

Skills Committee Decision Summary

Meeting: Monday 5 September 2022

Published: Tuesday 6 September 2022

Decision Review deadline: Friday 9 September 2021

Part 1 - Governance Items

1.1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest and Announcements Apologies received from Councillors Chris Seaton and Sam Wakeford. No declarations of interest were made.

1.2 Minutes of the Skills Committee meeting on 4 July 2022 and Actions The minutes of the meeting on 4 July 2022 were approved as an accurate record. The action log was noted.

1.2 Public Questions

Questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were taken at the relevant items on the agenda.

Part 2 – Recommendations to the Combined Authority Board

2.1 Adult Education Budget: Contract Awards to Independent Training Providers and proposals for further commissioning

It was resolved unanimously to:

a) Recommend that the Combined Authority Board approve the contract awards to Independent Training Providers for the 2022/23 academic year, from the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and National Skills Fund as set out in

TABLE B to the report and increase the commission from £3.8m, to up to £4.5m

- b) Recommend the Combined Authority Board delegates authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter into and sign contracts for services with the Independent Training Providers set out in the paper
- Note the significant progress made through this procurement process to broaden the training provider market and widen choice and learning opportunities for our citizens and businesses

2.2 Addressing Further Education 'Cold Spots' in East Cambridgeshire and St Neots

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board, approval for the creation of a new budget line in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the FE Cold Spots programme, allocating £225,000 for 2022/23, as per the allocated budget profile. shown in Table A in this report.
- b) Recommend the Combined Authority Board, to delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to procure, enter into and sign contracts with suitable consultants to produce business cases for the two projects.
- c) Note the timelines and delivery milestones for the two projects.

2.3 Multiply – the approach to programme delivery

It was resolved to note the report.

Part 3 - Delivery

- 3.1 Department for Education (DfE) Funding and Accountability Consultation It was resolved unanimously to:
 - a) Note the Department for Education's second Funding and Accountability Consultation and the implications for the Combined Authority.
 - b) Delegate sign off of a formal response to the consultation, to the Interim Associate Director of Skills in consultation with Chair of the Committee.

3.2 Skills Bootcamps

It was resolved to:

Note the update of contracts awarded to Training Providers following a competitive Procurement exercise.

3.3 Employment and Skills Strategy Implementation Plan - Final Draft

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the draft Employment and Skills Strategy implementation Plan.

3.4 A Summary of the Employment and Skills Board Meeting 12 July 2022

It was resolved to:

a) Note the paper which provides an overview of the recent Employment and Skills Board held on 12 July 2022.

3.5 Budget and Performance Report

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the updated 2021/22 forecast outturn position for Skills related budgets.
- b) Note the 2022/23 Skills related budgets.

3.6 Skills Committee Agenda Plan – September 2022

It was resolved to note the agenda plan.

Key: Additions in Bold.