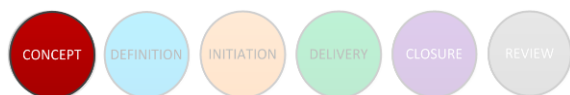


## Project Mandate



**Purpose** – To capture basic information about new project proposals for approval through MTFS spend controls. Applicable to all revenue and capital proposals, regardless of funding source or budget availability

**When to use this document** – As early as practical in the consideration of new LCC projects

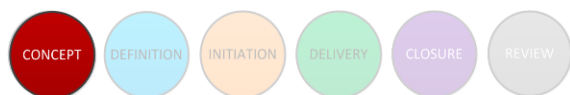
- 1) Idea appraisal - minimise feasibility work/option appraisal until some certainty that scheme will proceed
- 2) Post feasibility

**Approach** – The level of detail should reflect the level of investment sought and the risk being borne

<b>Proposal Name</b>	<b>Work+</b>
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<b>Aims and objectives</b>	<p><b>Please explain why this project needed?</b></p> <p>Unemployment levels in Leicestershire are rising (4.1%) and are set to rise further following the furlough scheme ending in April 2021. After January 2021 there will not be any form of Work Club being delivered from the County's library due to the current funding from the European Social Fund not continuing. This will leave a large gap in provision when it is most needed.</p> <p><b>How will it link to the strategic outcomes of the Council?</b></p> <p>With project focussing on Employment and Skills and preparing people to re enter employment the project fits well with the strategic plan and link with many of the outcomes, Strong Economy, Wellbeing and Opportunity and Greater Communities.</p> <p><b>How does this project contribute to LCC's strategic change agenda (i.e. Financial Sustainability, Ways of Working, Carbon Neutrality or Digital)?</b></p> <p>LCC's strategic change agenda aims to ensure that the authority is lean and working smartly to meet future obligations and to continue to deliver high quality services to the people of Leicestershire. Supporting people back into employment will reduce the amount of people requiring LCCs services allow them to support the most in need.</p>
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## Project Mandate

**Proposal**

*Outline the expected approach to delivering the project, including likely options*

**Work+: The Offer:**

The Work+ offer would be a 2 year project to support people to become work ready with their CV, cover letters, job search, email account, how to use LinkedIn and other Social Media platforms to search for jobs. Explore volunteering opportunities, interview techniques, digital training, self-employment and business support.

Work+ would be managed within the Communities and Wellbeing Service. The libraries offer a neutral, safe and inclusive place for people to attend and job search with an opportunity to engage with Learning and Work Advisors (Leicestershire Adult Learning Service) who can provide Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) about LALs courses as well as other opportunities that may be available. Explore opportunities with the voluntary sector which could include volunteering at the work+ in the future.

A structured approach would be provided for participants of approximately 12 weeks (depending on their needs) shaping a way forward into employment, training or volunteering. This would include follow up so we could track participants outcomes and track for 6 months after. This would be managed by Work+ and LAL staff.

**Governance**

Work+ would be managed by a board chaired by Chief Executive and including internal and external partners. There would be a project group to deal with the operational side of the project.

**Target Audience**

Work+ would be a universal offer targeted at “people actively looking for work” but set targets around engaging with ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, mental health issues and ensure a gender balance.

Success for a participant would be: Employment, Improved confidence/wellbeing, Volunteering, Enrolled into training. Supporting them to be a positive contributor to their community.

Unemployment is high and will continue to increase so it is expected the demand will be high from participants to engage with Work+. Also considering the number of people who previously engaged with the Work Clubs a target for the number of ‘visits’ could be 10,000 over the life time of the project with a positive outcome for at least 50%.

**Partners**

The Work+ would work with a number of services across the authority such as the Participation Team and the Local Area Coordinators (LACs). LACs Community Recovery Workers could sign post people to Work+, support participants during the Work+ sessions and then with follow up ensuring they reach a sustainable outcome. The Participation Team would play a strong role if participants would like to explore volunteering opportunities with the County Council.

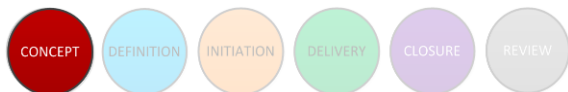
External partners would include DWP, LLEP, Futures, VAL to attract participants to Work+ and provide support to a positive outcome.

Direct engagement with employers would be encouraged to attract in participants, there could be a focus in on particular sectors e.g. social care, employers could be invited to promote their opportunities, arrange work experience and discuss potential training offers via apprenticeship schemes at Work+ and even interview candidates at the library where appropriate.

**Delivery Locations:**

Work+ would be primarily located at the libraries, rolled out across the 6 main libraries (Coalville, Hinckley, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Wigston Magna, Oadby). Delivery would take a staged approach and use data to inform where need is greatest. Loughborough library delivers Moneywise Plus which is a European Social Fund project, therefore Work+ will complement this service rather than compete with it. It is also proposed pop-up arrangements would be put in place at

## Project Mandate



<b>Anticipated Benefits</b> <i>Please specify which service areas will benefit and projected timeframe</i>	<b>Financial Benefits</b> <i>(please specify if these will be cashable and key assumptions):</i> Having the support of Work+ can reduce the risk of those participants becoming long term unemployed which could put a strain on our services such as Public Health, Adults and Communities & Children's and Families Service. By having this in place could quickly return the participants back into employment.  This investment can also provide wider benefits to other parts of the public sector such as health, DWP.
	<b>Non-Financial Benefits:</b> Corporate Social Responsibility to support the unemployed. Positive contribution to Leicestershire's Economic Recovery. Positive effect on families having working parents to provide a role models to children. Being in employment can have a positive impact on wellbeing.

<b>Approvals limits – please circle</b>	
<£50k	DMT + Finance and Transformation Business Partners
£50k - £100k	per above + CT/DK/NW
>£100k +	per above + CMT (or Transformation Delivery Board)

Mandate Completed by: Sarah Rudkin Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Reviewed and Approved by Senior Responsible Officer: Date:

Reviewed and Approved by: Date:

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