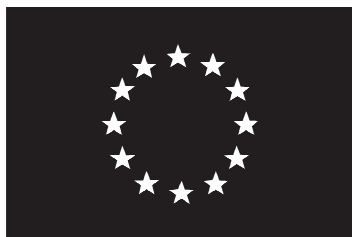


## Annex D

# Learning and Skills Council North West

European Social Fund  
LSC Co-financing Plan for the North West of England  
For the period January 2007 to December 2010

## **Supplementary Plan : December 2008**



**European Union**  
**European Social Fund**  
Investing in jobs and skills



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The LSC's original 2007 – 2010 Co-Finance Plan (CFP) was approved in Autumn 2007. This document sets out the LSC's intentions in respect of the additional ESF funding which has been made available as a consequence of the revaluation of the programme for the 2007-2010 period arising from the fall in the value of sterling.

The LSC's intentions are to utilise both ESF and LSC funds to undertake activities as described in the ESF Operational Programme for England and Gibraltar 2007-2013. Our original plan established the overall objective of making a significant contribution to sustainable economic growth and social inclusion by increasing employment, reducing economic inactivity and developing a skilled and adaptable workforce thereby contributing to the ESF Regional Framework and the Lisbon Agenda.

Since the publication of the original approved CFP in Autumn 2007 there has been a sudden and dramatic worsening of the economic situation. The original CFP was developed in the context of a single national ESF programme and established three clear priorities which are in line with the core remit of the LSC which exists to make England better skilled and more competitive.

- Support individuals to secure sustained employment;
- Reduce the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training;
- Work with employers and individuals to meet skills gaps and shortages thereby improving competitiveness.

Our original CFP funded activity will continue to focus on these three objectives

### 1.2 Responding to the Economic Downturn

The Government has set out its high level response to redundancies and the economic downturn, recently announcing that additional ESF made available due to the revaluation of the Euro would be made available to help ensure that those individuals affected by the economic situation receive the support they need to help them return to work as soon as possible. This support will be aimed at those facing redundancy and those who have already been made redundant. This will complement existing provision focused on the long-term unemployed, ensuring that people have access to the support they need to develop the skills and help them find new employment in local labour markets.

In the immediate term, as part of the Government's response to the toughening economic climate, we will direct government resources to programmes and actions that seek to support the most vulnerable and at risk from the downturn. In particular, we are focused on: encouraging employers to continue to invest in skills and training, when their financial and human resources are under increased pressure enabling individuals to develop their skills to increase their flexibility in the labour market.

As announced on 21 October 2008, we will implement new flexibilities in Train to Gain focused on private sector small- and medium-sized enterprises. We will support the Government's announcement on 15 October 2008 to spend £100 million to tackle redundancies. This will include targeted use of the ESF to flexibly support those at risk of redundancy, or made redundant, as well as use of Train to Gain funds to help employers provide potential employees with the skills they need to enter the workforce. There will also be support for those most at risk from the economic downturn by providing additional advice and guidance through *nextstep*.

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This document sets out our intentions for the additional £19.1m ESF Co-financing ESF together with our own match funding for Priority 1 and Priority 2 of the North West ESF Programme for the period January 2007 to December 2010. Project activity will commence from April 2009 onwards.

Throughout the document Merseyside is defined as the Merseyside 'Phasing-In' Area which comprises the local authority areas of Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. The remaining areas of the North West outside the Merseyside 'Phasing-In' Area are defined as the 'Northwest'.

## 2. THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

### 2.1 Employment

Initial indications in the earlier part of the year were that the North West may be less badly affected by the economic downturn. However, in the third quarter of 2008 the region suffered the most significant fall in employment of any region. Latest forecasts indicate that the region will be as affected as the whole of the UK.

#### 2.1.1 Employment

In the third quarter of 2008:

- Employment fell by 0.6pp to 71.6%
- England employment rate decreased 0.3pp to 74.5%.
- Unemployment 6.8%, a 0.5pp increase on the previous quarter
- More people coming on to JSA than going into employment
- 19,000 fewer employed at end of Quarter 3 2008

From a low point of 92,000 in summer 2004 the Jobseekers Allowance claimant count has risen steadily and very sharply in 2008.

October 2004	92,452	2.2
October 2005	102,191	2.4
October 2006	114,571	2.7
October 2007	103,854	2.4
October 2008	127,638	3.0
JSA claimant count shown year on year in total numbers and as a percentage of working age population. (Source NOMIS November 2008).		

#### 2.1.2 Redundancy

The number of redundancies is increasing. One apparent issue is that there are a significant number of cases where the employer, is not completing an HR 1 because they have either ignored the requirement or gone straight into administration/receivership.

Redundancies which involve more than 50 people have increased from 1,000 people per month in the early part of 2008 to an average of approximately 2,000 people per month in the June to September 2008 period. The October figure rose to 3676. If all notified redundancies involving more than 20 people are included the October total increases 4,251. The November figure was also in excess of 4,000.

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Main sectors to suffer from June 08 to November 08\*:

- Manufacturing – 4,924 job losses
- Leisure/Travel – 2,284 job losses
- Construction – 2,359 job losses
- Public Sector – 1,787 job losses

\*For June to September 08 minimum 50 redundancies; October- November 08 minimum 20 redundancies.

### 2.1.3 Vacancies

Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus have reduced from 61,000 in October 2007 to 48,000 in October 2008.

### 2.1.4 Unemployment Forecasts

A comparison of independent forecasts was undertaken by the UK Treasury and included in the Pre Budget Report. This included employment and unemployment forecasts. Whilst these forecasts vary widely when applied to the North West they indicate that by November 2009 the North West claimant count will be between 144,000 and 290,000. If the national average forecast is applied the count will rise to 190,000 from the current 137,295 (JSA November 2008). This figure has increased by over 10,000 in the last month alone.

## 3. OUR OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Initial ESF Objectives

The LSC North West's approved Co-Finance Plan contained a series of objectives which are wholly in line with those of the national ESF Programme. The priorities are focused on reducing worklessness, increasing economic activity rates and in driving competitiveness through enhanced workforce skills. They directly contribute to the Lisbon Agenda. In the subsequent two sections we summarise the current ESF funded offer.

#### 3.1.1 Priority 1

The objective of Priority 1 is to increase employment and to reduce unemployment and inactivity. It will help to tackle barriers to work faced by disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities and health conditions, lone parents and other disadvantaged parents, older workers, ethnic minorities, and people with no or low qualifications. It will also help young people make a successful transition to the world of work, in particular those not in education, employment or training (NEET), or at risk of becoming NEET.

#### 3.1.2 Priority 2

The objective of Priority 2 is to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce by: Reducing the number of workers without basic skills; increasing the number of workers qualified to level 2 and, where justified, to level 3 and 4; reducing gender segregation in the workforce; and developing managers and workers in small enterprises. There will be a particular focus on the low skilled and on addressing skills shortages. The focus of that activity is to work with employers on their current and future skill needs.

By developing a skilled and adaptable workforce, this priority will help to improve productivity, innovation, enterprise and competitiveness. It will help workers to develop the skills needed by business in a knowledge-based economy. By focusing on those who lack basic skills and level 2 qualifications, this priority will also promote sustainable employment and social inclusion. By improving the qualifications of low skilled and part-time women workers, it will help to promote gender equality and reduce gender gaps in the workforce.

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## 3.2 Responding to the Economic Downturn

The existing ESF offer which is integrated with both LSC mainstream programmes and Jobcentre Plus activity is, within Priority 1, very much focused on supporting those workless individuals who are particularly disadvantaged in the labour market and who are likely to have limited employment experience. In Priority 2 provision is focused on equipping individuals with foundation and intermediate skills which will enable them to sustain employment and which meet specific employer skills needs. These priorities and the associated activities and budgets will remain.

The focus of support required for individuals in a pre-employment or pre-redundancy situation is fundamentally different from that required for individuals within employment with needs and solutions being driven by the individual. So training and support activity needs to have a maximum degree of flexibility to support individual employability and mobility. This will be the focus of the additional ESF funding and activity. Four priority groups have been identified, with the additional revaluation ESF funding focused predominantly on the first two of these.

- i. Those at risk of redundancy
- ii. Those affected by the economic downturn who are made redundant or became jobless
- iii. The longer term unemployed, that is the 'stock' of workless individuals
- iv. New entrants to the labour market

If a large national employer notifies impending redundancies, JCP's National Sales Team (NST) and the LSC's National Employer Service (NES) may be the first to hear, if there is already a relationship with the employer at national level. NES and NST have established a joint National Employment and Skills Partnership to deliver a joined up service to national employers. In addition to helping employers recruit and upskill staff, the service is also one of rapid response for employers working across many regions. This will mean the need for retraining and outplacement services for those who they are letting go will be determined at local level depending on customer needs and local labour market conditions". To support this, NST and NES may also be able to assist in facilitating re-deployment of staff (particularly apprenticeships) through their employer network.

### 3.2.1 Adults Under Threat or Notice of Redundancy

Support under the existing Train to Gain (TtG) budget is likely to be limited to responding to large scale redundancies where the employer is keen to support activities within the period of redundancy, or willing to extend the redundancy period to allow access to skills development activity that will help the employee re enter employment quickly.

The key focus is on the needs of the individual. The LSC will procure activity which is demand led in order to tailor support to meet the vocational skill needs of the individual. Training and support activity will have a maximum degree of flexibility to support individual employability and mobility.

There will be no restriction on the type of provision as long as it is organised and delivered according to the individual's existing skill levels, labour market intelligence regarding opportunities and the individual's own career aspirations. A package of support between 2 - 8 weeks (up to two weeks full-time and eight weeks part-time) aimed at securing skills to aid progression into sustainable employment should be the key driver of any activity.

It is proposed that activity is quality assured through the accredited status of the provider rather than the qualification and that the level of activity is constrained by setting a maximum funding limit.

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### 3.2.2 Pre-employment Support

The LSC will procure activity which supports individuals seeking employment. The focus of activity will be to link individuals with a vacancy and/or with an identified employer in sight, (LEP type activity). Activity procured will provide for any skills related activity that aids progression into sustainable employment. There will be no limitations in terms of the accredited status of such activities in order to provide individuals and providers with significant flexibility. The focus should be on the needs of the job, the employer's immediate needs and the current level of skill of the job seeker. A package of support between 2 - 8 weeks (up to two weeks full-time or eight weeks part-time) aimed at securing skills to aid progression into sustainable employment should be the key driver of any activity.

It is proposed that activity is quality assured through the accredited status of the provider rather than the qualification and that the level of activity will be constrained by setting a maximum funding limit.

It should be noted that there is already flexibility available within TtG that should any employee already be undertaking skills development through TtG when being notified of redundancy, then the LSC will continue to fund their learning even if that means completing the qualification after leaving employment.

### 3.2.3 Additional Information Advice and Guidance

Whilst the Universal offer in **nextstep / Career Advice** is available to all adults in work and out of work over 20, the Differentiated & Personalised service is restricted to priority groups of adults without a Level 2 or a Level 3. As the Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) Trials evolve, the increased demands on the **nextstep** service by priority groups (both stock and flow) are likely to absorb the increased mainstream resource available. Higher level skilled individuals in situations of redundancy may require a more substantial careers advice offer than can be met by the mainstream public purse.

The LSC intends to target the additional ESF resource to complement existing mainstream funded IAG provision and existing ESF funded provision by focusing on employees of small, medium and large organisations who are under threat of redundancy (still in the workplace) and recently made jobless, regardless of prior attainment level, and that this resource is delivered via existing **nextstep** contractors to maximise synergy.

An important dimension of the current slowdown is the number of new claimants who are facing significant issues arising from their personal financial situation. In line with policy for the development of the adult advancement and careers service, the offer made to individuals affected by redundancy must ensure effective referral to financial advice services.

### 3.2.4 Long term Unemployed and Workless Individuals

The North West continues to have an overall employment rate which is three percentage points below the England average. The present rate is 71.6% and the employment rate fell more rapidly than the England average in the last quarter a reduction of 0.6%. The number of people claiming out of work benefits remains very high and is rapidly approaching three quarters of a million. High concentrations of benefit claimants persist in some areas. The claimants are highly concentrated for certain benefits (Incapacity Benefit in particular), in many local neighbourhoods and amongst particular labour market groups (especially older workers, those with no qualifications and some minority ethnic groups).

Through a joint investment approach and with a variety of aligned funding streams partners are already providing a significant amount of additional provision and support for long term unemployed individuals to effectively access the provision and then allow progression from pre-employment through to Train to Gain. As the economic downturn bites those further from

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the labour market such as the long term unemployed/inactive are in danger of becoming more isolated as better qualified and those with employability skills are prepared to take lower level jobs. In the NW partners recognise the necessity to continue with the strategy to support the long term unemployed.

Work in local areas to ensure a comprehensive offer is already underway, particularly in the Greater Manchester area where the IES trial includes mapping investment/provision/support in a local authority area and analysing duplication, need for future investment and system fixes required to make access and progression easier. This information will be invaluable to get the offer right and to provide *nextstep* advisors with the range of information they need to advise clients and refer to relevant provision. The LSC will continue to work with partners to ensure that ESF funding continues to be aligned with broader employment and skills strategies as directed by Employment and Skills Boards and that it supports the employment objectives set out in MAAs and LAAs.

In the longer term, there will continue to be strong demand at which will provide opportunities for claimants, provided they are able to gain employability and basic occupational skills.

### 3.2.5 New Entrants

It also important to recognise the new cohort of entrants entering employment with reduced opportunities to secure employment and greater competition from others who have been displaced by redundancy. It is critical that support for this group begins whilst they are still in learning and before they enter the Labour Market. 18-24 year olds are particularly vulnerable and disproportionately represented and due to the occupations they tend to engage with (call centres, clerical, tourism) may prove to be particularly insecure. This will be accentuated further from 2009 onwards due to school and college leavers and new graduates seeking to enter the workplace.

The LSC will utilise ESF revaluation funds under Priority 1 which are not already committed to items set out above to support interventions aimed at stimulating employer engagement in Apprenticeship programmes and to secure work trials and employment opportunities for young people.

### 3.3 Allocation of Budgets to Additional Activity

The total funding sought by the LSC in the North West is £9,195,913 in the Merseyside 'Phasing In' area and £9,934,558 for the Northwest excluding Merseyside.

At a national level it is intended to supplement the support under the existing TtG offer with additional funds from ESF of £50 million matched with TtG funding of £50 million. In the North West the proposed funding focused on this activity will be £20.8m utilising the vast majority of the Priority 2 funding available. In addition the LSC intends to focus the available Priority 1 funding on providing additional adult information, advice and guidance services. The combined budget in the North West will be £5,190,300. The summary financial information in respect of these two key elements is set out in Table 1.

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**Table 1 – Northwest Region Proposed use of Funding to Responding to the Economic Downturn**

		ESF	Match Funding (& Source)
<b>Merseyside 'Phasing In'</b>			
Priority 1	Additional adult information advice and guidance aimed at those individuals under threat of redundancy or unemployed	2,575,400	2,575,400 (Adult IAG)
Priority 2	Additional Flexible Vocational skills provision to support individuals under threat of redundancy or unemployed and linked to a known employer vacancy	4,913,800	4,913,800 (Train to Gain)
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,489,200</b>	<b>7,489,200</b>
<b>Northwest (Excluding 'Phasing In')</b>			
Priority 1	Additional adult information advice and guidance aimed at those individuals under threat of redundancy or unemployed	2,614,900	2,614,900 (Adult IAG)
Priority 2	Additional Flexible Vocational skills provision to support individuals under threat of redundancy or unemployed and linked to a known employer vacancy	5,474,700	5,474,700 (Train to Gain)
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,089,600</b>	<b>8,089,600</b>

### 4. JOINT PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

The NW Regional Skills and Employment Board and its sub groups provides the infrastructure within which partners including the LSC, Jobcentre Plus, NWDA, GONW and Sub-regional Partners have developed the Joint Regional Response To The Economic Downturn.

In developing the Supplementary ESF Co-Finance Plan the LSC has:

- Worked under these framework arrangements to develop the proposed activities which will be delivered through this Supplementary ESF CFP
- Held discrete planning meetings with Jobcentre Plus to develop the Supplementary CFP
- Liaised with City Employment Strategy partners to ensure that the additional provision is coherent with IES trials
- Ensured that additional planned information, advice and guidance is commensurate with AACS prototypes.

### 5. OVERALL APPROACH TO PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The programme will be managed in line with the arrangements set out in the original approved Co-Finance Plan. The LSC will continue to work closely with our key partners to ensure the continued integration of ESF with other mainstream activity. However, given the focus of the downturn the LSC will now make additional arrangements to ensure that progress in relation to procurement, contracting and contract performance are also reported specifically to the Regional Skills and Employment Board including the Employability sub-group and also through these mechanisms to the Joint Economic Commission.

The LSC has already committed to a six monthly progress report which will be disseminated to stakeholders within the region including the Regional Skills and Employment Board, NWDA, sub-regional economic development partnerships, City Employment Strategies, the emerging Skills and Employment Boards, Local Strategic Partnerships, local authorities and providers.

This revised CFP covers the whole of the North West region of England. There are two distinct areas:

- a) The 'phasing in' area of Merseyside which covers the former Objective 1 programme area.
- b) The remainder of the North West outside the 'phasing in' area of Merseyside.

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### 6. FUNDING PROPOSALS SUMMARY

The tables 2 and 3 below provide a summary of the allocations which the LSC is proposing to secure across both the Northwest (excluding Merseyside Phasing-In Area) and also the Merseyside Phasing-In Area for both Priorities for the period 2007-10. For purposes of clarity we have set out the share of the total budgets which the LSC will seek to secure from the additional revaluation funds.

As the focus of activity is to specifically address the economic downturn we propose to utilise the funding in the 2009 and 2010 calendar years with activity commencing in April 2009.

**Table 2 – LSC Share of Revaluation Funding**

<b>Northwest Region (Excluding Merseyside Phasing-In Area)</b>				
<b>£ 000's</b>	<b>2007-2010 Original Allocation (.68p)</b>	<b>Total Budget Including Re-valuation (.78p)</b>	<b>Revaluation Increase</b>	<b>LSC Proposed Share of Additional Funding</b>
<b>Priority 1</b>	75,967,198	87,138,846	11,171,648	3,213,258
<b>Priority 2</b>	45,704,851	52,426,151	6,721,300	6,721,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,672,049</b>	<b>139,564,997</b>	<b>17,892,948</b>	<b>9,934,558</b>
<b>Merseyside 'Phasing In' Area</b>				
<b>Priority 1</b>	74,798,107	85,797,827	10,999,720	3,163,807
<b>Priority 2</b>	41,018,316	47,050,422	6,032,106	6,032,106
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,816,423</b>	<b>132,848,249</b>	<b>17,031,826</b>	<b>9,195,913</b>

### 7. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Table 1 sets out the activity we propose to undertake, in the North West, to address the national commitments made to address the downturn. In the Northwest (excluding Merseyside Phasing-In Area) this represents £7,489,200 (ESF) and in the Merseyside Phasing-In Area this equates to £8,089,600 (ESF). The total funding available to LSC Northwest as a consequence of the revaluation is £9,934,558 for the Northwest (excluding Merseyside Phasing-In Area) and £9,195,913 for the Merseyside Phasing-In Area. Tables 3 and 4 below provide indicative spend figures for the different activities that we will undertake with the total available funding. LSC Northwest reserves the right to amend the spend profiles to ensure that activities are responsive to future economic situations.

**Table 3 – Northwest (excluding Merseyside Phasing-In Area)**

	<b>£ESF</b>	<b>£new match to be spent alongside</b>	<b>£total new money</b>	<b>£Proportion on 16-18 year-olds</b>
<b>Priority 1</b>				
Nextstep delivery	2,614,900	2,936,226	5,551,126	0
Nextstep capacity	277,032	277,032	554,064	0
Training for longer term unemployed	0	0	0	0
Administration & Management	321,326	0	321,326	0
<b>Priority 1 Total</b>	<b>3,213,258</b>	<b>3,213,258</b>	<b>6,426,516</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Priority 2</b>				
Pre-redundancy	1,512,293	1,680,325	3,192,618	0
Response to significant redundancies	1,512,292	1,680,325	3,192,617	0
Pre-employment education and training	3,024,585	3,360,650	6,385,235	0
Pre-employment education and training for longer term unemployed	0	0	0	0
Capacity building	0	0	0	0
Administration & Management	672,130	0	672,130	0
<b>Priority 2 Total</b>	<b>6,721,300</b>	<b>6,721,300</b>	<b>6,721,300</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Northwest</b>	<b>9,934,558</b>	<b>9,934,558</b>	<b>19,869,116</b>	<b>0</b>

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Table 4 - Merseyside Phasing-In Area

	£ESF	£new match to be spent alongside	£total new money	£Proportion on 16-18 year-olds
<b>Priority 1</b>				
Nextstep delivery	2,575,400	2,891,781	5,467,181	0
Nextstep capacity	272,026	272,026	544,052	0
Training for longer term unemployed	0	0	0	0
Administration & Management	316,381	0	316,381	0
<b>Priority 1 Total</b>	<b>3,163,807</b>	<b>3,163,807</b>	<b>6,327,614</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Priority 2</b>				
Pre-redundancy	1,357,224	1,508,027	2,865,251	0
Response to significant redundancies	1,357,223	1,508,026	2,865,249	0
Pre-employment education and training	2,714,448	3,016,053	5,730,501	0
Pre-employment education and training for longer term unemployed	0	0	0	0
Capacity building	0	0	0	0
Administration & Management	603,211	0	603,211	0
<b>Priority 2 Total</b>	<b>6,032,106</b>	<b>6,032,106</b>	<b>12,064,212</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Merseyside Phasing-In Area</b>	<b>9,195,913</b>	<b>9,195,913</b>	<b>18,391,826</b>	<b>0</b>

In accordance with the Joint Regional Response to the Economic Downturn four target groups have been identified who will all be adversely impacted upon by the economic downturn:

- i. Those at risk of redundancy
- ii. Those affected by the economic downturn who are made redundant or became jobless
- iii. The longer term unemployed, that is the 'stock' of workless individuals
- iv. New entrants to the labour market

For each target group we have identified the activities which will be funded by the re-valuation funding and where appropriate separately identified complementary activity which is being funded under the existing Co-Finance Plan or LSC match and mainstream funding but has only recently been commissioned. Within Priority 1 activity funded under the LSC's original CFP was heavily focused on the long term workless. The focus of the new funding will be on developing provision which support business individuals under threat of redundancy and those with who become unemployed. The LSC may need to vary the scale of the proposed activity set out in 7.1 and 7.2 below depending on the extent of actual need and take up of provision.

### 7.1 Those Under Threat or Notice of Redundancy

The LSC will focus the revaluation funding on the following activity:

- ESF Funding matched with Train to Gain monies to procure activities to deliver non-accredited provision and provision customised to other vacancies in the local labour market.
- ESF funding match with LSC adult information advice and guidance funding to extend the **nextstep** Careers Advice service to ensure it has the additional capacity to deliver provision to support individuals faced with redundancy and needing information, advice and guidance.

This will be enhanced by:

- Existing ESF resources (tender process has just closed) to extend the recently announced Train to Gain flexibilities for SMEs to larger companies.
- Existing ESF resources (tender process has just closed) to support the creation of Employer Pools for Apprentices threatened with redundancy.

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### **7.2 Those who are Newly Redundant (Job Seekers)**

Revaluation Funding:

- Funding matched with Train to Gain funding to procure customised provision (typically between 2 and 8 weeks) linked to real employment opportunities;
- Procure additional IAG capacity linked to the delivery of Skills Health checks etc;
- Supporting the accreditation and certification of skills already developed in the work place including updating of existing qualifications and full and part qualifications as well as support to secure /sustain professional registrations and develop higher skills.
- Job-change training including non-accredited, full and part qualifications.

### **7.3 Long-term Unemployed and the Workless**

The LSC has already procured substantial activity in both the Northwest and Merseyside 'phasing in' areas to support the long term workless into employment. This activity has only recently commenced and will be monitored to assess the extent of take up and impact. This activity will be also monitored to assess the need to:

- Procure additional IAG capacity linked to the delivery of Skills Health checks etc.
- Support the accreditation and certification of skills already developed in the work place including updating of existing qualifications and full and part qualifications as well as support to secure /sustain professional registrations and develop higher skills.

For these reasons the LSC is not planning to commit further funding to this target group at this stage.

### **7.4 New Entrants**

Utilising the original CFP the LSC has recently commissioned provision with a value of £2.35m which aims to:

- Stimulate employer engagement in Apprenticeship programmes.
- Secure work trials and employment opportunities for young people.
- Operate employer 'pools'.

In March 2009 the LSC will commission a further £7m of ESF funding from the original CFP which will be targeted at supporting young people who are NEET. The LSC will continue to monitor the impact of the economic downturn on young people. Under spends from existing activity will be particularly targeted at ensuring that the proportion of young people classified as NEET does not increase.

## **8. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS**

### **8.1 Revaluation Monies**

Tables 5 and 6 below provide an annual breakdown of the ESF financial allocations which are sought via this Supplementary Co-finance Plan.

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**Table 5 - Budget Northwest excluding the Merseyside Phasing-In Area - Revaluation Monies**

Priority 1 – Extending Employment Opportunities	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Improving the employability and skills of unemployed and inactive people	0	0	1,224,098	1,989,160	3,213,258
Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training	0	0	0	0	0
Small Grants to Community Groups	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Priority 1 Spend</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,224,098</b>	<b>1,989,160</b>	<b>3,213,258</b>
Priority 2 - Skilled and Adaptable Workforce					
Supporting Basic Skills training – Responding to Economic Downturn	0	0	2,397,250	4,324,050	6,721,300
Supporting Level 2 training	0	0	0	0	0
Supporting Level 3 training	0	0	0	0	0
Supporting Level 4 training	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Priority 2 Proposed Spend</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,397,250</b>	<b>4,324,050</b>	<b>6,721,300</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,621,348</b>	<b>6,313,210</b>	<b>9,934,558</b>

**Table 6 - Budget Merseyside Phasing-In Area - Revaluation Monies**

Priority 1 – Extending Employment Opportunities	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Improving the employability and skills of unemployed and inactive people	0	0	1,205,260	1,958,547	3,163,807
Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training	0	0	0	0	0
Small Grants to Community Groups	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Priority 1 Spend</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,205,260</b>	<b>1,958,547</b>	<b>3,163,807</b>
Priority 2 - Skilled and Adaptable Workforce					
Supporting Basic Skills training – Responding to Economic Downturn	0	0	2,151,500	3,880,606	6,032,106
Supporting Level 2 training	0	0	0	0	0
Supporting Level 3 training	0	0	0	0	0
Supporting Level 4 training	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Priority 2 Proposed Spend</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,151,500</b>	<b>3,880,606</b>	<b>6,032,106</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,356,760</b>	<b>5,839,153</b>	<b>9,195,913</b>

## 8.2 Revised Allocations

Tables 7 and 8 below provide an annual breakdown of the combined ESF financial allocations from our original CFP including the additional funding sought via this Supplementary CFP.

**Table 7 - Northwest (excluding the Merseyside Phasing-In Area)- Revised Allocation (Original CF Plan + Revaluation)**

Priority 1 – Extending Employment Opportunities	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Improving the employability and skills of unemployed and inactive people	4,115,121	4,200,343	5,511,368	6,365,095	20,191,927
Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training	4,234,800	4,322,501	4,411,956	4,503,198	17,472,455
Small Grants to Community Groups	460,305	469,837	479,560	479,810	1,889,512
<b>Total Priority 1 Spend</b>	<b>8,810,226</b>	<b>8,992,681</b>	<b>10,402,884</b>	<b>11,348,103</b>	<b>39,553,894</b>
Priority 2 - Skilled and Adaptable Workforce					
Supporting Basic Skills training inc Responding to the Economic Downturn	3,999,007	4,074,285	6,548,318	8,553,436	23,175,046
Supporting Level 2 training	3,999,007	4,074,285	4,151,068	4,229,386	16,453,746
Supporting Level 3 training	2,554,922	2,603,015	2,652,071	2,702,108	10,512,116
Supporting Level 4 training	555,418	565,873	576,537	587,415	2,285,243
<b>Total Priority 2 Proposed Spend</b>	<b>11,108,354</b>	<b>11,317,458</b>	<b>13,927,994</b>	<b>16,072,345</b>	<b>52,426,151</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>19,918,580</b>	<b>20,310,139</b>	<b>24,330,878</b>	<b>27,420,448</b>	<b>91,980,045</b>

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**Table 8 - Merseyside 'Phasing-In' Area - Revised Allocation (Original CF Plan + Revaluation)**

<b>Priority 1 – Extending Employment Opportunities</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Total</b>
Improving the employability and skills of unemployed and inactive people	8,916,888	7,118,218	6,449,295	5,250,584	<b>27,734,985</b>
Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training	6,243,178	4,983,836	3,671,623	2,304,928	<b>17,203,565</b>
Small Grants to Community Groups	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Priority 1 Spend</b>	<b>15,160,066</b>	<b>12,102,054</b>	<b>10,120,918</b>	<b>7,555,512</b>	<b>44,938,550</b>
<b>Priority 2 - Skilled and Adaptable Workforce</b>					
Supporting Basic Skills training inc Responding to the Economic Downturn	5,358,801	4,277,851	5,303,019	5,859,029	<b>20,798,700</b>
Supporting Level 2 training	5,358,801	4,277,851	3,151,519	1,978,423	<b>14,766,594</b>
Supporting Level 3 training	3,423,679	2,733,071	2,013,470	1,263,992	<b>9,434,212</b>
Supporting Level 4 training	744,278	594,146	437,711	274,781	<b>2,050,916</b>
<b>Total Priority 2 Proposed Spend</b>	<b>14,885,559</b>	<b>11,882,919</b>	<b>10,905,719</b>	<b>9,376,225</b>	<b>47,050,422</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>30,045,625</b>	<b>23,984,973</b>	<b>21,026,637</b>	<b>16,931,737</b>	<b>91,988,972</b>

## 9. OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

### 9.1 Revaluation Funding – Outputs and Results

Tables 9 – 12 below summarise the outputs and results that the LSC proposes to deliver via the ESF secured and the match funding generated through this plan. The outputs and results are based on activity commencing from April 2009 and the support being provided the following groups:

- i. Those at risk of redundancy
- ii. Those affected by the economic downturn who are made redundant or become jobless
- iii. The longer term unemployed, that is the 'stock' of workless individuals
- iv. New entrants to the labour market

The outputs and results defined in the following tables and their assigned percentage volumes are in line with the ESF Operational Programme 2007-13. LSC Northwest reserves the right to amend the contents of these tables should the targets be refined.

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**Table 9 – Priority 1 Planned Output Profile NW (Excluding Merseyside) - Revaluation Money**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	0	4,568	7,423	0	0	<b>11,991</b>
Number of participants who are unemployed	28%	0	1,279	2,078	0	0	<b>3,358</b>
Number of participants who are inactive	22%	0	1,005	1,633	0	0	<b>2,638</b>
Number of participants aged 14 to 19 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	22%	0	1,005	1,633	0	0	<b>2,638</b>
Number of participants who are lone parents	12%	0	548	891	0	0	<b>1,439</b>
Number of participants aged 50 or over	18%	0	822	1,336	0	0	<b>2,158</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	17%	0	777	1,262	0	0	<b>2,038</b>
Number of female participants	51%	0	2,330	3,786	0	0	<b>6,115</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants in work on leaving	22%	0	1,005	1,633	0	0	<b>2,638</b>
Number of participants in work six months after leaving	26%	0	1,188	1,930	0	0	<b>3,118</b>
Number of economically inactive participants engaged in jobsearch activity or further learning	45%	0	452	735	0	0	<b>1,187</b>
Number of 14 to 19 year old NEETs or at risk, in education, employment or training on leaving	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

**Table 10 – Priority 2 Planned Output Profile NW (Excluding Merseyside) - Revaluation Monies**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	0	2,781	4,519	0	0	<b>7,300</b>
Number of participants with basic skills needs	41%	0	1,140	1,853	0	0	<b>2,993</b>
Number of participants without level 2 qualifications	41%	0	1,140	1,853	0	0	<b>2,993</b>
Number of participants without level 3 qualifications	12%	0	334	542	0	0	<b>876</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	15%	0	417	678	0	0	<b>1,095</b>
Number of participants aged 50 and over	20%	0	556	904	0	0	<b>1,460</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	8%	0	222	362	0	0	<b>584</b>
Number of female participants	50%	0	1,390	2,259	0	0	<b>3,650</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants gaining basic skills	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of participants gaining level 2 qualifications	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of participants gaining level 3 qualifications	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

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**Table 11 – Priority 1 Planned Output Profile Merseyside Phasing-In Area - Revaluation Money**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	0	4,499	7,310	0	0	<b>11,809</b>
Number of participants who are unemployed	28%	0	1,260	2,047	0	0	<b>3,306</b>
Number of participants who are inactive	22%		990	1,608	0	0	<b>2,598</b>
Number of participants aged 14 to 19 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	22%	0	990	1,608	0	0	<b>2,598</b>
Number of participants who are lone parents	12%	0	540	877	0	0	<b>1,417</b>
Number of participants aged 50 or over	18%	0	810	1,316	0	0	<b>2,126</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	17%	0	765	1,243	0	0	<b>2,008</b>
Number of female participants	51%	0	2,294	3,728	0	0	<b>6,023</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants in work on leaving	22%	0	990	1,608	0	0	<b>2,598</b>
Number of participants in work six months after leaving	26%	0	1,170	1,901	0	0	<b>3,070</b>
Number of economically inactive participants engaged in jobsearch activity or further learning	45%	0	445	724	0	0	<b>1,169</b>
Number of 14 to 19 year old NEETs or at risk, in education, employment or training on leaving	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

**Table 12 – Priority 2 Planned Output Profile Merseyside Phasing-In Area - Revaluation Monies**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	0	2,496	4,056	0	0	<b>6,552</b>
Number of participants with basic skills needs	41%	0	1,023	1,663	0	0	<b>2,686</b>
Number of participants without level 2 qualifications	41%	0	1,023	1,663	0	0	<b>2,686</b>
Number of participants without level 3 qualifications	12%	0	300	487	0	0	<b>786</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	15%	0	374	608	0	0	<b>983</b>
Number of participants aged 50 and over	20%	0	499	811	0	0	<b>1,310</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	8%	0	200	324	0	0	<b>524</b>
Number of female participants	50%	0	1,248	2,028	0	0	<b>3,276</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants gaining basic skills	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of participants gaining level 2 qualifications	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Number of participants gaining level 3 qualifications	0%	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

### 9.2 Revised Funding – Outputs and Results

Tables 13 – 16 below summarise the combined outputs and results that the LSC proposes to deliver via the ESF secured and the match funding generated through both the LSC's original Co-finance Plan and the funding identified for this Supplementary Co-finance Plan.

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**Table 13 – Priority 1 Planned Output Profile NW (Excluding Merseyside) - Revised Volumes (Original CFP and Revaluation)**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	4,441	13,581	16,844	4,065	0	<b>38,931</b>
Number of participants who are unemployed	27%	1,199	3,713	4,622	1,083	0	<b>10,618</b>
Number of participants who are inactive	22%	977	2,988	3,706	847	0	<b>8,518</b>
Number of participants aged 14 to 19 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET	30%	1,910	3,876	4,051	1,663	0	<b>11,500</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	22%	977	2,988	3,706	894	0	<b>8,565</b>
Number of participants who are lone parents	12%	533	1,630	2,022	487	0	<b>4,672</b>
Number of participants aged 50 or over	18%	799	2,444	3,032	732	0	<b>7,007</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	17%	755	2,309	2,864	691	0	<b>6,618</b>
Number of female participants	51%	2,265	6,927	8,591	2,072	0	<b>19,854</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants in work on leaving	22%	128	3005	3646	1386	400	<b>8,565</b>
Number of participants in work six months after leaving	26%	0	2389	4319	2389	1025	<b>10,122</b>
Number of economically inactive participants engaged in jobsearch activity or further learning	45%	58	1347	1636	611	181	<b>3,833</b>
Number of 14 to 19 year old NEETs or at risk, in education, employment or training on leaving	45%	128	1760	1771	1206	335	<b>5,200</b>

**Table 14 – Priority 2 Planned Output Profile NW (Excluding Merseyside) - Revised Volumes (CFP and Revaluation Monies)**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	9,413	22,410	24,148	8,279	0	<b>64,250</b>
Number of participants with basic skills needs	41%	3,859	9,188	9,901	3,395	0	<b>26,343</b>
Number of participants without level 2 qualifications	41%	3,859	9,188	9,901	3,395	0	<b>26,343</b>
Number of participants without level 3 qualifications	12%	1,130	2,689	2,897	1,010	0	<b>7,726</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	15%	1,412	3,361	3,622	1,243	0	<b>9,638</b>
Number of participants aged 50 and over	20%	1,883	4,482	4,830	1,655	0	<b>12,850</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	8%	753	1,792	1,932	663	0	<b>5,140</b>
Number of female participants	50%	4,707	11,205	12,074	4,138	0	<b>32,125</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants gaining basic skills	40%	173	3,569	3,591	2,444	723	<b>10,500</b>
Number of participants gaining level 2 qualifications	35%	154	3,172	3,198	2,176	650	<b>9,350</b>
Number of participants gaining level 3 qualifications	27%	0	350	705	705	290	<b>2,050</b>

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**Table 15 – Priority 1 Planned Output Profile Merseyside Phasing-In Area - Revised Volumes (Original CFP and Revaluation)**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	3,829	12,214	15,025	7,099	0	<b>38,167</b>
Number of participants who are unemployed	36%	1,493	4,269	5,056	2,794	0	<b>13,611</b>
Number of participants who are inactive	29%	1,225	3,459	4,077	2,140	0	<b>10,901</b>
Number of participants aged 14 to 19 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET	17%	919	1,852	1,852	1,827	0	<b>6,450</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	22%	842	2,687	3,305	1,563	0	<b>8,397</b>
Number of participants who are lone parents	12%	459	1,466	1,803	852	0	<b>4,580</b>
Number of participants aged 50 or over	18%	689	2,199	2,705	1,277	0	<b>6,870</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	9%	191	1,151	1,629	355	0	<b>3,326</b>
Number of female participants	51%	1,953	6,229	7,663	3,620	0	<b>19,466</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants in work on leaving	22%	84	2,777	3,306	1,507	723	<b>8,397</b>
Number of participants in work six months after leaving	26%	0	2,415	3,907	2,006	1,596	<b>9,923</b>
Number of economically inactive participants engaged in jobsearch activity or further learning	45%	64	1,635	1,846	977	383	<b>4,905</b>
Number of 14 to 19 year old NEETs or at risk, in education, employment or training on leaving	45%	50	926	873	759	292	<b>2,900</b>

**Table 16 – Priority 2 Planned Output Profile Merseyside Phasing-In Area - Revised Volumes (CFP and Revaluation Monies)**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of participants	N/A	8,530	17,600	19,160	11,562	0	<b>56,852</b>
Number of participants with basic skills needs	41%	3,497	7,216	7,856	4,717	0	<b>23,286</b>
Number of participants without level 2 qualifications	41%	3,497	7,216	7,856	4,717	0	<b>23,286</b>
Number of participants without level 3 qualifications	12%	1,024	2,112	2,299	1,402	0	<b>6,836</b>
Number of participants with disabilities or health conditions	15%	1,280	2,640	2,874	1,733	0	<b>8,528</b>
Number of participants aged 50 and over	20%	1,706	3,520	3,832	2,312	0	<b>11,370</b>
Number of participants from ethnic minorities	4%	341	804	928	463	0	<b>2,536</b>
Number of female participants	50%	4,265	8,800	9,580	5,781	0	<b>28,426</b>
<b>Results</b>							
Number of participants gaining basic skills	40%	158	2,957	2,789	2,431	965	<b>9,300</b>
Number of participants gaining level 2 qualifications	35%	132	2,630	2,481	2,161	846	<b>8,250</b>
Number of participants gaining level 3 qualifications	26%	0	303	542	542	413	<b>1,800</b>

## 10. MATCH FUNDING

The primary sources of match funding are set out below. These are the available national budgets and the figures quoted are based on the 2008/09 annual budgets. The funds detailed below are annual budgets, subject to review and we reserve the right to identify appropriate match funding programmes and utilise them as required.

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### 10.1 Priority 1

The majority of the Priority 1 match will comprise LSC adult Information Advice and Guidance budgets which in the North West is £5,060,000 for the 2008/9 operational year. The entirety of this budget was subjected to Open and Competitive tender.

### 10.2 Priority 2

**Train to Gain** – The £6,032,106 additional ESF Priority 1 funding for Merseyside and the additional £6,721,300 for the Northwest will be matched from the Train to Gain budget.

### 10.3 Added Value of ESF

The LSC will operate ESF via a new approach in the new programme. The LSC has endorsed a commissioning strategy, which has been cleared by ESFD. This strategy details how ESF should be targeted by the LSC to ensure complementarity and enhance the added value of ESF. An extract from the document is set out below.

The purpose of the proposed commissioning strategy is to ensure that ESF truly adds value and enhances national strategies.

The key issue for the strategic direction of ESF in the new programme is that we must ensure that ESF supports the main policy directions for the LSC. This will include:

- a. Fee remission amounts (which can/will change annually);
- b. Funding Policy decisions such as changes to ESOL provision regulations;
- c. The support of Sector Skills Council approved qualifications;
- d. The procurement of only high quality provision;
- e. Alignment with the demand led approach; and
- f. Integration with the LSC Business Cycle including commissioning.

The Commissioning Strategy needs to ensure that:

- a. Sufficient regional flexibility is retained to meet regional skills needs;
- b. Appropriate contract lengths are sort for ESF provision (including use of short contract periods where policy change is expected);
- c. ESF can still achieve its full programme targets; and
- d. ESF is actively used to inform mainstream development/approaches.

## 11. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT COSTS

The administration of the LSC has been developed to ensure that the maximum level of funds is passed to providers to meet government targets.

The proposed administration costs across all priorities and areas will be kept within 5% of the supplementary value at £1,913,047. The budgets set out elsewhere within the CFP include a proportion for administration and management.

The LSC guarantees that all of the funding identified in Table 1 will be expended on activity that supports the economic downturn. The LSC North West will recover administration costs from the other elements.

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Table 17 – Proposed Administrative Budget

Plan	Total Programme ESF	Match	Total	Administration
Merseyside 'phasing in' Area	9,934,558	9,934,558	19,869,116	993,456
North West	9,195,913	9,195,913	18,391,826	919,591
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,130,471</b>	<b>19,130,471</b>	<b>38,260,942</b>	<b>1,913,047</b>

## 12. PROJECT SELECTION AND TENDERING ARRANGEMENTS

### 12.1 Procurement

The LSC will procure the additional activity contained in this supplementary plan in two ways.

#### 12.1.1 Priority 1 and 2 Education and Training Activity

The LSC will seek to procure delivery of Education & Training from existing or pre-qualified Train to Gain providers to support individuals who are, under threat of, or suffer redundancy and/or job loss as a result of the economic downturn. Those providers invited to tender are required to successfully apply through the Pre Qualification Framework. Only those organisations that have been re-assessed using these revised arrangements will be invited to tender. The closing date for provider submissions for the January 2009 procurement exercise was 10 December 2008.

The LSC will comply with European regulations (CPV No 80400000 Delivery of Adult and other education services) by procuring the following services described as 'Education and Training':

- Training services
- Specialist training services
- Training facilities
- Training programme services
- Training seminars
- Vocational training services
- Industrial & training services
- Management training services
- Computer user familiarisation & training services
- Environmental training services
- Safety training services
- Health & first-aid training services
- Personal development training services

#### 12.1.2 Priority 1 Advice and Guidance Activity

The LSC recently procured 10 regional contracts through open and competitive tendering for the **nextstep** service (two being in the NW region, as one specifically covers Greater Manchester). To ensure the continued delivery of a joined up service, the additional funding for ESF will be negotiated through a single contract with these existing organisations. The **nextstep** contracts will only be extended, in respect of the additional ESF funding, to the end of their current contract period, which is 31 July 2010. The level of additional funding for each service provider will need to be negotiated to ensure that they have the capacity and capability to expand their services. Where there are limitations in the current system, we will look to competitively tender for additional adult careers services.

## Annex D

### 12.1.3 Other Activity

Should any aspect of the proposed activity require the use of managing agency type arrangements, for example the operation of an employer pool to secure additional employment opportunities and Apprenticeships for young people the LSC will procure this through an open and competitive tendering process and will comply with the normal European regulations in relation to public procurement.

### 12.2 Timetable

**Table 18 - Milestone Achievements**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
	<b>First ITT Round</b>
Provider Qualification Framework closes for January 2009 procurement exercise	10 December 2008
Draft Supplementary Plan	17 December 2008
Pre-employment Train to Gain ITT published	26 January 2009
Plan Submitted to GONW	9 January 2009
ITT Briefings	2-6 February 2009
Closing Date for tender submissions	9 March 2009
Outcomes Notified to successful and unsuccessful bidders	By 1 April 2009
Start of mandatory standstill period	2 April 2009
End of mandatory standstill priority	<b>16 April 2009</b>
Contract Award	<b>17 April 2009</b>

The LSC plans to operate a single annual procurement process with two smaller mini competitions which will operate between March and August each year. However, if necessary the LSC will undertake further procurement rounds if necessary to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn.

### 12.3 Feedback Arrangements

The LSC will employ a fully transparent appraisal process with all applicants receiving an overview of the appraisal process.

All organisations applying for ESF from the LSC will be notified of successful applications and the LSC will ensure that all proposals receive feedback on their proposal. Where a proposal is unsuccessful, the applicant will be informed as to the reason. All feedback will be provided via the LSC E-Tendering portal.

In the interests of openness and transparency we will publish summary details of successful project applications; these will be posted on our website and that of the GO.

### 12.4 Arrangements for Dealing with Provider Complaints

In the event of a proposal for funding being unsuccessful, should the organisation, after receiving feedback feel that they have cause for complaint the organisation may invoke the Learning and Skills Council's Complaints Policy. This policy will be posted on the LSC's national website: [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

## **Annex D**

### **13. PROVIDER FUNDING & CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

#### **13.1 Funding and Management Arrangements**

The LSC will apply the arrangements currently operating in respect of the original CFP and ESF management to the new funding.

#### **13.2 Reporting Performance to Regional ESF Committee**

Summary level reporting based on performance will be made available to the regional ESF committee in line with mutually agreed requirements. These will be produced and made available on a periodic basis and will represent regional subsets of the data that is submitted to ESFD. Data supplied will meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act. In addition the LSC will provide supplementary reports to the Regional Skills and Employment Board and via this mechanism to the Joint Economic Commission in respect of those activities directly procured to mitigate the impact of the economic downturn.