

SKILLS COMMITTEE – 17 January 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	Skills Committee	<p>Item 14 of forward plan for decision on 17th January and Page 132/172 item 3.1 - Contract Extension for the Skills Brokerage Contract.</p> <p>The forward plan and 3.1 in the report states that funding is available through the EU ESF for this extension. Please clarify the period this funding is available for and what plans for replacement once Brexit is delivered and we are no longer able to access EU funding. How confident is the committee that the initiative is sustainable over the medium term?</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Cllr John Holdich – Chairman of Skills the Committee	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	<p>Funding for the contract extension will be from the Combined Authority for the 4 month interim. A European Social Fund bid has been requested for a 3 year pilot, which we have been liaising with DWP with supplementary questions to support the bid. We are positive of getting confirmation of the bid in the next couple of months. After 2023, Government will have introduced the Shared Prosperity Fund, which will take over from the ESF funding. This is where we expect to apply for funding to continue the activities.</p>
	Question from:	Question to:	Question
2.	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	Skills Committee	<p>Item 2.1 – University of Peterborough Outline Business Case</p> <p>OBC for the University para 5.1.1 cash deficit in financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 before the break-even point in 2023-24. The report suggests a short term loan will be secured to cover the shortfall in the budget, but that it will reduce the overall return of the project. How much will need to be borrowed and what planning has been undertaken to identify a loan provider. What level of financial risk does a loan represent to the overall project fund?</p>
	Response From:	Response to:	Response
	Cllr John Holdich – Chairman of Skills the Committee	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	<p>At present we are unable to predict whether a loan will actually be necessary. Figures are currently being discussed with the HE partner as part of the on-going procurement process. The initial shortfall figures have been based on</p>

			the Shadow Curriculum Model which is being negotiated through the procurement process with the HE Partner. Final figures will be available within the Full Business Case due for approval in Summer 2020.
	Question from:	Question to:	
3.	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	Skills Committee	Item 2.1 – University of Peterborough Outline Business Case Page 53/172 Within phase 1 there is an intention to recruit 2,000 students on roll by 2022, rising to 5,000 by 2025. With the experience of UCP recruiting a significant proportion of their students through clearing rather than as first choice and with the experience of UTC showing student uptake was slower than expectations, potentially due to an Ofsted RI rating, what level of confidence exists that these metrics are realistic for the University when past experiences have proved to be that uptake has not met expectations?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Cllr John Holdich – Chairman of Skills the Committee	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	The delivery model proposed for the new University of Peterborough is unique as the University will be a hybrid model to incorporate a truly Technical University offer. This will enhance student growth and target cohorts of learners that are aligned to the blue ocean strategy and estimated 17,000 learners in Peterborough and the surrounding areas who could access the University offer.
4.	Question from:	Question to:	
	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	Skills Committee	Item 2.1 – University of Peterborough Outline Business Case Page 73/172 The impact of building the University Campus on the Wirrina car park is to negatively affect the current issues of reduced car parking in Peterborough with the closure of Northminster Car Park. These issues do not feature in the financial assessment of the site, where only residential concerns are considered. How will the potential short-term commercial impact to the city of a much reduced availability of parking be factored into the assessment or are there alternative provisions for parking of which I am currently unaware? Should the other sites be reviewed with this additional consideration?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response

	Cllr John Holdich – Chairman of Skills the Committee	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	A car park analysis has been undertaken for the development of the University and findings indicated that only 30% of the spaces are occupied at anyone time. We are of the understanding that the vehicles can be accommodated in other car parks around the City. Peterborough City Council are undertaking car park analysis work for the City. The public consultation to be held on 4-6th February showing the design and build also supports these figures for car park usage.
5.	Question from:	Question to:	
	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	Skills Committee	Item 3.1 Work Readiness and Careers Aspiration Pilot – Hampton Academies Trust Update Paper - Page 128/172. 7.2. Current assessment of this pilot is that while some positives are being shown in terms of fewer permanent exclusions and positive impact on NEETs, the provision is too expensive to be rolled out further. Why maintain the programme if it does not have benefits of scalability across the combined authority? Is this supported through High Needs education Funding to the detriment of other areas?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Cllr John Holdich – Chairman of Skills the Committee	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	The pilot's future funding is not aligned to the High Needs Education Funding received by Local Authorities. The cohort of learners are a different target group, however, as you state the provision is expensive therefore, we may be unable to roll this out further. This is the discussion to be undertaken at the Skills Committee tomorrow as to whether there are funding opportunities available to maintain this programme and roll out further.