

## Report title: Strategy Overview of Business and Skills Directorate

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 27 July 2022

Public Report: Yes

Lead Member: Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills

From: Fliss Miller, Interim Associate Director for Skills  
Alan Downtown,

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Recommendations: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:  
a) Note the contents of the report.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members present and voting

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To update members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the strategic direction and performance of existing contracts within Business and Skills at the Combined Authority.
- 1.2 The paper updates the Committee from the last paper received in October 2020.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The devolution deal and the creation of the Combined Authority gave Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the opportunity to take greater control of the skills system which is central to achieving our vision of making Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the leading place in the world to live, work and learn.
- 2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested an update on the paper received in October 2020 outlining the progress the Business & Skills Directorate have made towards the outputs and outcomes they identified in the paper

## **3. Business**

- 3.1 The Business Board and the Business & Skills Team have continued to work towards the priorities of:
  - Doubling the GVA of the area by 2042
  - Increasing the productivity of the area – as measured by GVA/Hour Worked (target to be confirmed)
  - Creation of new jobs (target to be confirmed)
  - Increasing Apprenticeships by 1,800 additional Apprenticeships over 3 year 2020 – 2023
  - Increase in the number of individuals retraining and companies creating jobs to attract new talent into sectors
- 3.2 The priorities had been identified in the following documents:
  - The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)
  - The COVID 19 Local Economic Recovery Strategy (LERS)
- 3.3 The LIS was updated through the LERS following the COVID pandemic. These two strategies have been combined and further updated into the recently approved new Employment and Skills Strategy, approved in January and the Economic Growth Strategy approved at the June Combined Authority Board meeting
- 3.4 In addition, four sector strategies were commissioned by the Business Board (BB) to focus on the sectors identified as key within the region, they continue to inform current and emerging strategic and policy documents:
  - ICT/Digital Strategy
  - Advanced Materials & Manufacturing (AM&M)
  - Life Science & Healthcare
  - AgriTech

- 3.5 The four strategies were developed, published and adopted by the Combined Authority on behalf of the Business Board.
- 3.6 Each of the strategies contained recommendations prioritised after consultation with a broad range of sector representatives. Delivery of the recommendations was determined either short-term, medium-term and longer term with delivery assigned to either Combined Authority and its partners / contractors, Sector organisations and companies, industry or national Government.
- 3.7 The strategies are currently being reviewed independently to ascertain the impact they have had and how far the recommendations identified have been acted upon.
- 3.8 The Business Board have recently commissioned a specialist piece of work looking at the opportunities around High-Performance Computing (HPC) for the region, this links to the ICT/Digital strategy but is focused on HPC and potential partnerships and funding prospects for the CPCA.
- 3.9 The Market Town Masterplans for Growth
- In July 2018, the Combined Authority committed to the future prosperity and success of market towns and invested in making this a reality through working closely with Town Councils, District Councils' and local partners across Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire to deliver eleven Masterplans for key towns.
  - In July 2020, the CPCA is proved capital investment to mobilise each town masterplan and to act as a funding catalyst to securing additional investment. An Investment Prospectus was launched to allocate £13.1m of CPCA funding in a consistent approach to oversee delivery of the Market Towns Programme and each approved Masterplan.
  - To date, there have been eight funding calls under the Programme resulting in 47 projects being approved by the CA Board, awarding a total of £11,297,850 in grant funding (and bringing in over £12m of match investment). All projects in delivery, and despite delays due to Covid-19 and the availability of materials/contractors, the majority will complete by March 2023. The total grant administered to date is over £2.4m.
  - Remaining budget for East Cambridgeshire (£1m for Littleport) and Huntingdonshire (£802,150 for Huntingdon and St Ives) project proposals expected by before March 2023 for CA Board approval.
  - Initiation documents currently being developed for Market Towns phase 2 and further £2.5m investment over the next 2 years. The PID will be reviewed at the CPCA PARC meeting in July and the business case will follow in September for CA Board endorsement.
- 3.10 Two key interventions on business support and investment were designed to deliver the outcomes identified by the BB and the Economic Growth Team in 3.1:

- **The Local Growth Fund** – all funds have been allocated and progress to meeting the outputs and outcomes identified by each project are being monitored and independently evaluated.

The overall performance by target area to 01 June 2022 are:

LGF Investement	Forecast jobs	Actual jobs				
Accelerating Start-Ups, Scale-Ups & Set-Ups – Through Start-up & Growth Finance & Advice						
£27,096,363	14604	2655				
Accelerating Hi-Tech Jobs Growth – Through Innovation & Incubation Centres						
£23,073,882	7930	620				
Accelerating Recovery in Construction - Through Transport Infrastructure Improvements						
£63,115,000	2693	3380				
Retraining & Upskilling for New Jobs – Through Improved Education Capacity						
£30,822,048	15061	439				

The Business Board have begun the process of allocating Recycled Local Growth Funds which have been created by repatriated project funds and returned loan repayments. This pot of money £8m has enabled the BB to offer funding to support organisations and Local Authorities in attracting significant match funding to the region.

- **The Business Growth Service (Growth Works)** will generate over 1,000 jobs per annum, incorporating the Growth Hub. This is the Business Board's flagship programme and most productive job generating investment. It will account for 1 in 3 jobs generated by the business board over the next 6 years.

The overall performance by Service Line to 31 May 2022 are:

Service Line	Year 1 Target	Year 2 Target	Year 3 Target	Total Programme Target	Year 1 Actual	Year 2 (01-Jan to 31-May)	Programme Actual (15-Feb-2021 to 31-May-2022)
Coaching	46	1,454	1,723	3,223	139	531	670
Inward Investment	75	175	350	600	319	184	503
Skills: Apprenticeships	51	449	900	1,400	66	132	198
Skills: Jobs	20	130	200	350	4	10	14
Grants & Equity	397	474	584	1,455	439	212	651
<b>Total</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>2,682</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>2,036</b>

Programme outcomes and leading indicators to 31 May 2022 are:

Dashboard Summary – Programme Outcome and Top Leading Indicators							
Service Line / Whole of Programme View	Target Indicator	Year 1 Target	Year 1 Actual	Year 2 Target	Year 2 Actual (to 31-May)	Current Quarter: Q6 – Target (01-Apr to 30-Jun)	Current Quarter: Q6 – Actual (01-Apr to 31-May)
All Service Lines – Outcome	Jobs committed (inc. Apprenticeships)	589	967	2,682	1,069	729	751
Top Leading Indicators - Growth Coaching	Businesses provided with (i.e. undertaken) a Growth Diagnostic	832	737	1,558	914	350	333
	Businesses starting coaching assignments (Growth support following diagnostic)	193	216	481	127	114	39
Top Leading Indicators - Inward Investment	Inward investors receiving information, diagnostics, and brokerage support)	18	153	62	77	15	23
	Inward investor commitments to expand or for new investments	6	15	15	6	4	4
Top Outcome and Leading Indicator – Skills	Additional training / learning outcomes (excludes apprenticeships)	209	257	748	246	198	80
	CO23s / SME Engagement	11	34	114	34	26	9
Top Leading Indicators - Grants & Equity	Companies receiving grants	18	43	26	18	6	7
	Small Business Capital Growth Investment Equity (£000)	1,000	1,500	8,000	0	1,500	0

**4.** There are several additional funds that have been coordinated, managed or supported by the Business and Skills team, those are:

- Getting Building Fund (GBF)
- Community Renewal Fund (CRF)
- Levelling Up Fund (LUF)

and the Combined Authority is currently developing the Local Investment Plan on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

- 4.1 The Getting Building Fund was announced on 10 June 2020 and the BB submitted a bid for funding of £14.6m to create a Research & Development building linked to ARU Peterborough, Phase 2 Innovation Ecosystem Project, on the 9th July 2020 the funding was accepted by the BB.
- 4.1 The Phase 2 building has been built by a joint venture property company (The Peterborough RD& Company Ltd), where the CPCA hold the majority shares in this company in partnership with Peterborough City Council & Photocentric Ltd all of whom made additional investment into the building and surrounding infrastructure. The main structure of the building will be completed in December 2022 and space within the building is being advertised by a specialist agent. The anchor tenant, Photocentric, will move into the second floor in spring 2023.
- 4.2 The Community Renewal Fund awarded £3.3m to the Combined Authority and was mobilised at the start of the financial year 2022/23, there are 2 projects being funded through this award and delivered through the Growth Works consortia. The two projects are piloting new approach and have enabled the BB and the Business & Skills Directorate to trial innovative work across the region:
- 4.2.1 Start & Grow – targeting entrepreneurs and micro businesses with specialist business support and grants

#### 4.2.2 Turning Point – an internship programme with financial support to businesses

The contract for delivery of CRF projects has recently been extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which will enable the work to continue across both projects.

- 4.3 Independent live evaluation is being undertaken by Metro Dynamics on both CRF projects and the final report will be completed January 2023 although emerging results are being provided during August 2022.
- 4.4 The Levelling Up Fund was launched by Central Government in 2021 the first round of LUF was supported by the BB with a match grant from the LGF to build Phase 3 (second teaching building) of ARU Peterborough. The round 2 prospectus was released on the 23rd March 2022, which invites applications to be submitted by 6th July 2022 from Tier 2 Local Authorities for Regeneration projects up to £20million and Combined Authorities with Transport powers up to £50million for Transport projects.
- 4.5 Combined Authority Officers have supported applications for LUF round 2 regeneration projects submission from Fenland District Council, plus anticipated applications from East Cambridgeshire District Council and Huntingdonshire District Council.
- 4.6 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund pre-launch guidance was published in parallel to the Levelling Up White Paper with full launch of the new fund and its criteria due in spring 2022.
- 4.7 The SPF is proposed to be a mixture of revenue (89%) and capital (11%) and it can be used to complement devolved funds, Towns fund & LUF but will require an evidence based strategy to be used in this way.
- 4.8 The Combined Authority is the Lead Authority on UKSPF for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with an indicative allocation announced at launch that requires a Local Investment Plan to be submitted and approved by Government in the summer to confirm the actual final allocation of funding to the Combined Authority.

CPCA's SPF Indicative Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£9,872,624	£1,480,893	£2,665,608	£4,738,859

- 4.9 Officers have engaged first through the Strategic Growth Ambition Board on 4th March 2022 and then subsequently through the Cambridgeshire Public Service Board on 30th March 2022 to engage the key group of stakeholders, especially the Local Authorities, to support the strategic development of the Local Investment Plan collaboratively and collectively across the three main priorities for the new fund which are:
- Communities and place
  - Local business
  - People and skills (but only from 2024 onwards)

- 4.10 The Business Advisory Panel has also been proposed to support the development of the Local Investment Plan, with the BB and Skills Committee to also provide input and recommendation to Combined Authority for final Governance approval of the Investment Plan prior to submission to Government.
- 4.11 The Economic Growth Strategy and the Employment and Skills Strategy will also support the development of many of the key objectives, priorities, interventions which will help to underpin the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SPF Local Investment Plan.

## **5. Skills**

- 5.1 The skills team at the Combined Authority continues to grow as they secure new funding to develop and deliver skills provision across the combined authority. Within the last 18 months an additional c£11m has been secured in new funding to deliver skills programmes.
- 5.2 All delivery is aligned to the new Employment and Skills Strategy which was approved by the Combined Authority Board in January 2022.
- 5.3 The new strategy builds on the work of the CPCA's previous Skills Strategy Developing Talent: Connecting the Disconnect was published in 2019 with an overarching imperative to deliver 'an inclusive, world-class local skills eco-system that matches the needs of our employers, learners and communities'. The intervening years have seen significant changes in the national and global context. As we move through the Respond phase of the LERS and further into Recovery, it has been essential to review and update the skills strategy, to reflect the changing skills needs and challenges in the current and predicted future economic context.
- 5.4 There are four core themes that the Strategy identifies for employment and skills in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:
- Pre-work learning and formal education
  - Employer access to talent
  - Life-wide and lifelong learning
  - Support into and between work
- 5.5 For each of these themes long-term outcomes have been identified, underpinned by a sub-set of core short-term priorities and objectives that will move forward the process of delivering the long-term outcomes. Five-year delivery plans will accompany the strategy.
- 5.6 It is recognised that to level-up the Combined Authority, a different approach is required, and significant work is being undertaken to work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to work together as a system.
- 5.7 The next sections outline the performance of the main skills contracts currently being delivered.

## 6. Adult Education Budget

6.1 The Adult Education budget (AEB) was devolved to the Combined Authority from 2019/20 academic year. A recurrent budget of c£12m per year provides a ring-fenced funding that aims to:

- engage adults (19+) and provide the skills and learning they need to progress into, or within, work; or equip them for an apprenticeship or other learning and/or progress into higher education
- engage adults and families in community-based learning, which could be formal or informal, leading to wider outcomes such as personal development, self-esteem, improved health and wellbeing, social and community cohesion and cultural enrichment.
- provide full funding for legal entitlements to education for adults aged 19+
  - English and maths for any adult who has not achieved level 2 (equivalent to grade 4 or C at GCSE)
  - Essential Digital Skills (at entry level 3 or level 1) for any adult who requires this
  - 19–24-year-olds who have not achieved level 3 (A level equivalent) have a legal entitlement to fully level 2 and level 3

6.2 Based on the learner's economic situation their course may be fully funded or partially funded. Devolution of the budget, allows Combined Authorities to set their own funding rules and rates, based on their local Employment and Skills Strategies and plans. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, over the past three years of devolved AEB, the Skills Committee have approved the following headline flexibilities and policy changes – deviating from the national system in order to widen participation in adult learning and target specific groups of learners and geographies. These significant enhancements are summarised below:

- Fully funding first full level 2 courses for all (irrespective of age)
- Fully funding a wider range of first level 3 courses for all and a fully funded second level 3 offer for those who require upskilling for employment, in-work progression or career change
- Raising the low-wage threshold to £21,000 before fees become payable by individuals. Nationally it is £18,525
- Fully funding English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and allowing delivery in the workplace
- Additional 'top-up' funding for 19–24-year-olds to support progression
- Additional 'top-up' funding for learners from the relatively most deprived postcodes across the sub-region
- Funding for certain level 4 and 5 qualifications
- Funding for licences to practice - such as HGV driver and CSCS Cards for construction workers
- A £1200 Bursary, travel offer and 'independent living', learning offer for Care Leavers
- Full funding for armed forces communities and their families.

Discretionary funding for capacity building, capital, and piloting new approaches through our Innovation Fund.



- 6.3 AEB is a ringfenced and devolved budget and therefore unspent funds are carried forward. Note that in September 2021, the CA Board approved the creation of a Reserve Fund for AEB, following underspends being accrued. This is a result of college closure during the national lockdowns and, the Combined Authority, recovering underspends due to provider under-performance or closure of contracts. One of the benefits of devolution is that these funds are recycled back into the reserve fund to be used for our citizens, rather than back into the national budget.
- 6.4 TABLE A below summarises the full academic year position for AEB. Note: this includes additional funding received in 2020/21 for the Plan for Jobs and Level 3 Courses.

Academic Year	DfE Allocation	Programme Management	Programme Delivery	TOTAL SPEND reported	AEB Reserve/ carry forward
2019/20	£11,513,052	£381,170	£10,786,082	£11,167,252	£345,800
2020/21	£13,288,322*	£377,037	£9,914,412	£10,292,079	£3,342,043

\*Includes core AEB plus Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs, Sector Based Work Academies and High Value Courses

- 6.5 TABLE B below summarises the 2021/22 academic year budget. Final academic year spend will be finalised in December 2022. Note that total budgeted and contracted exceeds the allocation, due to c£1.2m of carry forward from the reserve being budgeted in 2021/22.

Academic Year	DfE Allocation	Programme Management Budgeted	AEB Programme Delivery Allocated/contracted	Innovation (and capacity funds) allocated	Total budgeted and contracted
2021/22	£12,793,417*	£406,633	£12,696,263	£942,822	£14,045,718

\*\* Includes £11,959,794 core AEB plus £833,623 for Level 3

- 6.6 TABLE C below shows the participation of residents from the sub-region, who enrolled onto AEB funded courses for the first two years since devolution. There has been a year-on-year increase in the participation of adults in learning. This trend is continuing in 2021/22.

TABLE C: Status of Learners	2019/20		2020/21 (Active Enrolments Only)	
	Number and status of Learners	% of Learners	Number and status of Learners	% of Learners
Employed	4,277	51%	4,192	46%
Unemployed	2,332	28%	3,051	34%
Unemployed, Not Looking for Work	1,017	12%	1,429	16%
Not Collected	998	12%	593	7%
Total	8,421	100%	9,030	100%
As learners can appear against multiple categories, a sum of the categories will not result in the overall total number of learners				
TABLE B: Source – Individualised Learner Record 2019/20 (R14) and 2020/21 (R14), Education and Skills Funding Agency				

- 6.7 CPCA Local Destination Data. TABLE D below shows the number of learners with a recorded destinations and the category. As there is no published bench-marking data for destinations, it is difficult to make a comparative judgement about the data, but it provides an overall survey of destinations and can be analysed for individual providers. Work is underway to implement a consistent destination tracking system for the sub-region.

**Table D: Destinations Recorded for Learners CPCA funded learners:**

<b>Destination Category</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Education	1,012	899
Employment	3,058	2,890
Gap Year	-	-
Not in Paid Employment	1,955	2,652
Social Destinations	-	
Voluntary Work	50	63
Other	2,017	2,182
<b>Total Learners with Outcome</b>	<b>7,340</b>	<b>8,053</b>
<b>Total Learners</b>	<b>8,421</b>	<b>9,030</b>

Individual learners can appear across multiple destinations. They have only been counted once for the totals

Values marked as '-' have been suppressed as they fall within the 0 - 10 range

Source - Individualised Learner Record, 2019/20 (R14) and 2020/21 (R14), Education and Skills Funding Agency

## **7.0 Careers And Enterprise Company (CEC) Contract**

- 7.1 Good Careers Education is not only vital to the lives of young people, but also vital to our local economy. It is imperative that businesses have access to talent and that the aspirations of young people are attuned to the local labour market. Careers Hubs are a key feature in the Skills for Jobs White Paper.
- 7.2 Funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company, relationships between business and education are brokered to support the development of Careers Strategies and expand the availability of opportunity to young people. Schools in a Careers Hub have stronger performance against the attainment of Gatsby Benchmarks thanks to the innovation and support offered to schools and colleges within a Hub.
- 7.3 The Combined Authority secured the first Careers Hub for the region in 2021 which contained 30 schools. This is being expanded during the academic year of 2022/23, allowing all schools and colleges in the region the opportunity to join a Careers Hub.
- 7.4 The Employment and Skills Strategy has a number of actions and outcomes aligned to Careers Education and the Careers Hub is the vehicle that will drive delivery of this. Expansion of funding to support careers has been secured to further develop our Labour Market Information (LMI) provision for SEND schools and STEM activities, supported by local employers has been funded in Fenland. Further funding has been identified and competitive tenders will be submitted through 2022/23.

- 7.5 Through competitive bids the Combined Authority has secured additional funding in both the 2021-22 and 22-23 academic years as outlined below.

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
£194,000	£286,700	£285,400*

\*Competitive tenders to be submitted focusing on technical and vocational education and primary careers with further funding to be identified

**Amount of spend**

2020/21	2021/22 – to date	2022/23
£169,000	£242,700	TBC

- 7.6 The Careers Hub is performing well. Schools within the Hub are averaging 6 Gatsby Benchmarks against an average of 5, an indication of the quality of Careers provision available.
- 7.7 Continued development of our Labour Market Information (LMI) portal, enables parents, children and teachers to access real time information to support decision making. Through additional funding further enhancements are being made to develop a SEND LMI platform, recognising the need to provide information in a more accessible and relatable way for the target audience.
- 7.8 Currently 42% of Careers Leaders have access to funded Careers Leader training to support their development.
- 7.9 80% of schools are matched with an Enterprise Advisor, a business volunteer who supports the school in developing their careers offer.
- 7.10 The Combined Authority continues to pursue additional funding to enhance the careers provision in the region. Additional funding has enabled additional activities including primary and secondary children within Fenland given the opportunity to attend STEM related Careers Days ran by Form the Future and local businesses to explore local careers within the STEM space and SEND Virtual Work Experience facilitated with the Cornerstone employers, removing the barriers that are in existence for SEND students accessing the workplace.

## **8.0 Skills Bootcamps**

- 8.1 The Department for Education (DfE) via the National Skills Fund has invested in the delivery of Skills Bootcamps across the country to meet the skills needs of local areas. Skills Bootcamps form part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee announced by the Prime Minister in September 2020.
- 8.2 Skills Bootcamps are intensive, Level 3-5 or equivalent flexible training courses up to 16 weeks, with a guaranteed job interview (in the case of a new job), which equip adults with technical skills that enable them to access in demand jobs, apprenticeships, new opportunities and an increased level of income over time (including for the self-employed).
- 8.3 The Combined Authority have been delivering Digital Skills Bootcamps since September 2021 following a successful competitive bid to the DfE for delivery

across the East of England. The Combined Authority secured £1,826,500.00 in funding from the DfE through the NSF for Digital Bootcamps provision across the East of England for a total of 805 learners. The contract award by DfE was significantly delayed which shortened the time to mobilise and deliver on the contract.

- 8.4 Level 3 Digital Bootcamps provision included Digital Marketing, Data Analysis, IT User Tech Sales, DevOps and Cloud Engineering.
- 8.5 Initially all Bootcamp course delivery was required to complete by 31st March 2022. DfE introduced Wave 2 Flex which allowed delivery to extend passed 31st March 2022 providing at least 20% of the guided learning hours was delivered by the 20th March 2022.
- 8.6 Of the 612 learner starts, to date, 389 learners have completed their Bootcamp. Final learner course completion data is expected by CPCA from The Skills Network and Purple Beard at the end of July 2022. Of this number, 143 learners have secured a job interview to date and from this, 32 learners have either secured a job offer, progressed their career with their existing employer, or progressed their business in their self-employment. Work is ongoing by The Skills Network and Purple Beard up until December 2023 to achieve job interview and job offer opportunities for learners which are linked to the knowledge and skills they have acquired through the respective Skills Bootcamp.
- 8.7 The Combined Authority secured an additional £4,891,985 in grant funding from DfE via the National Skills Fund for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority area to deliver Wave 3 Skills Bootcamps, of which £342,439 is in relation to management costs, for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.
- 8.8 This will provide 1,780 prospective learners with the opportunity to enrol on to flexible courses with a duration of up to 16 weeks where Training Providers will also work with learners to access job interviews or career progression on completion of training.
- 8.9 The funding will provide Skills Bootcamp provision across various sectors including Digital, Construction and Green and the Combined Authority aspires to further expand this to Logistics, Technical and Pathways to Accelerated Apprenticeships.
- 8.10 To date, 7 Training Providers are due to be issued contracts in July following the standstill period due to their successful bid in our Skills Bootcamp competitive tender process. Further provision is being made available through Direct Awards and Grant Funding.

## **9. European Social Fund (ESF) Funded Starhub Contract – Delivered By Growth Works With Skills**

- 9.1 Growth Works continue to perform well against the ESF STARHub contract.
- 9.2 To date 50 micro or small and medium sized enterprises (including co-operative enterprises and enterprises of the social economy) have been supported against a target of 60. Additionally, 20 small and medium sized enterprises have

completed projects which increases employer engagement and/or the number of people progressing into or within skills provision towards a target of 23, each up to the end of Q1 2022. The Team is confident in achieving targets during the next Quarter following recruitment of new staff.

- 9.3 Across wider work, there have been 202 apprenticeships starts committed to date which includes Level 2 through to Level 7 provision, for example a Level 2 Customer Service, a Level 5 HR Consultant and a Level 7 Accounting Taxation Professional. Alongside this, a total pledge of £3,815,350.00 in Apprenticeship Levy has been committed.
- 9.4 Key areas of focus are currently SME engagement, CRF Turning Point, Apprenticeships, Training and resources available on the Digital Portal Platform.
- 9.5 Growth Works with Skills is also commissioned to deliver the Community Renewal Fund project – Turning Point. This £865,000 bid was for funds to extend the current delivery of skills support through GrowthWorks. The extra resource and activities target transitional points within the labour market to catalyse and smooth these for individuals and employers. The project consists of four activities, delivered as a rapid intensive response in a time critical period for the region but also testing the potential for wider delivery in the future.
- 9.6 The project supports both individuals and employers in Peterborough and Fenland by funding short course training and internships up to £5,000. In addition, personal needs analysis is provided for individuals with employers being able to access training needs analysis.
- 9.7 To date all internships have been allocated and training vouchers are still in the process of being allocated. The funding finishes in December 2022.

## **10. Health And Care Sector Work Academy**

- 10.1 In February 2018 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Peterborough City Council and the Combined Authority entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to design and deliver an innovative employment pilot, focused on recruitment and progression in the Health & Care Sector.
- 10.2 The HCSWA, launched in March 2018 however in March 2021 an underspend of £3m was forecast. The Combined Authority subsequently requested an extension of the pilot to March 2023. This extension has been agreed and an addendum to the original MoU has been issued.
- 10.3 Performance to date is still behind profile however a new approach has been developed to increase delivery, working with a number of sub contracted providers.
- 10.4 A steering group meets monthly to monitor performance.
- 10.5 The table below shows performance to the end of June 2022.

	<b>Total Agreed Targets</b>	<b>Total achieved to date against target</b>	<b>Percentage of outputs achieved</b>
Number of participants enrolled and starting activity	2100	1,047	50%
Out of sector	1200	896	75%
In Sector	300	36	12%
Further training (level 2)	600	112	19%
Apprentices	50	3	6%
Number of participants completing activity (pre- level 2, level 2 and/ or apprenticeship).	1680	633	38%
Number of participants securing employment (after completing pre-level 2, level 2 and /or apprenticeship).	500	229	46%
Number of participants securing promotion (after completing pre-level 2, level 2 and /or apprenticeship).	251	6	2%

## **11. The University Of Peterborough**

- 11.1 There are three phases that have been commissioned for the new University of Peterborough. For phase one construction works are due for completion on the first teaching building in early August and ARU Peterborough University will welcome its first students from September 2022. From September Art and Design, Creative and Digital, Environment Management, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Education and Management and Finance courses will begin in the new facility.
- 11.2 The proposed third phase and second teaching building of the University is a Living Lab which will house STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) based teaching activities. The Living Lab received funding approval from the Department of Levelling Up and Communities in October 2021. Investment for the new building will come in the form £20m Levelling Up Funding, £4m from Anglia Ruskin University and £2m from the combined authority.
- 11.3 The design of the second teaching building is well under way, with the preferred site being located on the existing Wirrina Car Park. Based on the current programme, building works will commence in Spring 2023, with a proposed completion and occupation for students in early Autumn 2024.

- 11.4 The University Partners (Anglia Ruskin University, Combined Authority, Peterborough City Council) are working together to prepare an outline planning application to cover the wider expansion of the University in line with the proposals being prepared by PCC to regenerate the Embankment site. Approval of outline planning will enable further phases to be more deliverable and attract future funding and investment. However, to meet the LUF deadlines for the second teaching building it has been agreed that a full planning application will be submitted in advance of the outline planning application in early 2023.

## **12. Financial Implications**

- 12.1 As no decision is being made, there are no direct financial implications associated with this paper. Financial information on the wider activities of the Business and Skills Directorate is however provided in the main body of the report.

## **13. Legal Implications**

- 13.1 There are no significant legal implications at this point of the report.

## **14. Appendices**

- 14.1 None

## **15. Background Papers**

- 15.1 None.