



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.2

## Digital Skills Bootcamps

To:	Skills Committee
Meeting Date:	16 March 2022
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Chair of the Skills Committee
From:	Fliss Miller, Interim Associate Skills Director
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	N/A
Recommendations:	<p>The Skills Committee is recommended to:</p> <p>a) Note the paper that provides an update on the contract for Skills Bootcamps, Wave 2 and future intent of Wave 3.</p>
Voting arrangements:	No vote required.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Skills Committee with an update on the delivery of Skills Bootcamps - Digital in the East of England and the future intent of Skills Bootcamps for Wave 3.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authority submitted a competitive consortium bid to the DfE on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for the delivery of Skills Bootcamps – Digital in the East of England.
- 2.2 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 only approved two providers to deliver the Bootcamps in the Consortia; Cambridge Regional College (CRC) and Purple Beard, an Independent Training Provider.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The CPCA was the only successful bidder in the East of England for the delivery of Digital Bootcamps.
- 2.5 The contract was awarded in June 2021 and delivery commenced in September 2021.

## 3. Delivery and Performance

- 3.1 The first cohort of learners started in September. To date there have been 531 enrolments.
- 3.2 A Change Control Notice (CCN) was submitted to DfE in December 2021 and was subsequently agreed. The CCN was at the request of CRC and Purple Beard.
- 3.3 Purple Beard's funding allocation remained the same – their change request was to reduce their offer from four to two courses. This request was informed by employer demand. The reallocation allowed Purple Beard to continue to offer their two more popular courses to employers and learners.
- 3.4 CRC reduced their allocation of 400 learners to 100. An independent training provider, The Skills Network (TSN) were contracted to deliver the reallocated 300 learners.
- 3.5 Wave 2 Flexibilities were announced in January 2022. The flexibilities allow new learner starts in this financial year (21/22) and by meeting 20% of delivery by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022, learners can complete the Bootcamp in the next financial year with funding carried forward. Prior to this, learners were required to complete a Bootcamp by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022,

therefore the flexibility provides greater opportunities for Training Providers to increase their learner recruitment with more people gaining digital skills and filling employer vacancies.

3.6 The table below shows the performance to 31 January for the Wave 2 contract.

Provider	Course	Learner Starts	Learner Completions	Funding per Learner
Cambridge Regional College	Digital Marketing	20	0	2523.75
	Website Production	15	0	2523.75
	Advance Database Design	7	0	2523.75
Purple Beard	DevOps	127	55	2110.53
	Cloud Engineering	176	92	2110.53
The Skills Network	Data Analysis	50	0	2523.75
	Digital Marketing	133	0	2523.75
	Tech Sales	3	0	2523.75

3.6 A bid was submitted in January 2022 for Wave 3 of Skills Bootcamps. The bid is for grant funding to deliver Skills Bootcamps in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Area and diversifies from digital delivery. Notification of the outcome of this bid is expected in March 2022.

3.7 The contracting period for Wave 3 is from April 2022 - April 2023. The total bid value is £4,890,435 which includes profiled funding carried forward from the Wave 2 flexibilities. This will allow the Combined Authority to offer the following Skills Bootcamps in the region: Digital, Engineering, Construction, Green, Welding and Green Transport which will support 1780 learners.

3.8 Wave 3 funding will be paid via grant allocation, and we will procure for delivery partners in line with our AEB commissioning statement.

3.9 The Combined Authority participated in Ofsted's Thematic Study of Skill Bootcamp delivery in early February. Ofsted allocated three inspectors over a four day period which followed the Education Inspection Framework with all providers hosting an inspector to observe their provision, leadership and quality processes. The study is expected to be published in September 2022. No judgement words, grades or identification of providers will take place.

## Significant Implications

### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Combined Authority have committed £1,088,273 based on enrolments until 31 Jan 2022 from a total allocation of £1,764,157. for Wave 2 delivery.

### 5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications at this stage.

### 6. Public Health implications

- 6.1 The recommendation of this report is for members to note; therefore, the recommendation is neutral for public health implications.

### 7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 The report recommendation has a neutral implication for the environment and climate change as it is for members to note.

### 8. Other Significant Implications

- 8.1 There are no significant implications as the recommendation is for members to note.

### 9. Appendices

- 9.1 None

### 10. Background Papers

- 10.1 None