

Agenda Item No. 6.2 – Appendix 1

Business Board Endorsement of the Recommendations from Skills Committee – 14 November 2022

The Skills Committee approved all six recommendations from the programme review contained in section 8 of the report at their meeting on 7th November 2022.

The Business Board were invited to endorse the same recommendations from the programme review at their meeting on the 14th November 2022.

The Business Board received an update report on programme performance for Quarter 7 of the Growth Works contract, covering the period from July 2022 to September 2022. It also presented the findings of a programme review on overall performance to date that had been undertaken by Gateley Economic Growth Service (GEG) and its private sector partners, and proposed changes to address performance concerns and to sustain successful delivery of the Growth Works Programme.

While discussing the report, the Business Board expressed concern about the programme review's recommendation for a 10% reduction in the jobs created target, arguing that recruitment was currently a fundamental issue and more work should be done to resolve it rather than reducing targets. It was suggested that a failure to meet a target should be acknowledged and analysed.

Members were informed that the proposal to reassign resources meant there would be a hiatus and an impact on the ability to achieve current targets, hence the proposed reduction of the target.

Members noted that the programme review's recommendations had been considered by the Skills Committee on 7th November 2022, and recommended for approval to the Combined Authority Board, although it was confirmed that the Business Board's concerns would be conveyed to the Combined Authority Board at its meeting on 30th November 2022.

After debate and discussion on this item, the following amendment was proposed by the Board and agreed unanimously (additions in bold):

- c) Endorse the proposed recommendations **1, 2, 3, 5 and 6** from the programme review, as set out in section 5 of the Business Board report; **and**

d) **Not endorse the proposed recommendation 4 from the programme review, as set out in section 5 of this report.**

The Business Board then resolved unanimously on this item to:

- a) Note the Growth Works Programme performance data for Q7 (01 July to 30 September 2022);
- b) Note the outcomes and findings of the recent Programme Review;
- c) Endorse the proposed recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 from the programme review, as set out in section 5 of this report; and
- d) Not endorse the proposed recommendation 4 from the programme review, as set out in section 5 of the Business Board report.

The Chair of the Skills Committee was made aware of the Business Boards decision to not endorse recommendation 4 from the programme review.