

**LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL  
NORTHWEST  
ESF CO-FINANCE 2007-13  
BULLETIN ISSUE 2**

Welcome to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North West's second ESF Co-finance 2007-13 bulletin. In this issue we provide you with an overview of the **revised** procurement timetable for ESF via the LSC's ESF Co-finance Plan 2007-10.

**Outcomes of the Stage 1 PQQ Process**

The outcomes of the Pre Qualification Questionnaire which formed stage 1 of a two stage process have been announced. A total of 440 organisations have been successful to date in respect of the North West invitation.

**ESF PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE**

Outlined below is the revised timetable for LSC North West's ESF procurement exercises which will be launched in 2007 for the ESF Co-finance Plan 2007-10. The delay has been caused by the extent of the activity we are proposing to undertake, our support for the development of the national procurement system and the development of ITTs in the region.

There will now be two Invitations to Tender (ITTs) in the Northwest this year with a total value in excess of £100 million. The majority of activity is being procured for a three year period from May 2008 to December 2010.

- **The first will be launched on 19 November** one week later than originally planned.

The round will include both Priority 1 and Priority 2 activity for the whole of the Northwest and will include the Merseyside 'phasing in' area.

- The **second round will be launched on 10 December** and will be restricted to Priority 2 activity. The delay is caused by the potential impact of forthcoming policy announcements in respect of Train to Gain.

We are also retaining funding (£900k) which has been earmarked to support young people who have a history of offending and are NEET which will be procured in 2008.

### **Procurement Timetable**

Following consultation and in recognising the significant amount of resource required to respond to the ITTs, it has been agreed to **extend the response period by 5 working days to 5 weeks.**

Briefing events on the ITTS and application process will be held during week commencing 26 November.

<b>Revised Timetable</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Launch ITT to successful organisations</b>	<b>19 November 2007</b>	<b>10 December 2007</b>
ITT Briefing Events for organisations successful within PQQ	26 : 30 November 2007	26 : 30 November 2007
<b>ITT return date</b>	<b>21 December 2007</b>	<b>18 January 2007</b>
Assessment and evaluation process completed	29 February 2008	10 March 2008
Issue letters	7 March 2008	21 March 2008
Mandatory Standstill period	8 March 2008	22 March 2008
Mandatory Standstill period ends	21 March 2008	4 April
Award Contracts	24 March 2008	7 April
Earliest Contract Commencement Date	1 May 2008	1 June 2008

### **ITT Briefing Events**

Six ITT briefing events are being held for applicants during the week commencing 26 November 2007. These events are restricted to those organisations who are intending to deliver ESF funded activity and who have successfully completed the Stage 1 ITT process. Invitations to these events are being sent directly to those successful in the PQQ via e-mail together with the booking arrangements.