contract to boroughs to upskill residents and support those furthest away from the labour market and ones who face additional challenges.</p> <p>The Council could decide not to participate in the UKSPF programme and therefore not provide any support to those residents in need of it most. By supporting these residents, we will reduce the impact on our housing service.</p>
<b>Classification</b>	Part II – Members Only and Not for Publication
<b>Link to associated report</b>	That this report be declared as exempt from publication as it involves the disclosure of information in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.
<b>Relevant Officer contact &amp; Directorate</b>	<p>Jaspreet Ruprah – Central Services Directorate</p> <p>Mathieu Rogers – Central Services Directorate</p>
<b>Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted</b>	N/A

### **Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in**

<b>[Internal Use only]</b>	
<b>When can this decision be implemented by officers?</b>	<p>Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is:</p> <p><b>5pm on Tuesday 19 March 2024</b></p> <p>However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.</p>
<b>Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision</b>	Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above.

	<p>Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required:</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps</a></u></b> (secure)</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<p>These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable.</p> <p>If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: <a href="mailto:democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk">democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Democratic Services London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW</b></p>