

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Award of Tender for Business Factory Start-up Programme

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Paul Hanson, Chief Executive

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to appoint the preferred contractor to deliver pre-start-up and business growth services for the Business Factory Start-up Programme from 1 April 2019 to 31 December 2021.

The current contract ends on 31 March 2019 in line with the previous European Regional Development Funding (ERDF). A new round of ERDF funding was secured for the Programme and accepted by Cabinet on 30 July 2019. As the estimated value of the contract is £1.141m over three years, Cabinet also granted permission to commence a procurement exercise. A procurement process was undertaken to identify a preferred contractor to deliver the pre-start business support and business growth services between 1 April 2019 and 31 December 2021.

5. Alternative Options considered

Not to re-procure the service.

6. Decision(s)

To award the contract for the delivery of pre start-up and business growth services from April 1 2019 until 31 December 2021 to the contractor who submitted the best value compliant tender to the Authority.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

Appointing the preferred contractor will enable the Authority to deliver the Business Factory programme for a further three years and improve business creation rates in North Tyneside. It is anticipated that the programme will assist a minimum of 600 existing SMEs and help 600 entrepreneurs to start up a new business.

8. Date Decision Made

4 February 2019

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the call-in period expires at 5.00pm on Tuesday 12 February 2019.

10. Date of Publication

5 February 2019

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

After 5.00pm on Tuesday 12 February 2019