



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.7

Skills Bootcamps Wave 3

- To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
- Meeting Date: 30th March 2022
- Public report: Yes
- Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
- From: Fliss Miller, Interim Associate Director for Skills
- Key decision: Yes
- Forward Plan ref: KD2022/012 (General Exception)
- Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:
- a) Accept the Grant offer of £4,891,985 from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver Wave 3 Skills Bootcamps for the 2022-23 financial year, and approve the addition of a corresponding budget for delivery of the Bootcamps in the 2022-23 budget.
 - b) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, authority to:
 - i. Make awards to and enter grant agreements with existing training providers to deliver Skills Bootcamps where procurement rules allow; and,
 - ii. Make awards to and enter into grant agreements with new providers for Wave 3 following an appropriate appointment exercise.
- Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members present and voting,
- To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Combined Authority Board of the successful proposal submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) for the delivery of Skills Bootcamps in the Combined Authority. This paper outlines the key considerations for taking this forward.
- 1.2 The Board is asked to approve the recommendations to sign and receive the grant award, create a new budget line and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to be able to enter into, sign and award grant agreements and awards to training providers to deliver on Wave Three Skills Bootcamps following an appropriate procurement exercise.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Department for Education via the National Skills Fund has invested in the delivery of Skills Bootcamps across the country to meet the skills needs of local areas. Skills Bootcamps form part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee announced by the Prime Minister in September 2020.
- 2.2 The Combined Authority have been delivering Digital Skills Bootcamps since September 2021 following a successful competitive bid to the DfE for delivery across the East of England. This Wave 2 funding concludes for new starts on 31st March 2022.
- 2.3 Skills Bootcamps are intensive, Level 3-5 or equivalent flexible training courses up to 16 weeks, with a guaranteed job interview (in the case of a new job), which equip adults with technical skills that enable them to access in demand jobs, apprenticeships, new opportunities and an increased level of income over time (including for the self-employed).
- 2.4 Skills Bootcamps rely on local knowledge of skills shortages and employer needs, and the ability to attract and train local learners and to help them achieve better job outcomes.
- 2.5 Following a proposal submitted by the Combined Authority to DfE on the 28th January 2022, the Combined Authority received notification on the 8th March 2022 of award for the full amount proposed; £4,891,985 in grant funding to deliver Wave 3 Skills Bootcamps to 1,780 learners, for the first year period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. Within the grant award £342,439 has been allocated to management costs.
- 2.6 The Combined Authority has been approved to deliver Skills Bootcamps in the following sectors; digital, technical (including engineering and advanced manufacturing) construction, green and a number of pathways to accelerated apprenticeships. Furthermore, up to 10% of the value of the Funding is being allowed to test the value and effectiveness of Skills Bootcamps in the sectors defined by the Combined Authority in addition to the sectors outlined above.
- 2.7 The DfE may extend the funding period of this agreement for 12 months, by giving written notice to The Combined Authority no later than 31 March 2023 and a further 12 months, by giving written notice to The Combined Authority no later than 31 March 2024.

3. Funding and Governance

- 3.1 For Wave Three Skills Bootcamps the funding is received via a Grant. This is different from Wave 2 funding. The Combined Authority will receive 50% of delivery costs and all management costs in Quarter one. The remaining 50% of delivery costs will be paid in arrears after the initial 50% of grant funding allocation has been utilised.
- 3.2 The management fee will cover legal, procurement, finance, marketing. In addition, new posts will be created on a fixed term basis to administer the successful and compliant programme.
- 3.3 Unlike Wave 2, the Combined Authority has the freedom to decide, acting reasonably, how best to ensure that the funded Activities are delivered during Wave 3 in accordance with the relevant aims and objectives of this Grant Funding Agreement. The Combined Authority can therefore decide to engage with providers to deliver Bootcamps in three ways; issue grant awards, issue direct awards and/or undertake a competitive tendering process, provided that, where applicable, it complies in full with its duties as a contracting authority under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and internal governance rules and duly selects and awards contracts to providers in accordance with those Regulations and such rules.
- 3.4 As there are time pressures to deliver a proportion of the contract by the end of July 2022 and September 2022 a procurement exercise is being developed in consultation with Procurement and Legal and will be launched imminently. It is proposed that delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive to be able to enter into, sign and award grant agreements and awards to training providers to deliver on Wave Three Skills Bootcamps.
- 3.5 The Bootcamps are fully funded by the Government for those that are:
- Employed, self-employed, or
 - Career changers/returners/redeployed, or
 - Unemployed

Where an employer requests for an employee to attend a Skills Bootcamp, it is co-funded: the employer's cash contribution is 30% of the Skills Bootcamp cost and the Combined Authority- through the grant funding - pays 70% of the cost of the Bootcamp. However, if the employer is an SME their cash contribution is 10% of the Skills Bootcamp cost and the grant funding pays 90%.

- 3.6 A Programme Board chaired by the Interim Director of Skills will be formed to monitor quality of delivery and contract performance.

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 This project is not currently reflected in the 2022-23 budget, so the Board are recommended to approve the addition of £4,891,985 expenditure, fully funded by the DfE grant, to the 2022-23 budget.

4.2 All CPCA resourcing costs incurred by this project will be covered by the £342,439 management fee, resulting in a net zero impact on current budgets.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no significant legal implications.

5. Public Health implications

5.1 The report recommendations have positive implications for public health. Participation in adult learning improves the health and wellbeing of participants and wider society. In addition, some of the bootcamps are for professionals in the health care sector.

6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

6.1 The report recommendations have positive implications for the environment. Bootcamps will be delivered to support the NetZero agenda.

7. Other Significant Implications

7.1 The recommendations in this report have due regard to the Combined Authority's Equalities duties under the Equality Act 2010 in implementing funding policies which seek to widen participation and make learning opportunities more accessible for all citizens including all protected characteristics.

8. Appendices

8.1 None.

9. Background Papers

9.1 None.