

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Enterprise and Growth Committee

approval  noting

Ref LMM

Date 27/08/20

## DWP Health & Employment Support

**From** Lizanne McMurrich, Head of Communities

**Email** mcmurrichl@northlan.gov.uk **Telephone** 07939 280203

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise committee that the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) are in the process of procuring a new national framework to support the delivery of the UK Government's strategic objectives over the next five years in supporting specific groups to access, retain and progress in employment. The *Commercial Agreement for the provision of Employment & Health Related Services* (CAEHRS) is a framework which is designed to facilitate the provision of employment and health related services to the government and other contracting bodies across England, Wales and Scotland, with a total value of £7.5bn over the next 5 years. CAEHRS will consist of seven regional lots and one national lot that will cover the whole geographic area of England, Scotland and Wales. There may be an opportunity for the Council and Routes to Work Ltd to become involved as a delivery partner and this report outlines the steps taken so far to keep that option open as well as additional information on what is known of the tender process.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Enterprise and Growth Committee :

- (1) Note the potential for additional funding to be drawn into North Lanarkshire.
- (2) Note the steps being taken by Routes to Work Ltd and the Council to engage with potential prime contractors.

### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve North Lanarkshire's resource base

Ambition statement (21) Continue to identify and access opportunities to leverage additional resources to support our ambitions

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 North Lanarkshire Council and Routes to Work Ltd have extensive experience of working together and contracting to deliver UK employability programmes funded by the Department of Work and Pensions. These include the Flexible New Deal, the

Future Jobs Fund and the Work Programme which ended in 2018. These were integrated into the Council's own provision to support unemployed residents into training or employment and generated significant resources for North Lanarkshire. In particular during the Work Programme Routes to Work Ltd secured its reputation as one of the best performing contractors in Scotland and the UK with the support of its partnership with the Council being a key factor in that achievement.

- 1.2 The CAEHRS programme has been designed by DWP over the last 12 months to support the current UK Governments policy and its scope and nature is stated as:
- Act as the vehicle through which groups of individuals with disabilities; health conditions; are unemployed; or have a barrier to work will be supported; or those who wish to be self-employed.
  - Enable specific call-off Programmes to address barriers to employment, particularly around potential to support impact from Covid-19.
  - Allow potential suppliers to provide support either themselves or through a supply chain
- 1.3 There is £7.5bn allocated to the programme and it is scheduled to run for 5 years. As with previous large scale DWP programmes it is expected that the bidding for the national Lots will be secured by prime contractors which are large companies and organisations which have the capacity and finances necessary to assure DWP that the contract can be delivered effectively.

---

## **2. Report**

### **Tender Process**

- 2.1 DWP are seeking to establish a vehicle which can deliver more effective, efficient, consistent and quicker procurements and “drive better value by allowing providers to build on existing footprints in an area, provide economies of scale, allowing them to foster local and specialist partnerships and increase local knowledge.” Prime contractors are currently drafting their responses to the invitation to tender for these national lots with a deadline of 3 August 2020 with awards expected in September. At this point the Prime Contractors are expected to identify their approach to establishing a supply chain and their capacity to manage the contract to DWP specifications.
- 2.2 In the run up to the Invitation to Tender deadline Prime Contractors have contacted a range of local and regional public, private and third sector employability providers to ask if there is potential interest in being part of the future supply chain, if their bid is successful. Routes to Work, with the support of the Council, are tracking potential interest in the Scotland lot and have been contacted or have contacted a number prime contractors who are considering a bid for this lot. Expressions of Interest forms with 15 potential prime contractors have been completed by Routes to Work and there have been meetings with some involving the Council's employability manager. These seek to establish with contractors the strength of the Council/ Routes to Work partnership and the leading role played by this in employability locally. These are also an opportunity to highlight The Plan for North Lanarkshire as well as the track record of delivery jointly within our communities.
- 2.3 It has been made clear to potential bidders that the Council is not considering supporting organisations or initiatives that don't support Council priorities or duplicate

existing provision. At this stage of the process there is no legal commitment on either side and once awards are made the negotiations on potential supply chain opportunities will begin in earnest. If this progresses positively then there is the opportunity to ensure that whatever investment comes to North Lanarkshire through the mini-competitions that will be tendered through this framework will be delivered locally through our existing partnership structures.

- 2.4 It is proposed that committee is kept updated on the progress of this potential opportunity and the identity of the Prime Contractor which secures the award of the Scotland lot.

---

**3. Equality and Diversity**

3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty

There are no specific impacts to note.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no specific impacts to note.

---

**4. Implications**

4.1 Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts linked to this report at present.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

There are no HR/Policy/Legislative impacts linked to this report.

4.3 Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impacts linked to this report.

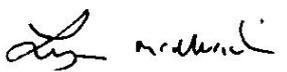
4.4 Risk Impact

There are no risk impacts related to this report.

---

**5. Measures of success**

- 5.1 A potential route for generating increased investment in employability and health in North Lanarkshire is opened.
- 



**Lizanne McMurrich**  
Head of Communities