



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 2.2

Wave Four Skills Bootcamps

- To: Skills Committee
- Meeting Date: 9 January 2023
- Public report: Yes
- Lead Member: Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills
- From: Fliss Miller, Interim Associate Director for Skills
- Key decision: No (KD For CA Board)
- Forward Plan ref: N/A
- Recommendations: The Skills Committee is invited to recommend the Combined Authority Board :
- a) Note the bid submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) for Wave 4 Skills Bootcamp funding of which The Combined Authority expect to receive notification from DfE in January of a grant funding offer of up to £2,878,150.00 to deliver Wave Four Skills Bootcamps for the 2023-24 financial year
 - b) Approve the grant funding offer and an addition of a corresponding budget for delivery of the Wave Four Skills Bootcamps in the 2023-24 budget on notification of a Wave 4 grant funding offer from the DfE.
 - c) Delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to:
 - i. enter into, sign and award grant agreements or awards to training providers to deliver Wave Four Skills Bootcamps with existing providers, where procurement regulations allow and enter into contracts with new providers for

Wave Four following an appropriate procurement exercise and

- ii. where appropriate, extend contracts with existing providers

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Skills Committee of the proposal submitted to the Department for Education in November 2022 for the delivery of the Wave Four Skills Bootcamps in the Combined Authority area. This paper outlines the key considerations for taking this forward.
- 1.2 The Skills Committee are invited to recommend to the Combined Authority Board upon notification of the grant award, to approve, sign and receive the grant award, create a new budget line and to delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills to be able to enter into, sign and award grant agreements, contracts and awards to training providers to deliver on Wave Four Skills Bootcamps following an appropriate procurement exercise.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Department for Education 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 formed part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee announced by the then Prime Minister in September 2020. Since then, the Skills for Life campaign was announced by government and significant investment has been committed by the government to scale up Skills Bootcamps from 2022 to 2025.
- 2.2 The Combined Authority began delivering Wave Two Skills Bootcamps in Digital in September 2021 following a successful competitive bid to the DfE for delivery across the East of England. The Combined Authority secured grant funding to deliver Wave Three Skills Bootcamps during the FY 2022-23. The existing Wave Three funding concludes for new starts in March 2023.
- 2.3 Skills Bootcamps provides Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents with lifelong learning and training opportunities by enabling upskilling or reskilling through short and flexible courses whilst matching skills provision to local job opportunities to support businesses and business growth, in line with the Employment and Skills strategy.
- 2.4 Skills Bootcamps are intensive, Level 2-5 or equivalent flexible training courses of 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).
- 2.5 Skills Bootcamps rely on local knowledge of skills shortages and employer needs, and the ability to attract and train local learners and to help them achieve better job outcomes.
- 2.6 Following a proposal submitted by the Combined Authority to DfE on the 30th November 2022, and at the time of writing this paper, the Combined Authority expect to receive

notification of award in December 2022 in grant funding of up to £2,878,150.00 to deliver Wave Four Skills Bootcamps to 850 learners, for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. Within this proposal 10% (up to £261,650.00) of the grant funding will be allocated to Management costs, therefore up to £2,616,500.00 will be used to fund Skills Bootcamp training provision. Skills Bootcamps provides our local residents and employers with an opportunity to upskill and decrease business skills gaps through short and flexible courses, however the Combined Authority has experienced challenges in engaging Training Providers to deliver this provision and has seen slower than anticipated individual and employer applications on to Wave 3 Skills Bootcamps. This is the reason for the smaller value proposed to deliver across Wave 4.

- 2.7 The Combined Authority's proposal is to deliver Skills Bootcamps in the following sectors; Digital, Construction, Green. Furthermore, up to 30% of the value of the Funding is being allowed to test the value and effectiveness of Skills Bootcamps in the sectors or areas defined by the Combined Authority in addition to the sectors outlined above therefore Care, Project Management and Leadership and Management are included in the proposal.

3. Funding and Governance

- 3.1 For Wave Four Skills Bootcamps the funding is received via a Grant. The Combined Authority expect to receive 50% of delivery costs and all management costs in Quarter one. The remaining 50% of delivery costs are expected to be paid in arrears after the initial 50% of grant funding allocation has been utilised.
- 3.2 The management fee will cover legal, procurement, finance, marketing and posts in the Skills Team to manage and administer the successful and compliant programme.
- 3.3 Similarly to Wave Three, The Combined Authority have the freedom to decide, acting reasonably, how best to ensure that the funded Activities are delivered during Wave Four in accordance with the relevant aims and objectives of the Grant Funding Agreement. The Combined Authority can therefore decide to engage with providers to deliver Bootcamps in four ways; extend contracts with existing Skills Bootcamp providers where appropriate, issue grant awards, issue direct awards and/or undertake a competitive tendering process, provided that, where applicable, it complies in full with its duties as a contracting authority under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and internal governance rules and duly selects and awards contracts to providers in accordance with those Regulations and such rules.
- 3.5 Skills Bootcamps are fully funded by the Government for those that are:
- Self-employed, or
 - Career changers/returners/ serving prisoners due to be released within 6 months of completion of a Skills Bootcamp and those on Temporary Release, or
 - Unemployed

Where an employer requests for an employee to attend a Skills Bootcamp, it is co-funded: the employer's cash contribution is 30% of the Skills Bootcamp cost and the Combined Authority- through the grant funding - pays 70% of the cost of the Bootcamp. However, if the employer is an SME their cash contribution is 10% of the Skills Bootcamp cost and the grant funding pays 90%.

- 3.6 A Programme Board chaired by the Interim Associate Director of Skills will include Wave Four Skills Bootcamps to monitor quality of delivery and contract performance.

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 This project will require a new budget line.
- 4.2 All CPCA resourcing costs incurred by this project will be covered by the 10% management fee, resulting in a net zero impact on budgets.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no significant legal implications.

6. Public Health implications

- 6.1 The report recommendations have positive implications for public health. Participation in adult learning improves the health and wellbeing of participants and wider society. In addition, some of the bootcamps are for professionals in the health care sector.

7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 The report recommendations have positive implications for the environment. Skills Bootcamps will be delivered to support the NetZero agenda.

8. Other Significant Implications

- 8.1 The recommendations in this report have due regard to the Combined Authority's Equalities duties under the Equality Act 2010 in implementing funding policies which seek to widen participation and make learning opportunities more accessible for all citizens including all protected characteristics.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 None