



Skills & Employment Committee	Agenda Item
4 March 2024	6

Title:	Careers Hub Academic Year 2024/2025
Report of:	Laura Guymer – Strategic Careers Hub Lead
Lead Member:	Cllr Lucy Nesthinga
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:	
A	To note the anticipated Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) grant funding for the academic year of 2024/25.
B	To note we are working to identify CPCA match funding, and we anticipate a paper to the CA Board to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept the CEC funding offer, and allocate the match funding• Accept future grant funding that is awarded by the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) in addition to core funding, up to the value of £150,000 for projects aligned to strategic priorities• Delegate authority to the Interim Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into contracts and grant funding agreements Grant funding is expected to be in the sum of approx. £310,000 for the academic year 2024/2025.

Strategic Objective(s):	
The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
✓	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
✓	Pre-work learning and formal education
✓	Employers access to talent

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 purpose of this paper is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek permission to accept the anticipated funding from CEC and seek permission to accept and allocate the funding.• Anticipate the opportunity for additional funding from CEC outside of core funding.

2. Background

2.1	The Careers Hub works with all mainstreams, FE, SEND and Alternate Provision establishments in the region with the goal of making it easier for schools and colleges to improve how they prepare young people for their next steps.
2.2	The Hub supports Careers Leaders to access training and support, and to collaborate in a focussed way, bringing together best practice and local labour market insight of the benefit of young people, employers and the wider region.
2.3	The Combined Authority has held a contract with the Careers and Enterprise Company for the delivery of the Enterprise Advisor Network since 2018 to link schools and businesses to support careers education, benefitting young people with their future learning and career path.
2.4	In 2021, the Combined Authority was successful in its bid to the CEC for its first Careers Hub. This was extended in 2022 to include all eligible establishments in the area, including mainstream schools, colleges and SEND and Alternate Provision.
2.5	Delivery of the core contractual KPIs sat in the wider Growth Works contract until 31 st December 2023 when the service was then brought in house.
2.6	NB This paper is not a performance or planning report for 2024/25. This information will follow at the appropriate time within the academic year.

3. 2024/2025 Funding

3.1	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
3.2	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.
3.3	Historically, we have gained additional funding for the Careers Hub via this process, including the Primary School project and Teacher Encounters.
3.4	The funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company is subject to match funding from the Combined Authority. Match funding is currently being identified.
3.5	For noting: Delivery of the Careers Hub has come in-house at the CPCA and currently 1.5FTE are employed in a subcontractor, delivering the service within Cambridge City, South Cambs and East Cambs. This is a legacy of the Growth Works contract, and the Careers Hub is considering new delivery models for the 2024/25 academic year. There is a possibility this element of the contract will be procured.

4. Appendices

4.1	None
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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 £310k for the academic year of 2024/25
5.3	Match Funding for c£130k is currently being identified

Legal Implications	
5.4	There are no legal implications
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.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
5.6	There are no direct climate change or environmental implications. The Careers Hub champions Green Careers, allowing young people to develop the skills they need to work within green jobs.
Other Significant Implications	
5.7	No other significant implications
Background Papers	
5.8	No background papers