



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in, with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Announcements, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

The Chair announced a change to the running item so that Item 9 on the published agenda (Growing Sector-based Talent Pipelines) would now be heard at item 5. The decision summary is laid out in the revised order with the numbers in brackets referring to the original agenda item number as published on the website.

Apologies were received from Cllr Benney and Nitin Patel, Business Board Representative.

No declarations of interest were made.

2 Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting on the 6 November 2023 were approved as an accurate record. The action log was noted by the Committee.

3 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

4 Combined Authority Forward Plan

RESOLVED

a) That the Combined Authority Forward Plan be noted.

5(9) Growing Sector-based Talent Pipelines

RESOLVED

The members of the Employment and Skills Committee resolved to;

a) Note the approach to growing Sector-based Talent Pipelines in advance of a formal plan coming to the Skills & Employment Committee in March.

6(5) Adult Education Budget (AEB) External Evaluation

RESOLVED

a) To note the presentation on the external evaluation of AEB+, the changes to the AEB funding rules in 2024/25 and the potential impact on delivery.

7(6) ESOL Planning Partnership Annual Report

RESOLVED

a) To receive the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Local Planning Partnerships Annual Report for the 2022-23 academic year, and to note the progress made with delivery and partnership development.

b) To note the outcome of the procurement for the ESOL Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

8(7) Skills Bootcamps 2024-25 FY

RESOLVED

The members of the Employment and Skills Committee resolved to;

1. Note the Combined Authority's Grant Proposal to the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2023 for £2,899,390 to deliver (Wave Five) Skills Bootcamp provision during the 2024-25 Financial Year – and to note that we received confirmation from the DfE on 12 December 2023 that our Grant Proposal has been successful.
2. Accept the full grant funding offer from the DfE of £2,899,390 and approve corresponding expenditure across two budgets; one for the training funding allocation totalling £2,635,800 and one for the management funding allocation totalling £263,580 of the Wave Five Skills Bootcamps in the 2024-25 budget.
3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to:
 - a. Arrange for the awards and enter into grant funding agreements or service contracts with training providers to deliver Wave Five Skills Bootcamps. This can either be with existing providers, or where the Combined Authority follows a procurement exercise compliant with the Combined Authority's Constitution and procurement legislation.
 - b. Extend and/or vary contracts with existing providers where appropriate.

9(8) Further Education Cold-Spots Feasibility Study

RESOLVED

- a) To note the approach being taken by external consultants engaged to carry out the Further Education Cold-Spots Feasibility Study.

10 Employment and Skills Board Update

The verbal update was noted by the Committee

11 Budget and Performance Report

RESOLVED

- a) To note the financial position of the Skills Division for the financial year 23/24 to end of November 2023

12 Skills and Employment Committee Agenda Plan

RESOLVED

- a) To note the Agenda Plan

14 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 4 March 2024