



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No: 8
31st MAY 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

TITLE: UNIVERSITY OF PETERBOROUGH - UPDATE

PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the creation and development of the University of Peterborough

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Lead Officer: Kim Cooke – Skills Strategy Manager
The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to: (a) Note to contents of the report and updated information.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The University of Peterborough is a key feature of the devolution deal agreed with central government and is critical for the growth of the local economy and in addressing skills shortages. There is a long-standing ambition between public sector partners, employers and the residents of Peterborough and surrounding areas to have a University in the city.
- 1.2 It is envisaged that the University will offer technical qualifications to meet the need of local businesses as well as collaborative delivery models working with industry shaping the degrees/high level apprenticeships on offer.
- 1.3 Peterborough is a cold spot for Higher Education (HE) education and skills. Data/evidence from the Hatch Regeneris' Skills Strategy Evidence Base Report and the Combined Authority's Skills Strategy confirms the CPCA interventions and highlights the need for a University of Peterborough.
- 1.4 As a devolved funded priority, the CPCA continues to support the establishment of a new University in Peterborough with a course mix driven by local employer demand for skills in both public and private sectors, encouraging apprenticeships.

The University will offer technical courses to fill skills gaps within priority sectors identified in the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and locality, that meet the needs of students, employers and the wider community.

1.5 The creation of the University of Peterborough will deliver a step-change in life-chances for young people in Peterborough and beyond. Key to the success of the new University will be our ability to grow local talent alongside attracting new talent to the area. It is imperative that to raise aspirations and improve social mobility, to achieve inclusive growth, we concentrate our efforts on closing the skills gaps and overcoming the barriers and challenges to progression by developing bespoke life-long learning for all ages.

2.0 FUNDING

2.1 The CPCA has committed £13.83M to the development of the University.

2.2 The CPCA has paid £668,602 to UCP following the issue of Letters of Comfort issued in September 2017. This money has now been spent (to December 2018) and the CPCA agreed at the Board meeting 27th February 2019 to award University of Central Peterborough (UCP) a further £446K to complete the work identified in the UCP project plans as defined in the Funding Agreement to the end of this financial year.

2.3 The activity undertaken with the resource includes; marketing, course development and validation, programme management, student experience/amenities and governance arrangements has now been claimed totalling £389K from the £446K agreed at Board. GCGP/LEP had previously allocated UCP £720K - £120,000 of which was to pay for programme management (now complete). The further £600K was awarded to UCP to develop new Degree Awarding Powers - £391K has now been claimed with a further £209K remaining for claims up to October 2019. The application to the Office for Students for new degree awarding powers has stalled and is currently on hold awaiting the outcome of the HE partner selection process to be held over the Summer of 2019.

3.0 UNIVERSITY OF PETERBOROUGH ACTION PLAN

3.1 The outcomes of the previous reviews have informed a new Action Plan which has been endorsed by the Skills Committee on 3rd April 2019 with recommendations for the CPCA Board to approve the new Action Plan and associated funding to deliver the University within the agreed timeframe opening the doors to 2000 students by September 2022, at the Board meeting on 29th May 2019.

3.2 The vision for the University is to be a trailblazer for other higher education institutions by embedding advanced technical learning within the curriculum. The aim is for the University to provide both the skills that local businesses urgently need, while also giving young people better access to well-paid, secure jobs and improved career prospects.

- 3.3 This approach is also anticipated to better attract students to the University, particularly when student debt and job prospects are now under increased scrutiny by prospective students
- 3.4 The CPCA have commissioned a Curriculum Research Survey with 200 businesses in the Peterborough area being asked to support the shaping of the future curriculum offer to activate employer-demand courses, to attract and retain motivated learners and their families, to aspire to work within the locality in new and developing jobs of the future.
- 3.5 The survey will ask employers a range of questions including input on the curriculum, key courses they would like to see offered, and feedback on how that education is delivered, for example work-based learning through higher level apprenticeship routes, two-year accelerated degrees and industry placement opportunities. The survey will also ask businesses what kinds of skills are anticipated to be in increased demand in the future.
- 3.6 The survey outcomes will form the basis of 'soft market testing' to develop the curriculum offer at the new university. The survey will ensure that local businesses have the chance to truly shape the University from the development stages. The findings will form the basis of the business case within the Outline Business Case and the results will be included in the brief for the selection process of the higher education partner for the University project. The survey is being carried out by economic development company Opportunity Peterborough

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications are outlined in the report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The legal implications have been considered and are detailed within the reports to the Combined Authority Board and the Skills Committee (detailed below and appended as hyperlinks)

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 Hyperlink below.

Source Documents	Location
Skills Committee 3 April 2019: Agenda, reports and minutes	http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/skills-committee-2/?date=2019-04-03
CAPA Board Agenda:	