



<b>SKILLS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No: 3.1</b>
<b>DATE: 14 SEPTEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## **SKILLS STRATEGY DELIVERY PLANS UPDATE**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 Further to the adoption of the Skills Strategy in April 2019, delivery plans have been developed to mobilise the 3 key interventions annotated therein, namely; the New University of Peterborough – Phase 1, the Adult Education Budget and the Skills Talent Apprenticeship and Recruitment Hub (STAR Hub). This paper forms the basis of an update for all 3 projects and the individual delivery plans to mobilise each of them in turn. There is not one delivery plan attached to the Skills Strategy due to the governance arrangements and funding criteria attached to each of these interventions. It is necessary to highlight that all 3 key projects have their own structures and processes underpinned by the devolution deal agreed with the CPCA on inception and ESFA funding aligned to the Growth Service in the case of the STAR Hub.
- 1.2 It is anticipated these interventions will become part of the Business and Skills Integrated Service offer currently under review which will see a refresh of the Local Industrial Strategy with the Skills Strategy embedded therein to reflect post COVID-19 activity as part of the CPCA's Economic Recovery programme.

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	
<b>Chair of the Committee:</b>	<b>Councillor John Holdich</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>John T Hill, Director of Business and Skills</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref: N/A</b>	<b>Key Decision: No</b>
<b>The Skills Committee is recommended to:</b>  <b>(a) Note the delivery plans attached to the key interventions annotated within the Skills Strategy of June 2019 - Appendix A.</b>	<b>Voting arrangements</b>  <b>Simple majority of all members</b>

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) devolution deal established an agreement between Government, the seven local authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership to devolve a range of funding, powers and responsibilities. The devolution of some of the skills

functions alongside the Adult Education Budget to the CPCA as well as the devolution deal to establish the new University of Peterborough and the creation of a Skills Hub framed from the impetus of the Skills Strategy. With a holistic approach being taken to increasing productivity and to growing the social and economic well-being of the local communities, the Skills Strategy and delivery plans have been aligned to the Local Industrial Strategy and the Cambridgeshire, and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER) and its recommendations.

- 2.2 The Skills Strategy at Appendix A was produced through a robust process and in consultation with; the members of the Skills Committee, the Mayor's office, CPCA staff, an expert authors' group, CPSB CEOs and officers' groups, 10 business roundtables for priority sectors covering 60 businesses, the majority of the AEB providers and a range of key stakeholders. In total 300 individuals and organisations, have consulted and contributed to the development of the recommendations herein. This process followed a timeline from December 18-March 2019 for approval in April 2019.
- 2.3 Delivery plans for each of the key interventions have been developed and refined over the last 16 months through review, monitoring and reflection. This includes the need to revisit the delivery plans to ensure they are robust and withstand skills recovery post COVID-19.

### **3.0 KEY INTERVENTION DELIVERY PLANS**

#### **3.1 The University of Peterborough – Phase 1**

- 3.1.1 The delivery and mobilisation of this project is captured within the Full Business Case approved and adopted by the Skills Committee on 6.7.20 & CPCA Board on 5.8.20 – see Appendix B. Delivery is underway with the announcement of the HE partner, submission of the planning permission for the build and the selection of the main contractor to build the 5300 sqm Phase 1 building.
- 3.1.2 Legal documentation is currently being completed and finalised to enable Peterborough HE Property Company Ltd to let the contract for the build on the land contributed to the special purpose joint vehicle (SPJV) by PCC. PCC, CPCA and ARU are members of the SPJV. Planning permission approval is expected in October 20 with a spade in the ground November.

#### **3.2 Adult Education Budget**

- 3.2.1 The Commissioning Strategy for the Adult Education Budget was approved by the Skills Committee in April 2020 – see Appendix C. It demonstrates the methodology for delivery. A review of the first year of AEB will take place in October 20 and will include an evidence-based analysis post COVID-19 to revise the AEB Commissioning Strategy. This will assess the scale of latent demand for adult level 2 and 3 and enable us to gain feedback from our delivery partners, learners and employers.

The monitoring and evaluation of AEB will concentrate on participation levels expected in the year from the provider delivery plans, expenditure against the

provider funding allocation and the achievement levels for completion of a subject aim. The intention throughout the year is to evaluate the destination of learners once the course is complete such as further learning, better pay, a more sustainable job or more social confidence.

AEB has made changes to the funding methodology for 2020/21

- The low wage pilot has increased from £16,009.50 to £18,000 whereby any resident earning below that will receive learning for free
- All first full, level 2 provision for 19-23 year olds, will be fully funded as it was previously.
- There is a 4% uplift for deprived areas in Peterborough and The Fens and deprived areas in Cambridge and East Cambridgeshire
- ESOL learners will be fully funded irrespective of age

We will monitor the impact of these changes on participation, spend and achievement.

### 3.3 **Skills Talent Apprenticeship and Recruitment (STAR) Hub**

3.3.1 The STAR Hub is the single front door to all the skills initiatives including a Digital Platform with all Skills Interventions including a Talent Portal promoting all workforce skills across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region. It encompasses:

- Skills Brokerage Service linking business and education;
- Talent Portal, with Jobs Board, Redundancy & Furlough Register and link to the CPCA Retraining Scheme and Sector Academies
- Levy Pooling Service enabling surplus Apprenticeship levy to be pooled for use by businesses who cannot fund apprentices;
- The CEC contract leading the national careers strategy in schools to influence and support the Gatsby benchmarks and increase employer engagement.

3.3.2 The STAR Hub is an integral part of the Growth Service which is currently in procurement – see Appendix D for the STAR Hub procurement specification which underpins how it will be delivered and the OBC for the Growth Service is at Appendix E. It is anticipated that the Growth Service will go live in October 2020.

### 3.4 **Delivery of other key Workforce Skills Interventions**

- High Value courses, for school/college leavers who are unable to secure work. Targeted high value level 2 and 3 courses.
- Sector-based work academies – short programmes in different sectors of unemployed workers to gain experience and pre-employment training work experience placements and a guaranteed interview.
- National Retraining Scheme (pilot) programme to prepare adults to retrain as businesses adapt and diversify post-COVID 19
- Traineeships – training and work experience for 16-24 year olds, giving them the skills, experience and confidence, they need to enter the world of work.

- 3.4.1 The Skills and Education Recovery plan will be key post COVID-19 to the economic recovery of the region. The work programme for Skills recovery is at Appendix F.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications in this paper. The main interventions have their own budget lines agreed within the Medium Term Financial Plan for the Combined Authority.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with the activities outlined in this report.

#### **6.0 APPENDICES**

- Appendix A – Skills Strategy – Final Version June 2019
- Appendix B – New University of Peterborough – Full Business Case
- Appendix C – Commissioning Strategy – Adult Education Budget
- Appendix D – Procurement specification for the STAR Hub
- Appendix E - Growth Service OBC
- Appendix F - COVID-19 skills work programme

<b><u>Source Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER)	<a href="http://www.cpier.org.uk/final-report/">http://www.cpier.org.uk/final-report/</a>
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy	<a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818886/Cambridge_SINGLE_PAGE.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818886/Cambridge_SINGLE_PAGE.pdf</a>