

Business Board		Agenda Item
10 July 2023		4.1
Title:	Employment and Skills Strategy Implementation Update	
Report of:	Fliss Miller, Assistant Director Skills	
Lead Member:	Andy Neely, Acting Chair of the Business Board	
Public Report:	Yes	
Key Decision:	No	
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required	

Recommendations:

A	To note the progress of the Implementation of the Employment and Skills Strategy
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Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

x	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
x	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities

The Combined Authority's devolution agreement and commissioning of skills programmes contributes to the above strategic objectives, aligned to the pillars within the Employment and Skills Strategy (2022):

- **Pre-work learning and formal education:** improving learning and experiences of work, including quality careers information, advice, and guidance, during formal education; providing a strong foundation for labour market entry and future working lives.
- **Employer access to talent:** developing priority skills that support sustainable growth, improving employers' engagement with education and improving job quality
- **Life-wide and lifelong learning:** improving access to life wide careers guidance and a rich learning and skills offer to upskill and reskill residents through their life-course
- **Support into and between work:** Supporting the unemployed residents to transition into training and then employment and support to disadvantaged groups to access the labour market.

1. Purpose

1.1	The purpose of this paper is to inform the Business Board of the progress that has been made in taking forward the implementation of the Employment and Skills Strategy.
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2. Proposal

2.1	It is proposed that the Business Board note the progress undertaken to date.
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3. Background

3.1	<p>On the 26th January 2022 the Combined Authority Board unanimously approved the Employment and Skills Strategy.</p> <p>This strategy builds on the ambition for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough set out in the 2019 Skills Strategy. The updated vision is for:</p> <p>A successful, globally competitive economy offering high-skilled, well-paid, good quality jobs, delivering increased productivity and prosperity to support strong, sustainable, and healthy communities, and enabled by an inclusive, world-class local skills system that matches the needs of our employers, learners, and communities</p>
3.2	<p>The Employment and Skills Strategy focuses on four core themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-work learning and formal education• Employer access to talent• Life-wide and lifelong learning• Support into and between work <p>For each of these themes long-term outcomes were identified, underpinned by a sub-set of core short-term priorities and objectives that move forward the process of delivering the long-term outcomes.</p>
3.3	<p>To ensure the Employment and Skills Strategy delivers on its ambition, a comprehensive implementation and delivery plan was developed and was unanimously approved by the Skills Committee on 5th September 2022.</p>
3.4	<p>Considerable progress has been made in relation to development of the short-term priorities identified within the employment and skills strategy. A table setting out all these actions and future planned interventions are included in Appendix 1. a review of the actions assigned in the implementation plan can also be found in Appendix 2.</p> <p>All the work undertaken by the Skills Team is totally aligned to the implementation of the Employment and Skills Strategy. Achievements to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ARU Peterborough opened in October 2022 and welcomed its first students onto campus.• Phase 3 of the University, known as the Living Lab, has now started, building work has commenced.• North Cambridgeshire Training Centre has welcomed its first students onto campus.• Secured £4million to develop the Multiply Programme, now into the second year of delivery.• Secured £2.9million to develop Skills Bootcamps in Wave 4.• Our devolved Adult Education Budget allocation has risen to £12,128k for 2023/24, an increase of £151k (1.25%) from 2022/23. Since 2019/20 our total AEB allocation has risen by over £600k.• Successfully completed the Turning Point Project, funded by the Community Renewal Fund which placed over 100 residents into funded internships.• Chosen to be one of four Trailblazers in a new national scheme to introduce new career-related learning programme in schools.• Adult Education Budget (AEB): Participation in learning opportunities continues to increase in the 2021/22 academic year, with 9,770 residents benefiting through AEB, compared to 9,061 in 2020/21. This is a 10% increase in take-up against a national decline.• Level 3 courses have increased from only 0.9% in 2019/20 to 3.4% of all enrolments in 2021/22.• The Launch of the Skills Provider Network – The aim is to build a community of good practice and ensure we have sufficient high-quality providers engaged in the Combined Authority region to deliver the Combined Authority's skills requirements.• Inaugural Careers Hub Conference

3.5	<p>As reported earlier to the Skills Committee on previous agendas, work to achieve the three longer term change projects has also started. These three projects are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a regional curriculum enabling strategic collaboration across providers, with learning and training aligned to local job opportunities and careers, • A dual track system, anticipating long-term needs and responding with agility in the short term, • A co-ordinated place-based action framework, to engage all stakeholders in addressing multiple/complex issues.
3.6	A review of the metrics identified in the Employment and Skills Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis when the latest datasets are available.

4. Appendices

4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - E&S Strat Actions & Future Planned Intervention Table</p> <p>Appendix 2 - E&S Strat Implementation Plan review of actions assigned</p>
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5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	There are no financial implications.
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Legal Implications

5.2	There are no legal implications.
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Public Health Implications

5.3	The recommendations in this report are for noting and therefore there are no Public Health implications.
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

5.4	The recommendations in this report are for noting and therefore there are no Environmental implications.
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Other Significant Implications

5.5	The recommendations in this report are for noting and so there are no Other Significant implications.
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Background Papers

5.6	<p>Employment and Skills Strategy</p> <p>Employment and Skills Strategy Implementation Plan</p>
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