



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.3

Digital Skills Bootcamps Update

To: Skills Committee

Meeting Date: 17 January 2022

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Chair of the Skills Committee

From: Fliss Miller, Senior Responsible Officer – Workforce Skills

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Recommendations: The Skills Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the paper providing an update on the contract for Skills Bootcamps, Wave 2.

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Skills Committee with an update on the delivery of Skills Bootcamps - Digital in the East of England.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authority submitted a competitive consortium bid to the Department of Education (DfE) on the 12th February 2021 for the delivery of Skills Bootcamps – Digital in the East of England.
- 2.2 The Combined Authority received notification that it has been awarded £1,826,250 for the delivery of Bootcamps in the East of England. Of the nine consortium delivery partners, the DfE have only approved two providers to deliver the Bootcamps in the Consortia; Cambridge Regional College (CRC) and Purple Beard, an Independent Training Provider.
- 2.3 The funding is to support 805 learners within the East of England. The Bootcamps are Level 3 or above and must address the needs of employers and the wider economy.
- 2.4 The CPCA was the only successful bidder in the East of England for the delivery of Digital Bootcamps.
- 2.5 There was a significant delay in the notification of the award. The original schedule by DfE was for successful bidders to be informed of the outcome in March/April 2021. The contract was awarded in June 2021.

3. Delivery and Performance

3.1 The first cohort of learners started in September 2021. To date there have been 193 enrolments on 4 programmes. A breakdown by course and provider is detailed below.

PROVIDER	DIGITAL BOOTCAMP
Purple Beard	Cloud Engineering <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Pathway• Cloud Pathway
Purple Beard	DevOps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Front End Development Pathway• DevOps Pathway• Data Pathway
Cambridge Regional College	Various <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Marketing• Web Production and Web Analytics• Advanced Database Design

- 3.2 CRC have requested that their contract for delivery is reduced. We are in contract negotiations with the DfE and an Independent Training Provider to see whether we can transfer 300 learners from CRC to a new provider.
- 3.3 Purple Beard are performing well. They are also seeking a change to their contractual outputs. The change request is to reduce their bootcamps from four to two. This is due to limited employer and learner demand for two of their courses.
- 3.4 The Combined Authority has also been chosen as a provider to be part of Ofsted's Thematic Study of Skill Bootcamp delivery. The team met with an Ofsted Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) in November. A visit as part of the Thematic Study is anticipated in Q1 2022 (a prospective schedule of dates, between January to March, will be confirmed based on provider timetables shared). No judgement words, grades or identification of providers will take place.

4. Funding and Governance

- 4.1 The Combined Authority is the Lead Partner and the accountable body for the delivery of the contract.
- 4.2 The Combined Authority will award £1,764,157.50 to consortium partners to deliver the Digital Bootcamps, based on the agreed contractual payment terms.
- 4.3 Funding from the DfE is paid monthly in arrears based on performance as outlined below:
- 30% on receipt of data collection sheet detailing learners start date
 - 60% on receipt of data recording of achievement
 - 10% on receipt of recording of 'job outcome' (with job outcome being either new job, change of role for existing employee or new opportunities in the case of the self-employed)
- 4.4 To date we have received £107,709.74 from the DfE, associated with learners reaching the 30% threshold for payment.

Significant Implications

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Whilst the DfE has awarded the Combined Authority £1,826,250 for the delivery of the contract, the funding is claimed in arrears upon delivery and therefore there is no risk to the Combined Authority regarding paying providers for work not completed. The only risk is that of underperformance by the providers and therefore the possibility that the DfE may not award the Combined Authority future contracts based on this.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no significant legal implications.

7. Appendices

7.1 None.