

## Annex 5 – Localisation / Devolution

- 1.1. This annex provides information about co-commissioning DWP Contracted Employment programmes with Sub-Regional Partnerships which are:
  - Multi-Area Agreement areas;
  - City Strategy Partnership areas; and
  - City Region Pilot areas announced in the April 2009 Budget.
- 1.2. In the White Paper *Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future*, there was a commitment to devolve power in welfare to allow expertise to be drawn from providers of employment support, in local communities and individuals. Three levels of devolution to local communities were set out. These levels represent progressively greater flexibility and discretion to tailor services to meet local needs.
- 1.3. Level 1 (consultation) will give Sub-Regional Partnerships more influence over contract specifications, full use of the flexibility available within contracts and improved communication between suppliers and other local bodies. There is a desire for our suppliers to play a full role in the delivery of emerging employment and skills plans worked up by Sub-Regional Partnerships, working closely with Jobcentre Plus.
- 1.4. In Level 2 (co-commissioning), funding streams may be arranged in innovative ways to support shared commissioning of services. In developing the ItT, discussions will continue with appropriate parties as to their involvement. More information will be included if appropriate in the ItT.
- 1.5. Level 3 (further devolution) goes further and could include devolving responsibility for delivery and contracting to Sub-Regional Partnerships. At this level, money and control could be given to the locality with the DWP and other parts of central government specifying only the outcomes to be achieved. It is not expected that Level 3 will be a factor of Work For Your Benefit.
- 1.6. It is believed that devolution will facilitate efforts to join up services and enable the Department's contracted employment programmes to respond to local needs.

### Sub-Regional Partnerships

- 1.7. The City Strategy Partnerships, also mentioned in the Green Paper, *In work, better off: Next steps to full employment* aims to empower local areas giving them the flexibility to provide local solutions to local problems. By pooling or aligning budgets, it is hoped that more or better outcomes can be obtained from existing resources.
- 1.8. Local consortia will be expected to provide the drive and focus for cross agency activity to help jobless residents move into and progress through work, and in doing so, contribute to the achievement of the government's long-term employment and child poverty goals. Jobcentre Plus will be an important member of each local consortium.

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- 1.9. **Multi-Area Agreements** bring together local public and private sector partners to coordinate action across a wide range of policy interventions. The Government's ambition is to drive growth in local economies and to close the gap with the top performing areas in the country through partnerships that cross local authority boundaries. As well as local authorities, partners include government agencies such as Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council along with private and third sectors. Agencies acting together, in support of shared priorities, aligning and possibly pooling financial and human resources will ensure that efforts to boost prosperity are maximizing helping people to reach their potential – connecting them to jobs, skills, and affordable homes, regardless of where they live or work.
- 1.10. The April 2009 Budget announced two **City Region Pilots**. For this procurement we are exploring with Manchester City Region how we will work with them to ensure that provision is tailored to meet the needs of the locality. More information will be included in the ItT as appropriate.