



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.4

Digital Skills Bootcamps

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| To: | Skills Committee |
| Meeting Date: | 13 September 2021 |
| Public report: | Yes |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Chair of the Skills Committee |
| From: | Fliiss Miller, Senior Responsible Officer – Workforce Skills |
| Key decision: | No |
| Forward Plan ref: | N/A |
| Recommendations: | The Skills Committee is recommended to: a) Note the report approved by the Combined Authority Board on 28 July 2021. |
| Voting arrangements: | A simple majority of all Members |

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Skills Committee of the successful, competitive consortium bid submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) for the delivery of Digital Bootcamps in the East of England. This paper outlines the key considerations for taking this forward.
- 1.2 The Skills Committee are asked to note the paper approved by the Combined Authority Board on 28th July 2021, to approve the contract to deliver the Digital Skills Bootcamps and to delegate authority to the Director of Business & Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to award and enter into contracts with consortia partners.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Department for Education has invested £43 million, via the National Skills Fund to deliver Technical and Digital Skills Bootcamps across the country to meet the skills needs of local areas. Digital Bootcamps form part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee announced by the Prime Minister in September 2020.
- 2.2 The pandemic has accelerated the automation of jobs, the adoption of Artificial Intelligence and the ability to effectively work remotely. These are some of the technology-driven trends that are altering the workplace and changing the skill requirement of employers. Digital Skills Bootcamps will respond to employer needs by ensuring employees and future talent have the skills required to work in an increasingly digital environment.
- 2.3 Skills Bootcamps offer free, flexible courses up to 16 weeks in length for adults aged 19 or over and who are either in work or recently unemployed. They give people the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority submitted a competitive consortium bid to the DfE on the 12th February 2021 for the delivery of Digital Bootcamps in the East of England.
- 2.5 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 and Purple Beard, an Independent Training Provider.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 The CPCA was the only successful bidder in the East of England for the delivery of Digital Bootcamps.
- 2.8 There has been 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. Due to this delay, there is now urgency to deliver this contract at pace.

3. Funding and Governance

- 3.1 The Combined Authority is the Lead Partner and will be the accountable body for the delivery of the contract.
- 3.2 The consortium will operate through a partnership agreement, as defined by the Combined Authority.
- 3.3 The Combined Authority will award £1,764,157.50 to consortium partners to deliver the Digital Bootcamps. Currently two delivery partners are in the consortium. The Combined Authority can apply to the DfE for additional consortium members if required, likewise consortium partners can request to subcontract out some of their Bootcamps if required with prior approval by DfE. It is requested that delegated authority is given to the Director of Business and Skills in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer can approve additional consortium partners if required to meet the contract outputs.
- 3.4 The Combined Authority will charge a 3.4% management fee – this is the current fee used for the Adult Education Budget. These monies will cover legal, finance, marketing and overall project management costs.
- 3.5 A project manager will be recruited for the length of the contract to ensure all contract deliverables are met. The project manager will report directly into the SRO Workforce Skills who is responsible for the delivery of the contract. It is anticipated that this role will be recruited to in September 2021.
- 3.6 Funding from the DfE will be 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)
- 3.7 The Bootcamps are fully funded by the Government for those that are:
- Employed, self-employed, or
 - Career changers/returners/redeployed, or
 - Unemployed within the last 12 months

Where an employer requests for an employee to attend a Bootcamp it is co-funded: the employer's contribution is 30% and the Government pays 70% of the cost of the Bootcamp.

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications as this is reporting a decision already taken by the Combined Authority. For the Committee's reference the implications of the decision taken by the Board are set out below.
- 4.2 This project is not currently reflected in the 21/22 budget and a budget line will need to be established.
- 4.3 All costs incurred by this project will be covered by the 3.4% management fee, resulting in a net zero impact on current budgets.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 3 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251).

6. Appendices

- 6.1 None

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 [Combined Authority Board Report 28th July 2021 – Digital Skills Bootcamps \(Item 3.6 refers\)](#)