



CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY
SKILLS COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 10 July 2019

Time: 10:00am to 11:30am

Present: Councillors John Holdich (Chairman), Graham Bull, Lis Every and Eileen Wilson.

Apologies: None

30. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No apologies received. Councillor Every declared an interest in item 3.2 on the agenda as she sat on the Steering Group of the Health and Social Care Academy.

31. MINUTES – 5 APRIL 2019 AND ACTION LOG

A Member noted that at the bottom of page seven of the papers the minute should read that 'One Member commented that she has worked on the development of the policy for this scheme' not 'pilot'.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2019 were agreed as a correct record subject to the change and signed by the Chairman. The action log was noted.

32. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions received.

33. AGENDA PLAN

The agenda plan was noted.

34. UNIVERSITY OF PETERBOROUGH (UoP) – TRANSITION FUNDING

The Committee received a report that provided the Combined Authority Board with the information required to support the transitional funding of University Centre Peterborough to continue working on the University project until the bidding process began on 1 August 2019.

In presenting the report officers explained that following the meeting of the Combined Authority Board on the 29 May 2019, a University Action Plan had been agreed and approved to deliver the University on time on the embankment site, opening its doors to 2,000 students by September 2022. The University of Peterborough Action Plan would be delivered by expert Project Management Consultants working alongside the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Programme team to allow the delivery of a curriculum to meet the needs of both students and employers, with new and progressive delivery models, such as degree apprenticeships and two-year degree programmes. The plan also included strategies to potentially raise the amount of

revenue and capital funding currently available for the project (£13.83 million from the Combined Authority) to as much as £20 million. To achieve these goals the plan included a market comparison of potential academic partners to work with the Combined Authority and Peterborough City Council to deliver the University, between July 2019 and September 2022 and beyond to 2030. To that end, University Centre Peterborough could not continue to be considered the preferred or exclusive Academic Partner without challenge and comparison with the market. University Centre Peterborough as a wholly owned subsidiary had expressed an interest to tender to be part of the mini-competition to select the Higher Education Partner through a procurement process that started on 1 August 2019.

In discussing the report Members

- Queried the involvement of Anglia Ruskin University in the project. A Member commented that the relationship between Anglia Ruskin University and Peterborough Regional College was unclear. Officers explained that University Centre Peterborough had been a joint venture between Anglia Ruskin University and Peterborough Regional College and that it would have always been necessary for Anglia Ruskin University to sever links from Peterborough Regional College at the point when University Centre Peterborough applied for degree awarding powers. From the various reviews of the project that had been undertaken, it had been highlighted that Peterborough Regional College could not provide a comprehensive offer to match the Combined Authority ambitions so a procurement process had been initiated to select a Higher Education partner to deliver the University. Anglia Ruskin University had the opportunity to bid separately in this process. The transition funding would allow Peterborough Regional College to maintain a minimum viable product so that they would not be disadvantaged in the competition and so that they could develop their offer and complete their work on degree awarding powers and curriculum development.
- Sought reassurance that students would be awarded their degrees, with Anglia Ruskin University stepping away from University Centre Peterborough. Officers explained that the Combined Authority could influence and fund Peterborough Regional College so that they could take on students whilst they commissioned a new University partner. The Combined Authority would continue to work with Anglia Ruskin University and Peterborough Regional College to validate degrees.
- Questioned who held the Intellectual Property Rights for the curriculum for University Centre Peterborough. Officers explained that the rights were shared. If Peterborough Regional College found themselves in a position where they could not offer the required services then the Combined Authority would take the Intellectual Property Rights to another provider.

Before the Committee approved the recommendations of the report the Interim Monitoring Officer highlighted that the voting arrangements were incorrect on the report and that the vote was by a simple majority.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- 1) note the findings of the request from University Centre Peterborough (UCP) to continue to fund the activity for the University of Peterborough up until the 31st July 2019.
- 2) recommend that the Combined Authority Board :
 - (i) approve the release of £148,304 from the Skills Strategy Implementation budget for 2019/20 to support University Centre Peterborough through the transitional phase.

35. SKILLS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee received a report outlining the detail of how the Combined Authority would deliver the interventions contained within the Skills Strategy through individual implementation plans for each of the five interventions, namely the Adult Education Budget, Careers Advice, Skills Talent Apprenticeship & Recruitment Hub, Health & Care Sector Work Academy and University of Peterborough.

In presenting the report officers explained that the process for the development of the implementation plans covered a timeline of activity from April 2019 to March 2020 and would be produced as individual interventions scoped and developed to meet the needs of the local areas within the three sub-economies, namely Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough and the Fens. Officers explained that the implementation plans would be bound together going forwards through the proposed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Growth Company which was currently subject to an outline business case. Delivery and implementation of the plans would be in consultation with the Members of the Skills Committee, the Mayor's Office Combined Authority staff, an expert author's group, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Public Service Board Chief Executive Officers and officers groups as well as the Employment and Skills Board, business and employers, the majority of the Adult Education Budget providers and a range of key stakeholders through on-going stakeholder engagement. A series of nine workshops were being held throughout the summer to develop the plans.

In discussing the report Members:

- Commented that the development of the Combined Authority Skills Strategy had been a positive move and that this had given the constituent authorities much more involvement in the process.
- Queried the provision for lifelong learning courses and courses targeted at 'softer' skills, that focused on wellbeing, particularly in the village colleges and requested more guidance on how funding could be pursued. Officers explained that there would be provision for these courses and that there were a number of providers that had subcontracted these courses. There was a need to encourage local providers to market themselves with the village colleges. The Combined Authority had reviewed and shifted the balance between softer courses and vocational learning as there was a need to focus on economic impact and getting individuals back in to work. Officers clarified that there would be a report on the commissioning strategy

at the next committee meeting and Members would decide on how the split was balanced out.

- Questioned whether the Government's recent review of Higher Education and recommendation to reduce tuition fees and increase standard entry requirements had been factored in to the design of the new University as there were risks associated with these potential changes. Officers explained that there were many risks associated with the project and that they had designed the business model to take these risks into account. One of the experts working on the design team was also a highly experienced University business model expert.
- Requested further information on apprenticeship levy pooling. Officers explained that they were working with the Department for Education and that there were four components that would work towards utilising the funding that the Combined Authority would be raising with the Apprenticeships Minister at a meeting in August.
 1. Identifying who had the levy and how much of it was free, which required data gathering.
 2. Companies currently continued to be responsible for the levy when individuals moved on. The Combined Authority now had a letter that could go to the employer that absolved them from this responsibility, and this would be passed on to the new employer.
 3. It was complicated to go into large companies levy accounts and access the levy from them. The Department of Education had put in place an Account Manager to smooth the transition for companies.
 4. Brokers were now in place to identify Small and Medium Size Enterprises with the right talent that would benefit from the levy.

Officers advised that they already had Levy Advisors in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. The Skills Talent and Apprenticeship Recruitment Hub was funded by the Combined Authority and European Skills Fund and there would be brokers across the whole area. Officers had been speaking to large employers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

- Queried 3.3.1 paragraph two in the report in terms of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Apprenticeship Service and what this would involve. Officers explained that 'Form the Future' were receiving funding from the Greater Cambridge Partnership for the next two years to provide a joint service with Cambridge Regional College to connect students and businesses as part of a new apprenticeships service within Cambridge and South Cambridge. This process would then be subject to procurement following the two year funding.
- Commented that the report had been difficult to follow and requested that reports be shorter and easier to read.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note the background information that informs the timeline for producing and sharing the implementation plans for the interventions contained within the Skills Strategy

36. SECTOR ACADEMIES - HEALTH & CARE SECTOR WORK ACADEMY (HCSWA) AND EDGE CONSTRUCTION HUB – UPDATE

The Committee received a report giving an update on the Health and Care Sector Work Academy and outcomes to date and an update on the Edge Construction Hub.

In presenting the report officers explained that the Academy commenced in March 2018 as part of a three year pilot and aimed to tackle the local shortage of skilled workers in the health and care sector to meet current and future labour demands and reduce the reliance on work-related benefits. The pilot aimed to train 2100 learners. So far there had been 322 learners with a 67% positive outcome so far. The Department for Work and Pensions had been working with the Combined Authority to look at reprofiling the objectives of the pilot due to the gap in participant numbers linked to apprenticeships and review the way the Combined Authority worked with 'In-Work' learners. Officers explained that the hub had been given permission to accept learners that lived just over the borders of the scheme. In the last month there had been seven different courses run with 37 courses run so far. The Department for Work and Pensions had commented that out of the five hubs nationally the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Hub was one of the better performing academies.

In discussing the report Members:

- Commented on the need for a long term strategy in schools for teaching health and social care as there was a requirement to develop skills within schools. A Member explained that she sat on Cambridgeshire County Councils Children and Young Persons Committee and she had raised this issue there too. Officers explained that this was being offered in some areas with day release from schools but there was a need to develop this further. The Chairman commented that there would be a report at the next Committee meeting on the Hamptons Pilot, mobilising partners into schools to prevent young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) **ACTION**
- Noted that there were a number of individuals completing the course but then not going into the sector and there was a need to understand why this was happening. Officers explained that there were 169 individuals still in training and they would be collating the figures on where these learners went at the end of the course.
- Queried why there was no one from the Edge Construction Hub present at the meeting to give the update. Officers explained that they had included the Edge Construction Hub in the report as they had wanted to highlight the good work in this area and that Huntingdonshire District Council had been driving the initiative and they had been successful in the continuation of the Edge. There was a target of 680 learners going through the hub in a year and so far 150 learners had gone through which was 24% of the target.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note the background information and outcomes for the Health & Care Sector Work Academy.
- b) note the background information and the outcomes of the Edge Construction Skills Hub.

37. CAREERS AND ENTERPRISE COMPANY (CEC) – UPDATE

The Committee received a report that outlined the new way the Combined Authority would be managing the Careers and Enterprise Company contract approved by the Combined Authority Board at its annual meeting on 29 May 2019.

In presenting the report officers explained that the contract would be delivered by different partners as the Combined Authority did not have capacity internally to deliver the contract, due to the Local Enterprise Partnership being merged with the Combined Authority. The delivered partners that had been identified were the Skills Service and Form the Future.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note the new management and reporting structure of the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) contract.
- b) note the update regarding the delivery Partners for the CEC contract.

38. PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY 2019

The Committee received a report summarising the performance of key projects within the Combined Authorities Skills team for July 2019.

In presenting the report officers explained that there was one project highlighted as Amber, the Health and Care Sector Work Academy, but the rest were currently on target.

In discussing the report Members:

- Queried why the Apprenticeships project was showing as green when apprenticeship numbers were low. Officers explained that the status did not relate to numbers or targets presently as a lot of the projects key objectives had not yet been mobilised and were in the preparation phase. Once the outcomes were mobilised the Committee would receive more detailed data on performance against outcomes, which it was envisaged would be from the next financial year.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note the current activity within the Skills Team and be aware of status and progress to date.

39. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted the date of the next meeting as 2 October 2019.

Chairman