



CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

INVITATION TO BID FOR INVESTMENT OF LOCAL GROWTH FUND SKILLS FUNDING IN SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT TO TRANSFORM DIGITAL AND ADVANCED ENGINEERING SKILLS ACROSS CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION

Can I clarify the bids for the third investment? It mentions in the guidance under point 1.3 that the bid is for “five investments of between £500,000 £1,000,000 for specialist equipment that can be used to upskill and reskill the existing workforce....”

Does this mean that any bid in this category has to be used exclusively for equipment for employers or could it be used by students who will one day be potential employees. We don't want to waste any entries so any clarification would be useful, especially as colleges will need to invest in equipment for upcoming T levels?

ANSWER

The investment is intended to primarily support upskilling and reskilling in the existing workforce but we would see added value if, in addition, the investment could benefit a wider cohort of learners.

QUESTION

Are the deadlines for the bids the end of the day on the dates listed or 11.59pm the day before?

ANSWER

The deadlines are the end of the day (17.00 hrs) on the dates listed.

QUESTION

How do you calculate GVA?

ANSWER

In terms of calculating GVA in general, there are two main ways of doing that in the BEIS Appraisal Guidance:

1. Production terms: $GVA = \text{Gross Output (e.g. Turnover)} - \text{Intermediate Consumption}$
2. Income terms: $GVA = \text{Net Taxes}_{28} + \text{Compensation of Employees} + \text{Gross Operating Surplus}$

QUESTION

In relation to “Outputs” – what level of detail would you be looking for?

ANSWER

In terms of outputs we would just like a realistic estimate of outputs/outcomes that will be achieved by the project. You should be able to evidence any figures you include and support these with letters of support from businesses as appropriate.

QUESTION

How detailed are you expecting the Project Plan?

ANSWER

The project plan needs to detail key milestones e.g. :

Internal approval of funding application

Funding awarded

Engagement of businesses and colleges

procurement of equipment

Appointment of staff

Start of project

First claim submitted

Funding fully committed

End of project

End of project evaluation

QUESTION

How long would you expect the horizon planning to be?

ANSWER

We do usually have a requirement on our projects to capture output information for up to five years.

QUESTION

As we will be required to complete some renovation works within our existing premises to create the space required for the equipment and future trainee’s - would these costs be acceptable for the funding?

ANSWER

You could use some of the money for renovation works. The space would need to be ready for timely use with the project and the project money would have to be spent by the end of March 2021. You would also need to make it clear who would own the premises that is being refurbished.

