

Sevenoaks District Council and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Call for projects – Supporting economically inactive people

Background

Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (T&MBC) work closely and collaborate on a number of economic development initiatives. This makes sense as the areas covered have great similarities and flows of people across the boundaries are continuous, whether for work, education or recreation.

Despite the relative prosperity of the two areas, there remains a significant constituency of residents who are disadvantaged in the labour market and who are over represented in the unemployment count. We see the participation in work of all who are able to, as key to the life chances of individuals and essential to businesses who report difficulties in recruiting to local roles.

As such SDC and T&MBC are calling for projects that will see people from disadvantaged groups enter employment and sustain a place therein. We shall be using the UK government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to fund creative proposals that promise to deliver results. Specifically we are targeting the government's aspirations under its E33 intervention, which is set-out as follows;

Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

This provision can include projects promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives, alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support.

Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to people aged over 50, people with a disability and health condition, women, people from an ethnic minority, young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and people with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence).

Key Requirements of Proposed Projects:



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We are looking to commission projects that span Sevenoaks district and Tonbridge & Malling borough in support of specific groups of disadvantaged people. Your proposal will:

- Be clear about the disadvantaged group/s it seeks to help.
- Be clear about the number of people the project would help.
- Be clear about what the project is. How will the work be delivered, when and by whom?
- Not be focused on a particular postcode, ward, village, town etc.
- Be innovative/creative in its approach.
- Show us that you have genuine expertise and experience within your organisation to be able to deliver.
- Demonstrate value for money, though we expect your targets to be ambitious.

In addition, it is expected that:

- Some of the funding allocated to this project be used on marketing and promoting the programme, and in doing so meeting the requirements of the UKSPF branding guidelines and promotes the role of the two local authorities.
- In delivering the programme it is important, where possible, that there is an even distribution of support across the two areas, ensuring that Sevenoaks District, and Tonbridge & Malling Borough each see equal benefit to their areas.

Budget:

The local authorities have an overall budget of £100,000, from which we shall be allocating up to £25,000 per project agreed. Please make sure that you budget your proposal accordingly.

Timetable:

Deadline for submission of bids	01/02/2024
Deadline for questions of clarification	22/01/2024
Interviews	08/02/2024 and 09/02/2024
Decisions and notifications	12/02/2024
Formal appointment of contractors	26/02/2024

Assessment Criteria

We will need you to complete the project proposal form attached in order to help our assessment. The following will be assessed – some are pass/fail and others are weighted (see over the page)



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- Credit score rating (Pass or Fail)
- Company reference check (Pass or Fail)
- Compliance with Anti-money laundering regulations (Pass or Fail)
- Compliance with Modern Anti-slavery (Pass or Fail)
- Quality criteria (Weighted criteria which will be evaluated on a 0-5 score using SDC's standardising scoring scale – see below):
 - Previous experience of similar projects (weighted 10%)
 - Staffing to be deployed, CVs to be provided (10%)
 - Understanding of issues and approach (20%)
 - Strategic fit (what issue is it trying to resolve and what plans/policies/programmes is it supporting) (10%)
 - Use of innovative techniques (10%)
 - Social value (5%)
 - Sustainability (5%)
 - Management approach and reporting (10%)Value for Money (20%)

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