

DECISION NOTICE

(RECORDING OF DECISIONS MADE BY INDIVIDUALS)

1. Decision Summary:

Decision Maker GMCA Treasurer in Consultation with the Education Work & Skills Portfolio Lead	Date of Decision 04/10/2024
Date Decision Published 04/10/24	Date Decision will come into force 11/10/24
Subject: Award Report for GMCA 930 Employer Engagement and Essential Work Skills for Employed GM Residents (Test and Learn)	
Reason for urgent decision: N/A	

Type of Decision: Non Mayoral or Mayoral Decision Made by Officers Non Mayoral; GMCA Treasurer and Education Work and Skills Portfolio Lead

2. Details of the Decision:

The decision is that:
<p>Following a competitive procurement process using GMCA’s Education Work and Skills Flexible Procurement System, GMCA wishes to award one contract with a total value of £4,460,000 to The Growth Company Limited.</p> <p>Background GMCA looked to procure a Workforce Development package of support and access to Essential Skills for Work, that truly meets the needs of Employers and their Workforce and provides an opportunity to build upon previous workforce development activities and genuinely test how skills provision can be delivered to a workforce, ensuring it is contextualised, meets the needs of employed residents and is funded more effectively.</p> <p>A key purpose of this commission is to support the wider development and preparation for a GM Adult Skills offer – GMs Skills for Life and Work. GMCA are keen to understand what works well for Greater Manchester businesses and residents and we can ensure the skills offer and delivery is fit for purpose.</p>

Therefore, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) looked to procure a Workforce Development package of support aimed at helping Employers and their workforce by:

1. Raising awareness of the training support that is available, not only in specific occupational specialisms but the essential skills needed for the workplace.
2. Supporting employers and their workforce to understand their current and future training needs, so that their businesses have the skills and talent they need for resilience, productivity and growth.
3. Providing the right Essential Work Skills training provision that meets this need, in particular the feedback received as set out in the LSIP.
4. Signposting to other relevant Skills Provision, where applicable

Part of GM's Adult Skills Programme, this commission will provide support to Employers with their Workforce Development needs, and also deliver tailored and contextualised Essential Work Skills (English, ESOL, Digital & Maths), where this is currently a gap in provision for Employers and their Workforce across Greater Manchester. GMCA want to ensure businesses are able to access the skills and talent they need, by providing high quality learning, and wrapping support around individuals, enabling them to realise their potential.

For the purposes of this commission, when GMCA say Employed GM Residents we mean:

- Residents in employment (including apprentices)
- Self-employed residents
- Volunteers and Unpaid Workers.

The reasons for the decisions are:

GMCA have run a competitive process via a Mini-Competition in which 1 bid was received in total.

The Mini-Competition comprised of 2 parts, the first being Quality questions which accounted for 85% of the total score. The Quality selection process involved evaluating the bidders' responses on a number of criteria:

- Employer Engagement (Step 1) - 20%
- Business Skills Review & Individual Skills Development Plans (Step 2) - 15%
- Skills Brokerage (Step 3 – Skills Brokerage) - 10%
- Essential Work Skills Provision (Step 4 – Skills Delivery) -10%
- Quality Assurance - 5%
- Finances & Profile - 5%
- Performance, Data & Reporting - 10%
- Capability to Deliver - 10%

Social Value was weighted as 15% of the overall score (9% Qualitative and 6% Quantitative) and was evaluated via the Social Value Portal.

Quality questions were assessed initially by individual evaluators, with each question being evaluated by a minimum of three evaluators who had all completed and signed Conflict of Interest declarations.

In addition to the previously mentioned assessment criteria, bidders were also subject to

<p>comprehensive Finance and Economic Standing, Information Governance and Safeguarding evaluations. These were carried out by specialists within GMCA and conducted in line with the processes published within the documentation.</p> <p>Bidders were also required to meet minimum requirements for Ofsted or, where no recent Ofsted inspect was available, produce a good internal Self-Assessment Report.</p> <p>A contract for services will be awarded to The Growth Company for the delivery of GMCA 930 Employer Engagement and Essential Work Skills for Employed GM Residents (Test and Learn) at a cost of £4,460,000.</p>
<p>Alternative options considered and rejected when making the decision:</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>List Non-confidential reports Reports to be considered that can be made available to the public</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>List Confidential reports Reports to be considered which contain confidential or exempt information</p>
<p>N/A</p>

3. Conflict of Interest:

<p>Record of any conflict of interest declared by any Member who is consulted by the member or officer which related to the decision:</p>
<p>As part of the procurement process, GMCA ensured that all members of the evaluation panel and project team communicated any conflict of interest and signed declaration forms confirming that there were no conflicts of interest.</p>
<p>Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any conflict of interest declared:</p>
<p>No conflicts of interests were declared.</p>

4. Register of Key Decisions:

Register of Key Decisions	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
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Reference	greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Or if not published in the Register of Key Decisions - Reasons for general or special urgency such that it was not published in the Register of Key Decisions	

5. Scrutiny Call In:

Call-in deadline	4pm on 11/10/24
Or if Exempt from Call-in explain how any delay would seriously prejudice the legal or financial position of the GMCA or the Constituent Councils, or the interests of the residents of Greater Manchester	
Scrutiny Chair who agreed the urgency	


6. Signature of Decision Maker/s:

GMCA Treasurer

Signed: 

Date: 27/09/2024

7. For delegated decisions which are to be made in consultation with others please include:

Name/s of politician/s or Officer/s who must be consulted (if any)	Consultee signature: by signing this decision notice you confirm that you have been consulted on this decision
Councillor Eammon O'Brien	

NOTE:

Both Mayoral and Non Mayoral Decisions made by Officers will be available for public inspection at the GMCA's offices and on the GMCA's website.