

Skills Committee – 4 July 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Questions

	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	Item 1.2 Minutes: November Item 3.1 Employment and Skills Strategy O&S members asked a question back in November regarding how many companies have been approached and could the criteria used to select the companies be shared – could further information be provided around this?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	It is not possible to quantify the exact number of businesses the team engaged with as the team interacts with many intermediaries. Please be assured that the voice of businesses both large and small have had significant input into the development of the strategy both via primary interactions, via intermediaries and through the use of real time labour market information.
2.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	Item 2.1: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan Update The report is unclear on whether proposals have been accepted. Could clarity be provided of what will be progressed with the funding and timeframes for this? Are there project leads who can provide more detail on each of the proposals?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	The projects within the Local Investment Plan being drafted all remain provisional until the entire plan has been approved by DLUHC before the Autumn, then the Combined Authority can work through assurance with project leads to fully accept projects for funding and issue funding agreements or contracts. Currently all projects listed in the appendix to the report are proposed to be included in the 3-year plan all starting within this financial year except for the People & Skills projects.

			Project Leads for each project have provided more details on each project in support of developing the plan and this added detail can be shared separately.
3.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	Item 2.4: Growth Works Management Review – April 2022 The O&S Member would like to raise his dissatisfaction with the quality of the report provided; which uses exclusive language and does not present clear targets and does not outline clearly outcomes that are easily understood. As a result it is very difficult for members to understand whether the CPCPA is delivering on its targets.
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	The Interim Associate Director for Skills acknowledges the comments made, and agrees that improvements can be made to this report. The author of the report will ensure that in their introduction to the paper at the Committee that performance on the contract will be explained clearly to be able to assess performance to date.
4.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	Item 2.10: Agenda Plan Given the current situation at the CPCA the O&S Lead member would like to understand whether there are enough staff within the department to deliver the skills agenda?
	Response From:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	The Skills Team has to date retained all of their colleagues. As the team have been successful in winning additional funding, recruitment is underway to recruit more people into the team.