



DRAFT Call for GM Higher Skills Support Programme

Background

Provision delivered as part of this call will align with a range of existing national and local provision. It will work alongside further provision to support specific local groups that are being commissioned as part of the 2014-2020 ESF Programme.

The Greater Manchester Forecasting Model (GMFM) indicates that there is likely to be a total replacement demand of 921,000 jobs in the years to 2022 in Greater Manchester (GM) of which half will require skills at least to NVQ level 3, and a quarter to Level 4. Furthermore, we can predict that there will be a clear and strong demand for individuals with higher level skills in the priority sectors identified as being advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, health innovations, business, financial & professional and digital & creative. In order for to reach our aspirations around raising productivity, we must go above and beyond our target levels and ensure that all of our residents, regardless of their background or prior attainment, have the opportunity to access the higher level skills required by our businesses.

This specification sets out requirements for:

- Provision of access to higher skills for unemployed adults in GM's disadvantaged and minority groups;
- Provision of support for individuals with the transition from high skills provision to the workplace, to include increasing the employability of unemployed graduates.

Call Summary

ERDF/ESF	ESF	Theme	Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning
Call / Lot Title	Higher Skills Support Programme		
Call Lot Value	c£4,000,000 to £5,000,000		
What is the call seeking to secure for GM?	<p>Our ambition is to put GM in a position where the skills of its population and the quality of its skills infrastructure forms a key competitive edge for the city region; developing and maximising the potential of our residents, attracting talent, stimulating investment and maximising growth.</p> <p>In order to address the issues highlighted in the Greater Manchester Strategy, this call is seeking to secure activity that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to local skills priorities; • Meets local skill requirements by equipping unemployed individuals with advanced / higher level skills; • Increases the opportunity for unemployed residents particularly those who are less likely to take up advanced / higher level skills, to access the levels required by employers and contribute to increased productivity and growth; • Increases the opportunity for unemployed graduates to access the opportunities provided by growth; • Addresses skills shortages in priority growth sectors; • Stimulates demand for higher level Apprenticeships; • Stimulates demand for the uptake of Learner Loans. 		



	<p>Activities delivered under this call should align with the specific ESF objective as stated in the Operational Programme, of increasing the number of people with technical and job specific skills, particularly at level 3 and above and into higher and advanced apprenticeships, to support growth.</p> <p>The services must not duplicate or undermine national policy including policy on grants and loans.</p>
Timescales for delivery	September 2016 to March 2018
Why does GM need this project?	
<p>There are several sectors which have been identified as contributing significantly to productivity levels across GM. In particular advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, health innovation, business, financial & professional services and digital & creative have been highlighted as sectors where individuals with higher level skills will be required to maximise their potential for increased future growth. Additionally, there are a number of significant investments taking place in GM over the next decade or so where highly skilled workforce will be required including Airport City, HS2 and 3, Metrolink expansion, the Graphene Engineering & Innovation Centre (GEIC) and the Sir Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials Research. It is critical to ensure all residents, regardless of their social status or prior attainment levels can secure these jobs but to do so they will need increased opportunity to access higher level skills provision.</p>	
Proposed delivery method	
<p>There are two themes this call is looking to address and applicants should propose activity for both themes. To ensure proposals are innovative and creative, GM LEP have not specified a delivery model for this call, however there are some specific activities that we would like to see delivered and these are outlined below.</p>	
<p>Theme 1) Provision of access to advanced/higher level skills for unemployed adults in GM's disadvantaged and minority groups, including support for advanced/higher level skills in priority sectors to meet future need.</p>	
<p>We would like to see proposals that include support for unemployed individuals who hold higher level qualifications to progress to the next level i.e. L3 to L4, L4 to L5; development of new outreach activities (including taster/access courses) particularly where this is being co-designed with representatives of the target groups and involves innovative approaches; provision which offers both accredited and non-accredited skills training; development of vocational short courses that are designed to enable progression onto advanced/higher level courses and that are easily accessible to the target groups; support for individuals to engage with SME's and access work experience/placements; initiatives to increase/improve the STEM and digital skills in disadvantaged individuals to support digital inclusion.</p>	
<p>Theme 2) Increasing the employability of unemployed graduates.</p>	
<p>We would like to see proposals that include provision to fund the costs of specific models designed to prepare under-graduates and unemployed graduates for employment / self-employment; projects, placements, internships or other activities within SMEs that enable unemployed graduates to gain relevant industry experience and skills.</p>	
<p>Working to the SFA's agreed funding formulas we envisage an average spend of £1800 per learner and applicants will be expected to show stretched targets to maximise on the level of</p>	



funding provided.

GM LEP are seeking a lead provider to work with a broad consortium of subcontractors (including different types of providers, i.e. those from the voluntary and community sector) to ensure full geographical and sectoral coverage, ensuring the skill needs of employed individuals are met (with support from employers to identify skills gaps).

Applicants should:

- Have experience of managing contracts of at least a comparable size to that available through this tender;
- Be able to demonstrate that they (and/or any proposed sub-contractors listed) have a strong track-record of delivering skills support to individuals in Greater Manchester (or an area with similar geographic size and economic need as GM);
- Demonstrate that they can deliver provision in each of the ten GM local authorities, either in fixed office locations or in outreach venues to ensure accessibility for all;
- Establish (or demonstrate existing) working relationships with key stakeholders including Local Authorities, employers, GM Combined Authority, GM LEP, Universities and other relevant organisations.

Target clients / beneficiaries / geographical area

The target group for Theme 1 of this call are:

- Unemployed individuals aged 16+
- Unemployed individuals identified as being in one (or more) of GM's priority groups including individuals with special educational needs/disabilities, lone parents, care leavers, women, those within BME and migrant communities

The target group for Theme 2 of this call are:

- Unemployed graduates who have recently graduated from one of GM's Higher Education Institutions
- Students nearing completion of studies at one of GM's Higher Education Institutions

Applicants will be expected to deliver services across all of the ten local authority areas within Greater Manchester.

Linkages and impact with European Social Fund / Growth & Reform Plan / Devolution Agreement.

The Devolution Agreement provides a foundation for change in the skills system in GM and will enable the system to be designed to better understand and align with the needs of local employers by ensuring the supply of workers who possess the relevant skills and experience to provide sustainable solutions to employers' demand. GMS highlights the need to understand the changing demands for labour and to ensure that our residents have the skills required to meet the demands of our employers. We must ensure that we put in place the right kind of support to help all of GM's residents access the opportunities presented by growth, to take part in education and training and to fulfil their potential. It is also highlighted that there are around 100,000 students studying at GM universities and we should do as much as we can to ensure that these individuals, once qualified, stay in GM and utilise their skills and knowledge to contribute to the economy and the region's future growth. This programme of activity will widen participation in higher level skills from non-traditional sectors of the population and geographies across GM, by increasing equality of opportunity for those residents who are least likely participate in this provision.