



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 2.6

Employment and Skills Strategy – Delivery Plan & Gainshare Skills Projects

To:	Skills Committee
Meeting Date:	4 July 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Approve the draft Employment and Skills Strategy Delivery Plan.b. Note the project – FE coldspots and the associated actions.
Voting arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members present and voting.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Skills Committee of the progress being made in the development of the Employment and Skills Delivery Plan. Information is also provided outlining actions already underway aligned to implementing the strategy.
- 1.2 This paper also provides information relating to a specific action within the Employment and Skills Strategy which has been identified as a project that could be funded via Gainshare funding – FE Coldspots in East Cambridgeshire and St Neots.

2. Background

- 2.1 On the 26 January 2022 the Combined Authority Board unanimously approved the Employment and Skills Strategy.
- 2.2 This strategy builds on the ambition for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough set out in the 2019 Skills Strategy. The updated vision is for:

A successful, globally competitive economy offering high-skilled, well-paid, good quality jobs, delivering increased productivity and prosperity to support strong, sustainable and healthy communities and enabled by an inclusive, world-class local skills system that matches the needs of our employers, learners and communities.

- 2.3 The Employment and Skills Strategy focuses on four core themes:
 - Pre-work learning and formal education
 - Employer access to talent
 - Life-wide and lifelong learning
 - Support into and between work
- 2.4 For each of these themes long-term outcomes have been identified, underpinned by a sub-set of core short-term priorities and objectives that will move forward the process of delivering the long-term outcomes. Five-year delivery plans will accompany the strategy.
- 2.5 To ensure the Employment and Skills Strategy delivers on its ambition a comprehensive implementation and delivery plan is being developed.

3.0 The Employment and Skills Strategy Delivery Plan

- 3.1 Significant work has been undertaken to develop the Employment and Skills Delivery Plan. Concurrently many early actions identified in the strategy are already underway or have been completed.
- 3.2 The draft Employment and Skills Delivery Plan outlines the following:
 - Things already in motion that will contribute to the delivery of the strategy and whether things are being adapted/intensified

- Things that are in the pipeline, in two categories: funding secured and to be secured (latter is something that is a worked up project, need is recognised – funding isn't)
- Gaps where something new/different is required and the plan to address them
- How/where actions contribute to starting the system change projects

- 3.3 Further engagement sessions are in progress with key stakeholders to help refine the plan.
- 3.4 The delivery and implementation plan will be a live document and will be reviewed twice a year to ensure progress is being made against the plan.

4. FE Coldspots

- 4.1 The Combined Authority, together with our constituent local authorities: Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire Council are seeking Gainshare funding of £4.8m to initiate two new Post 16 education and training provisions in St Neots and East Cambridgeshire for c.4000 students. A PID has been developed which will be considered by the Combined Authority Board in July (appendix b).
- 4.2 The funding from Gainshare will leverage further capital investment from the Department for Education (DfE) Capital Transformation Fund and Post 16 Demographic Growth Funds and/or local match funds, to address the gaps in further education provision in the East and West of the sub-region. Sites and education delivery partners for both projects have not been identified at this stage.
- 4.3 The funding from Gainshare for this proposal provides a modest investment to ensure there is strategic alignment with the Employment and Skills Strategy. This will kick-start two major legacy projects for the Combined Authority, which will provide education and training opportunities for future generations and would not proceed without Combined Authority intervention.
- 4.4 Gainshare funding will be used to undertake a feasibility study for the proposed two campuses, legal due diligence, identification of education partners, land assembly, preparation of funding applications and local 'match' to lever DfE and other capital funding.
- 4.5 The next steps are to:
- a. The PID will be reviewed at the Combined Authority Board – if approved the project will proceed to: Commission two consultancy firms to produce feasibility studies and (if viable) business cases by end of November 2022
 - b. Establish Project Advisory Boards for both projects by September 2022
 - c. Subject to the Feasibility study findings take Business Cases to Combined Authority Board to by February 2023
 - d. Appoint Education delivery partners by May 2023.
- 4.6 The Skills Committee are asked to note the proposed actions,

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The CPCA Board approved an allocation for Further Education Cold Spots in the Medium Term Financial Plan at the March Board meeting. This consists of £225k revenue funding in 2022/23 and £4.575m of capital funding. The capital provision is profiled with £2.4m allocated to 203/24 and £2.175m to 2024/25. These allocations are still subject to Board approval.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications at this stage.

6. Public Health implications

- 6.1 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 actions identified in the strategy are to develop skills in the health care sector.

7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 The report recommendations have positive implications for netzero as significant focus is given to green skills and careers.

8. Other Significant Implications

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

9. Appendices

- 9.1. Appendix A - The Employment and Skills Strategy Delivery Plan
- 9.2 Appendix B - The Draft PID for the FE Coldspots Gainshare project