



Combined Authority Board		Agenda Item
20 March 2024		16a
Title:	Careers Hub Academic Year 2024/2025	
Report of:	Laura Guymer	
Lead Member:	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	
Public Report:	Yes	
Key Decision:	KD2024/007	
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of Members present and voting. To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.	

Recommendations:

A	Accept the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) core funding offer and allocate the match funding from UKSPF and Post SPF Skills Support.
B	Accept future grant funding that is awarded by the CEC in addition to core funding, up to the value of £150,000 for projects aligned to strategic priorities
C	Delegate authority to the Interim Assistant Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into grant funding agreements with CEC and contracts and grant funding agreements for the delivery of the Careers Hub.

Strategic Objective(s):

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

X	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities This work is primarily aligned to achieving Ambitious Skills and Employment Opportunities and will help achieve a number of outcomes measures within the Corporate Strategy.
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1. Purpose

1.1	Funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) for the CPCA Careers Hub is allocated on an annual basis. The Combined Authority anticipate notification of this funding in Q2 of 2024 for the 2024/25 academic year.
1.2	The report to the Skills and Employment Committee outlined the anticipated funding for the delivery of the Careers Hub for the academic year 2024/25, along with recognising the opportunity for additional funding from CEC outside of core funding. The report outlines the potential of entering into delivery contracts for the continuation of delivery in Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire.

2. Proposal

2.1	We have received communication from the Careers and Enterprise Company, anticipating funding for the academic year of 2024/25 to be in line with funding received for the current academic year, which for the academic year of 2023/24 is a maximum allocation of £309,000
2.2	In addition, the Careers and Enterprise Company has funding available outside of core funding to deliver Hub focused projects, aligned to strategic regional need. Typically, funding is accessed via a competitive tendering process. It is the intention of the Careers Hub to submit proposals to access additional funding.
2.3	The funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company is subject to match funding from the Combined Authority and at the time of taking a paper to Skills and Employment Committee to note, match funding was not secured.
2.4	Match funding of £130,000 is now secure £65,000 has been identified via UKSPF to cover the period of September 2024 – March 2025 and £65,000 from provision from post SPF Skills Support in the MTFP to cover the period April 2025 to August 2025. Grant funding is expected to be in the sum of approx. £310,000 for the academic year 2024/2025.
2.5	A Grant offer has not yet formally been received, but to avoid a delay in delivery, we are seeking approval in advance to ensure we have all governance requirements in place in advance of September 2024.

3. Background

3.1	Background details are contained within the report to Skills and Employment Committee, found in section 5.8.
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4. Appendices

4.1	There are no appendices to this report
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5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	A budget line for the CEC contract is established
5.2	Funding is anticipated to be c£310,000 for the academic year of 2024/25
5.3	Match Funding for c£130,000 has been identified

Legal Implications

5.4	There will be requirements for either contracts or grant funding agreements to be agreed with recipients of the grant. The legal team will be involved in finalising these agreements to ensure that all legal requirements are met and that conditions of the grants are recognised.
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Public Health Implications

5.5	Good employment opportunities have a positive impact on overall health and wellbeing. The Careers Hub provides support to educational institutes in support of them offering inspiring and aspirational Careers Education to young people in the region.
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

5.6	None
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Other Significant Implications	
5.7	None
Background Papers	
5.8	Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)