

Appendix 3 - 3.10 Memo's (Exemption Urgency)

Function	Cluster	Description of Contract	Estimated Start date of Contract	Estimated End date of Contract	Total Estimated Contract Value £	Summary of explanation of why the contract was urgently required and justification for suspension of procurement regulations, in whole or in part:
Commissioning	City Growth	<p>Employability and Skills Provision- Multiple contracts to secure employability and skills services across the city for residents of working age and at all levels of work readiness, including individuals furthest away from the labour market facing multiple barriers to employment. Services to contribute to providing a diverse offer of services, example could include: confidence building activities; barrier removal (this could include support to overcome a range of barriers e.g. mental health, substance related issues, criminal convictions); vocational programmes; accredited training; digital skills; CV and job searching.</p>	01/02/2023	01/08/2023	489,732	<p>This exercise is required urgently to ensure a continuation of service around employability and skills for those that need it and this group represents those furthest from the labour market, often experiencing multiple, complex barriers to employment therefore includes some of our most vulnerable citizens. It is essential that this group can access the support and training required to progress into work which can benefit their financial position but there is also evidence that promotes the wider outcomes linked to gaining employment around health and wider issues such as a reduction in criminal activity.</p> <p>The start of this financial year saw the roll-out of the second phase of the No One Left Behind agenda which sees changes to how employability funding is distributed in Scotland, with more being invested through Local Employability Partnerships of which the Local Authority is the lead accountable body. As a result of this, the funding streams of Employability Fund and Community Jobs Scotland came to an end, creating some gaps in provision in the city which must be addressed urgently, particularly as over the summer months there is an increase in demand from young people having left school and there are rising referrals coming from other groups, for example Ukrainian refugees arriving in the city.</p> <p>Following the City Growth and Resources Committee in June, Elected Members approved the creation of a longer term solution for commissioning through the development of a dynamic purchasing system. This was developed by the service working alongside CPSS colleagues with the intention that it would be available to go live from Q3. The development and onboarding of potential providers to the dynamic purchasing system has taken longer than had been anticipated with the result that the service has been unable to use it to procure services.</p> <p>This request, is to cover contract extensions until the first round of activity through the framework has been completed and contracts awarded. This will ensure that employability support services can continue to be delivered to Aberdeen's most vulnerable residents, without any break in service.</p>