



APPENDIX 1

Labour Market Partnership Team
Department for Communities
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

Email: LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 21 June 2023

Dear LMP Chair,

LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) – LMP 2023/24 FUNDING

I am writing to provide an update following on from my letter dated 9th May 2023 in relation to the challenging budget position and proposed pause of LMP funding in 2023/24.

You will be aware of that the initial phase of the consultation around the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the budget proposals for 2023/24 closed on 7 June. The Department received over 185 responses including a significant number on the impact of the pause in LMP funding.

The Department has considered the responses and recognises the important work that LMPs were planning to deliver in 2023/24 as well as the difficulties faced in pausing this provision. Despite the challenging budget position and the continuing financial constraints the Department is facing, I am pleased to inform you that the Department has confirmed today that funding will be sustained at last year's levels for Labour Market Partnerships.

Labour Market Partnerships are the centre of the Department's approach to developing employability provision and the Department remains committed to working in partnership with local stakeholders. I recognise the difference that LMPs propose to make within the local labour market and I look forward to seeing these plans come to fruition over the 2023/24 period.

The Department will now move to complete approvals for 2023/24 Action Plans and the Department's LMP Team will be making contact with local LMPs to progress funding offers to

enable the progression of LMP delivery. I trust that this news will be welcomed by local LMPs and I want to thank you for your input to the EQIA consultation and for your continued patience whilst this process was completed.

Thank you again for your dedication and hard work. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the wider LMP Team on LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deirdre Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deirdre Ward
Director, Work & Wellbeing