



Agenda Item No:2.2

Expansion of the Careers Hub

To: Skills Committee

Meeting Date: 6 March 2023

Public report: Yes

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

From: Laura Guymer, Strategic Careers Lead

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: N/A

Recommendations: The Skills Committee is invited to:

- a) note the anticipated Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) grant funding for the academic year of 2023/24.

The Skills Committee is recommended to make the following recommendations to the Combined Authority Board:

- b) To accept the grant funding offer on the notification of funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company for the continuation of the Careers Hub. Grant funding is expected to be in the sum of approx. £292,000 for the financial year 2023/2024.
- c) To accept future grant funding that is awarded by the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) in addition to core funding, up to the value of £95,000 for projects aligned to strategic priorities
- d) To allocate 5 months of CEC funding to part fund the 4 FTE roles within the Growth Works service for the period of Aug - Dec 2023

- e) To allocate £112,000 of Corporate Rapid Response Funding as match funding for the period of January to August 2024 as Growth Works funding ceases and the start of UK Shared Prosperity Funding.
- f) To delegate authority to the Interim Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into contracts and grant funding agreements.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members present and voting.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) for the Careers Hub is allocated on an annual basis. The Combined Authority anticipate notification of this funding in Q2 of 2023 for the 2023/24 academic year and seek permission to accept and allocate the funding. Whilst a funding value has not yet been confirmed, it is expected to be approximately £292,000.
- 1.2 Highlight the funding implications of the delivery of the Careers Hub and succession plans following the anticipated ending of the Growth Works contract from December 2023 and the requirement to access the Skills Rapid Response Fund.
- 1.3 Anticipate the opportunity for additional funding from CEC outside of core funding.
- 1.4 This paper outlines the key details for taking this forward for the Skills Committee to support.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authority have held a contract with the Careers and Enterprise Company for the delivery of the Enterprise Advisor Network since 2018. The Enterprise Advisor Network links schools and businesses to support careers education, benefitting young people with their future learning and career path.
- 2.2 In 2021, the Combined Authority was successful in its bid to the CEC for its first Careers Hub. This was extended in 2022 to include all eligible establishments in the area, including mainstream schools, colleges and SEND and Alternate Provision.
- 2.3 We have received communication from the Careers and Enterprise Company anticipating funding for the academic year of 2023/24 to be in line with funding received for the current academic year.
- 2.4 The Careers and Enterprise Company have funding available outside of core funding to deliver Hub focused projects, aligned to strategic regional need. Typically, funding is accessed via a competitive tendering process. It is the intention of the Careers Hub to submit proposals to access funding.
- 2.5 Currently the Careers and Enterprise Company contract forms a part of the wider Growth Works service and responsibility for delivery is with Growth Works with Skills. The CEC contract part funds 4 posts within Growth Works and will continue to do so from the period of August 2023 to the planned contractual end date of December 2023.
- 2.6 The Growth Works contract is due to end in December 2023 and additional funding for the adaptation and continuation of the skills service line has been identified via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is due to commence in April 2024. There is a need for match funding for period between December 2023 and August 2024. It is proposed that this is funded via Corporate Rapid Response Funding.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 A budget line and MTFP is established for the CEC contract.
- 3.2 The core funding for the 2023/24 academic year is anticipated to be circa £292,000.
- 3.3 Estimated funding of £112,000 via the Rapid Response Fund is required to provide the match funding of the CEC contract to deliver this service for the period of January 2024 - August 2024

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Other Significant Implications

- 5.1 There are no other significant implications.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 There are no appendices.

7. Background Papers

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