

Councillor Ian Gilbert
Leader of the Council

Our ref:
Your ref:
Date: 27th October 2021
Telephone: 01702 215000
Email: emmacooney@southend.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Gilbert

Re: S.O.46 – ESF SECTA for 18-25s

We have made an application to the European Social Fund (ESF) to deliver construction skills and employment support to young people aged 18-25 as part of the South Essex Construction Training Academy (SECTA). After detailed discussions, the managing authority has approved our application and are requesting that we enter into contract to enable delivery from 1st January 2022. Given the time restrictions we will not be able seek permission to enter contract via the usual Cabinet route, I am therefore seeking your agreement by S.O.46.

The ESF funding will allow us to deliver a project aimed solely at the 18-25 age group contributing to recommendations coming from the 18-25 review which was supported by the LGA. It will provide training, work experiences, and sustainable employment in the construction industry, a sector for which there is significant opportunity across Southend and the wider south Essex area.

The project will build on the successful SECTA mode which has been funded to date by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and which works with developers and contractors to identify their skills and employment needs and then trains people to meet these role requirements. This new ESF funding will allow us to focus specifically on young people and entry level employment - the wider SECTA programme will continue to support older people and will also deliver progression training in a variety of specialist skills to ensure that residents can secure higher paid roles.

The total project cost is £432k (£216k from ESF, match funded by existing resource). Delivery will begin on 1st January 2022 and will end on 30th Sept 2023, we will continue to report on outcomes and make financial claims until February 2024. The targets for the project are:

- 283 young people will be supported e.g. receiving information, advice and guidance, training and work experience

Of these

- 122 will enter employment
- 61 will remain in employment at 6 months

The project contributes to achieving economic recovery in Southend and across the wider south Essex area. It supports delivery of several 2050 outcomes including supporting young people realise their potential, ensuring residents are work ready and supporting business resilience. It will help our young people start a career that could lead to sustainable long-term employment and ensure financial independence.

It is my recommendation that:

- The council enter into agreements with the Managing Authority for delivery of SECTA 18-25s that will help us realise 2050 ambitions;
- Relevant agreements are signed in line with the scheme of delegation.

Accordingly, I propose to implement the recommendations listed above. I should be grateful if you would confirm, pursuant to S.O.46, that you concur with my proposed action by signing the endorsement at the foot of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Emma Cooney – Director of Regeneration and Growth

I support the recommendations as described in this letter.

Signed



Councillor Ian Gilbert
Leader of the Council

Date.....28/10/2021.....