

Chapter 9 - Skills Committee

1. Governance

1.1. The Combined Authority has appointed a Skills Committee. The committee is an executive committee of the Combined Authority Board. It takes decisions within the strategic and budgetary framework agreed by the Combined Authority Board.

2. Introduction

2.1. The Skills Committee operates within the terms agreed by the Combined Authority Board.

2.2. The Combined Authority Board retains responsibility for agreeing its strategies, key priorities and the budget as set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution (for example Annual Business Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Skills Strategy). These are known as 'reserved matters' or “the budget and policy framework”.

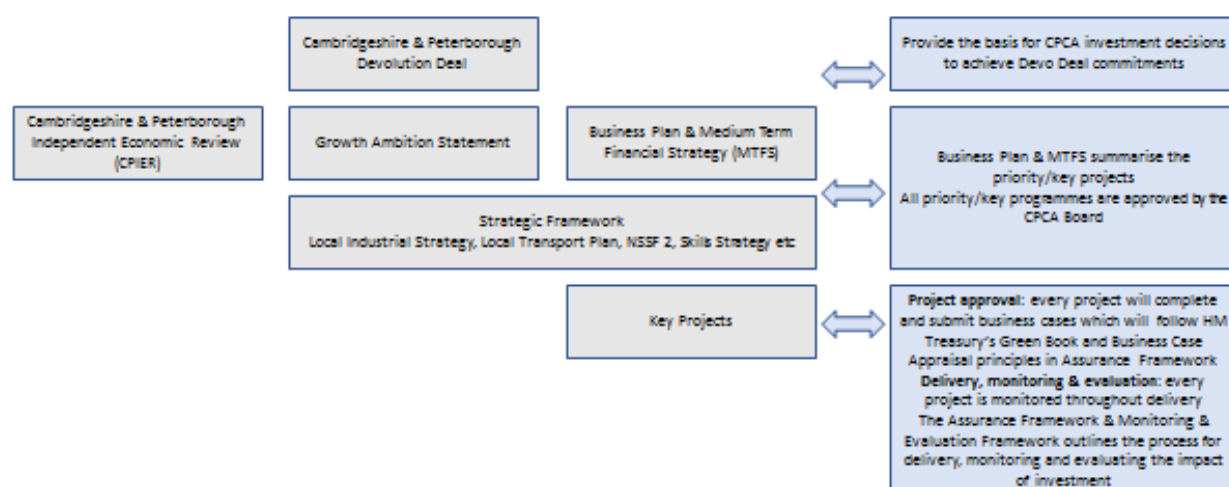
2.3. The committee has responsibility for agreeing education and skills programmes and projects within the budget and policy framework.

2.4. The committee shall have responsibility for ensuring all programmes and projects comply with the Assurance Framework, and that they are monitored and evaluated in accordance with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

2.5. The committee can initiate proposals for the Combined Authority Board to approve.

2.6. The committee is responsible for overseeing the work of the Employment and Skills Board, an advisory panel of the Skills Committee, and any subgroups set up by the Board.

2.7. The budget and policy framework is summarised below:



3. Terms of Reference

Functions

3.1. The Skills Committee may make recommendations on the following matters to the Combined Authority Board (reserved matters):

- (1) Skills Strategy (
- 2) Projects to be included in the Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan
- (3) Business cases for key priority projects identified in the Business Plan or
- (4) Any other matters reserved to the Combined Authority Board

3.2. The Skills Committee shall exercise the Combined Authority's functions for the following:

- 3.2.1. Oversee the development and maintenance of the Skills Strategy and any other strategies reserved to the Combined Authority Board, including overseeing consultation processes, and making recommendations to the Board.
- 3.2.2. Oversee the development and approve all business cases for key priority projects identified in the Business Plan.
- 3.2.3. Ensure all programmes and projects are within the scope of the strategic and budget framework approved by the Board.
- 3.2.4. Approve the commissioning of delivery partners where this is required and authorise the staged release of budget for education and skills projects in the Business Plan and funded from Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 3.2.5. Oversee the development and approve all other education and skills programmes and projects not reserved to the Combined Authority Board.
- 3.2.6. Ensure effective engagement and consultation is in place and can be evidenced.
- 3.2.7. Ensure all programmes and projects comply with the Assurance Framework and are monitored and evaluated in line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- 3.2.8. Oversee coordination with
 - (a) Department of Work and Pensions on the Work and Health Programme and
 - (b) Department for Education on the Opportunity Area programme.
- 3.2.9. Oversee the delivery of the Health and Care Sector Work Academy (Innovation Pilot)

3.2.10. Matters initiated by the committee can be referred up to the Board for decision.

3.2.11. The Combined Authority Board may decide to refer further individual matters to the committee.

4. Strategic and Budget Framework

4.1. The Committee should ensure schemes contribute and meet the targets in the agreed strategic and budget framework. Any decisions must be within the parameters agreed by the Board.

5. Accountability

5.1. The Committee is accountable to the Combined Authority Board.

6. Membership

6.1. The Skills Committee shall comprise eight members to include the Mayor or his/her nominee and a Board Member from each of the seven constituent councils or their nominee. The Chair must be a Board member.

6.2. Where the Mayor does not take up his/her appointment on a committee. The membership shall be seven members comprising a Board member from each of the seven constituent councils or their nominees.

6.3. The Combined Authority Board shall appoint the committee and substitute members. With the exception of the Chair, Board members may nominate another member from their constituent council to be a member of the committee in their place. The Board member shall also nominate a named substitute member. Nominations are in consultation with the Mayor and subject to approval by the Board. In principle, neither the Mayor nor the Board will seek to exercise their voting rights to veto or vote against the appointment of constituent council members to executive committees. See also Chapter 11, paragraph 2 of the procedure rules of executive committees and Chapter 4 paragraph 4.4.

6.4. Co-opted Members of the Combined Authority Board should receive an open invite to all executive committees to enable them to attend for items of interest. If a co-opted member wishes to attend and speak at the meeting, they should notify the relevant Chair prior to the meeting. The rights and responsibilities of co-opted members as set out in the relevant paragraphs in chapter 2 paragraph 5 of the constitution apply to committees.

7. Lead Director

7.1. The Lead Director for the Committee is:

(a) Director Business and Skills

8. Working Groups

8.1. The Committee may establish informal working groups to assist with the delivery of its objectives. These groups are non-decision making groups of Officers and Members.

8.2. The remit and terms of reference for any such subordinate body shall be approved by the committee.

8.3. The following group has been established:

(a) Employment & Skills Board

8.4. The terms of reference are set out below:

9. Employment & Skills Board

Governance

9.1. The Combined Authority has appointed an Employment and Skills Board. The Board is an advisory board to the Skills Committee and is the Skills Advisory Panel for the purposes of the governance arrangements for the devolution of the Adult Education Budget. This reflects the requirement to provide an inclusive, advisory role for the Combined Authority, Employers, Providers and Customers.

Terms of Reference

9.2. Provide strong leadership on skills in the local area, engaging with employers and providers and providing skills advice to the accountable board of the Combined Authority's Skills Committee.

9.3. Advise on the strategic direction, determine priorities and monitor progress of the devolved Adult Education Budget.

9.4. Develop a clear understanding of current and future local skills needs and the local labour market as well as the present skills and employment support provision in the local area.

9.5. Focus on the needs of future learners and employers which have been identified by local partners, including colleges, university providers and employers.

9.6. Establish systems to ensure the student voice is heard.

9.7. Raise the profile of apprenticeships with local employers and providers.

9.8. Work closely with careers advisory services to ensure that learners are informed about potential career routes within a local area, and that all careers information and guidance is informed by up-to-date local labour market information.

9.9. Be underpinned by a stakeholder group including all providers.

9.10. Produce robust, authoritative evidence-based skills & labour market analysis and skills provision in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

9.11. Build knowledge of the range of both local, regional and national employment provision that exists or is planned.

9.12. Present data analysis and share it with the wider employer and provider communities to ensure that their perspective on the local labour market and local employment and skills system is reflected.

9.13. Provide analysis to inform the development and the implementation of the 'People' element of the Local Industrial Strategy.

Task & Finish Groups

9.14. From time to time it may be necessary to establish a skills task and finish group, and other skills specialists may be invited to join these meetings. Any group would need to be sponsored by an Employment and Skills Board member, who may or may not chair the group, depending on the issues under consideration. Any discussions or agreed actions will be reported back to the Employment and Skills Board.

Membership

.15. There will be a maximum of 20 members including the Chair. The Chair shall be a private sector member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Business Board or a member of the Skills Committee.

9.16. The Board will comprise of at least 10 business people from across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority area who between them will represent a variety industry sectors, different sizes of businesses, profit, and social enterprise businesses, The Board shall consist of

- (a) employers, those with knowledge and experience of skills and education, and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough representatives;
- (b) at least three to represent the publicly funded sector of the economy including but not limited to government, NHS, education and training and skills providers;
- (c) One position will be retained for the Community and Voluntary sector.

9.17. When a member is unable to attend a meeting, they may provide a substitute, provided such substitute has delegated authority to represent their organisation. Members are expected to attend at least 70% of meetings.

Role of Employment & Skills Board Members

18. The specific role of a Board Member is to:

- (a) Use their experience and knowledge to help shape strategy and policy on learning and skills development.
- (b) Influence the prioritisation, planning and investment in skills supply and the shape of delivery.
- (c) Support the strategic aims of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Business Board.

(d) Represent a range of people, organisations or views, not just their own or that of their organisation.

9.19. The Board will adopt good practise and its members will act within the General Duties and Obligations set out in its terms of reference and adopt the following values:

- (a) Championing to influence and lead by example
- (b) Developing enterprising solutions that are creative
- (c) Partnership working across the private, public and third sector
- (d) Sharing best practise
- (e) Being inclusive of each locality and community across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

9.20. All board members and observers shall be required to comply with the Combined Authority's Code of Conduct and all members and substitute members shall also be required to complete a Declaration of Interest form.

Observers

9.21. Specialists may be invited by the Chair to attend specific Board meetings or Agenda items where expertise is required.

9.22. Occasional observers may request to attend a meeting through the Chair.

Specialist Forums & Groups

9.23. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Education and Skills Board has a number of specialist advisory groups that will feed into the decision-making processes. This includes:

- (a) Existing Provider Forums; there are a number of existing forums operating within the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority area, and these can be supported to articulate a voice on skills to the Employment and Skills Board.
- (b) An Adult Education Budget Skills Group; a specialist group for Adult Education Budget funding only with the twelve (12) identified grant funded institutions indigenous or contiguous to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority area.
- (c) A Data Analysis Group; formed to provide an analysis of the local skills and labour markets to develop robust Labour Market Intelligence.

These Forums will be working groups of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Education and Skills Board. These forums are advisory and non-decision making.

9.24. The Forum(s) will:

- (a) Provide a voice about the Skills Funding system.

(b) Advise the Education and Skills Board on matters of vocational training and employment scheme delivery.

(c) Advise the Employment and Skills Board on short, medium and longterm strategies associated with skills funding.

(d) Identify freedoms, flexibilities, and improvements that could be made to government and local funded training provision so that the Employment and Skills Board can promote changes that will improve local provision.