**Expression of Interest: County Durham UKSPF – E38**

**Addressing local skills needs for employment**

**About us**

The Growth Company is a social enterprise with a long history of supporting skills needs for local residents. Our purpose is to Enable Growth, Create Jobs and Improve Lives. Operating for over 30 years, we are a major provider of government services supporting over 70,000 people and 30,000 businesses each year across the employment, skills, justice, and business support markets. We are a highly experienced, expert provider of delivering both large and small scale contracts similar to the requirements of County Durham’s UKSPF E38 programme. Our core value “Stronger Together” informs our approach to working in partnership with delivery organisations and wider stakeholders to deliver positive outcomes for our customers.

**Opportunity overview**

The Growth Company are proposing to be a lead bidder for the delivery of County Durham’s UKSPF E38 opportunity bringing together a diverse and wide range of partners.

We:

* Are looking to engage with a wide range of partners to help deliver a successful programme of interventions and localised skills support across County Durham from February 2024 to February 2025
* Want to engage with providers who have significant experience and expertise in delivering learning where it is needed the most across County Durham
* Are keen to build a partnership that has demonstrable local links to employers with providers who understand the challenges faced by residents and are embedded in the local skills ecosystem

Key sectors (albeit not exclusive) we’re looking for providers to deliver in are:

* Low Carbon economy
* Transport and Logistics
* Digital and Creative
* Tourism and Leisure.
* Advanced Manufacturing
* Construction
* Health and Health Science

Please note that bids for the Adult Health & Social Care sector will **not** be considered because these programmes are ineligible for the UKSPF E38 opportunity.

Provision should target individuals who reside in areas impacted by increased levels of deprivation and/or rural isolation with emphasis on those nearest the labour market. Intelligence of the social and economic barriers that affect County Durham residents must be utilised to deliver skills support programmes as well as access to integrated support for individuals in these localities.

Provision should not duplicate mainstream funded activity available to this cohort. Examples include but are not limited to, Government programmes such as 'Skills Bootcamps' in sectors that are available in County Durham. Support should be supplemented by life and basic skills delivered through existing provision, such as Adult Education Budget, Multiply etc.

The programme and support offer to residents is expected to:

1. Deliver training, qualifications, and vocational licences such as:

* Associated legislative training e.g., First Aid, Food Safety, Health & Safety, etc.
* Awards, Certificates and Diplomas in a range of subject sectors from Level 2 to Level 5 not available locally through AEB or other mainstream funding.
* Non-regulated and bespoke training and development, to meet employer entry requirements e.g., Forklift Truck training & licences.
* Sector specific programmes including skill for employment reflecting the sectors identified in your submission including placement with local employers and/or guaranteed interviews.

1. Identify skills needs and refer participants to provision outside of this contract, where locally available and externally funded, to avoid duplication (not an exhaustive list):

* Functional Skills Maths, English, ICT.
* Skills for employment in a range of sectors including, for example, Construction, Hospitality, Retail, Warehousing etc.
* Awards, Certificates and Diplomas in a range of subject sectors from Level 2 to Level 5 available locally through the Adult Education Budget.

1. Add value through for example
* Soft skills development (for those not supported through other provision)
* Person-centred support through Individual needs analysis and identification of barriers to engagement and progression.
* Information Advice and Guidance
* Financial support to overcome barriers such as, Travel, childcare etc.
* Support for career progression.

**Responding to this EOI**

Please complete and submit this EOI by the closing date of **Monday 6th November 2023 at 12 noon via email to busdev@growthco.uk**.

The Growth Company will contact shortlisted providers w/c Monday 6th November to work through the next steps in the process.

**Expression of Interest**

**Organisation Details:**

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| **Name of organisation:** |
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| **Contact** |
| **Name** |  |
| **Role in organisation** |  |
| **Email**  |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **Alternative contact** |
| **Name** |  |
| **Role in organisation** |  |
| **Email**  |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **Organisation’s registered address:** |
|  |
| **Type of organisation** | *(mark with an X)* |
| **Public sector**  |  |
| **Private company** |  |
| **Registered charity** |  |
| **Social enterprise/CIC** |  |
| **Other *(please state)*** |  |
| **Is your organisation a small/medium enterprise (SME)?** | **Yes** | **No** |
|  |  |
| **What was your organisation’s turnover, as reported in your most recent published accounts?** *(Please note, for due diligence purposes, we may require copies of your accounts, should your organisation be shortlisted.)* |
|  |
| **Please provide your company and/or charity number here:** |
|  |
| **Please provide your VAT number here:** |
|  |
| **If you have a Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) number, please provide it here:** |
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**Question 1 – Please provide a brief outline of your area expertise in delivering similar learning (accredited/non-accredited) to the requirements set out above including sectors and learning/course offer**

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**Question 2 – Please provide a brief outline of your ability to deliver across County Durham with your geographical reach and infrastructure.**

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