

SCR SKILLS EXECUTIVE BOARD

25th FEBRUARY 2016

AMP, WAVERLEY, ROTHERHAM

No.	Item	Action
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>Present:</p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Nigel Brewster, Brewster Pratap, CHAIR Cllr Chris Read, RMBC Julie Kenny, Pyronix / LEP</p> <p>Apologies were received from Board Members Cllr Ann Syrett (BoDC) and Dorcas Bunton (DDDC) and Jo Miller (DMBC)</p> <p><u>In Attendance / Advisory Members</u> Tony Tweedy, Sheffield CC Conor Moss, SHU Simon Perryman Dan Fell, Doncaster CoC Ruth Adams, SCR Executive Team Tom Smith, Barnsley MBC Stuart Cutforth, Chesterfield College Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th January were agreed to be an accurate record.</p> <p>The following matters were noted as arising:</p> <p>5. <u>Gainshare Priorities</u> It was reported that the Working Group has met and raised a number of important questions for consideration. It was agreed at the Working Group that the matter warrants substantive SEB agenda time and therefore recommended that this be afforded at the next meeting.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED, that the Board Members agree to consider Gainshare in detail at the next meeting.</p> <p>6. <u>Social Inclusion</u> It was noted that work is progressing well on consideration of how the social inclusion objectives will be incorporated into the areas of work under the Board’s remit.</p> <p>7. <u>Devolution</u> It was confirmed the resolutions agreed at the last meeting are all being progressed as expected, including the appointment of the secondee to assist with the development of the Work and Health programme.</p> <p>8. <u>ABR Update</u> It was noted that a meeting of the Chairs of Governors was held recently to consider the latest situation ahead of formal reporting to the next meeting of the Steering Group. It was noted that the next steps will be supported by the modelling work currently being undertaken to inform the identification of the area ‘groupings’.</p> <p>11i. <u>LEP Skills Summit</u> It was reiterated that plans for this event have been postponed until the new financial year</p> <p>11iii. <u>SCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u> It was confirmed that an update on the work of the post-19 working group will be presented to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting. Cllr Read, Jo Miller and Ruth Adams will be in attendance to deliver the presentation.</p>	
3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Cllr Read declared an interest in the matters to be considered at agenda item 6 - SCR Capital - Rotherham Centre for Higher Level Skills</p>	
4	<p><u>Urgent Items / Announcements</u></p> <p>No urgent items were requested.</p>	
5	<p><u>SCR Devolution Deal - Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE)</u></p> <p>A paper was received to remind Members that in 2015/16 the SCR was responsible for £2.4m of AGE grant for the South Yorkshire districts and note that due to the success of the administration of this the SFA are proposing to continue this arrangement into 2016/17 with a £2.93m grant plus any rollover</p>	

	<p>of 2015/16 underspend (rollover figure to be confirmed).</p> <p>It was noted that whilst officers working on the project have some concerns that BIS / SFA are restricting the use of this funding (and not in the spirit of devolution), the paper asks the Board Members to endorse this proposal with a view to formally accepting the grant at the Combined Authority Board Meeting on the 14th March 2016.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the acceptance of the grant offer letter subject to Section 151 officer approval. 2. Endorse the Monitoring Officer delegating grant award powers in relation to this activity to the Head of Skills & Employment to allow for efficient grant processing. 	
6	<p><u>SCR Capital - Rotherham Centre for Higher Level Skills</u></p> <p>A paper was presented to provide Members with an update on the current status of the proposal submitted and to provide a summary of the Moderation Panels feedback following appraisal of the Outline Business Case (OBC).</p> <p>It was noted that the Moderation Panel in appraising the OBC identified a number of significant weaknesses in the evidence provided in support of the strategic, economic and commercial cases and that further clarity is requested regarding scheme costs and finances.</p> <p>Ruth provided a verbal additional summary of the weaknesses of the OBC.</p> <p>The Executive Board was therefore being asked to consider whether (a) the Scheme Promotor addresses the concerns regarding the strategic, economic and commercial case and submit a second iteration of the outline business case (OBC) or (b) whether the scheme progresses to full business case (FBC) but with caveats detailed and requesting that a clear action plan is put in place to address the urgent gaps in information, prior to the assessment of the FBC.</p> <p>It was noted that the Moderation Panels opinion is that the development of the evidence of this scheme would strongly benefit from the input of the LA economic and educational leads in addressing the gaps in evidence and development of the FBC.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board Members:</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to the development of a timeline for the Scheme Promotor to address the areas requiring urgent clarity and for this to be undertaken in tandem with development of the FBC, on the understanding the final FBC will not be appraised until all additional information required to properly evaluate the strategic, economic and commercial case is submitted. 2. That the CA be recommended to offer a grant of 33% of the scheme value with the potential to offer the remaining 7% as a repayable loan. 3. That regular updates will be provided to give assurances that the FBC is development as expected. 	
7	<p><u>SCR Capital - National College for High Speed Rail</u></p> <p>A paper was presented seeking the Board's endorsement to submit to the SCR CA a recommendation to release of the £6m Local Growth Fund commitment for the National College scheme.</p> <p>It was noted that this follow confirmation from the SFA national property and finance team that the scheme has been approved at the Detailed Application (full business plan stage). Noting that in accordance with the approved SCR LEP and CA Assurance and Accountability Framework, the national SFA capital team conduct due diligence on behalf of the SCR CA regarding skills capital investment.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to recommend to the SCR CA that, following the confirmation from the SFA of a successful bid, approval for the £6m funding commitment from the LGF is secured and the scheme progresses to contract award. 	
8	<p><u>Gainshare Principles</u></p> <p>Members were reminded that subject to the 9 district councils and the CA ratifying the Devolution Deal, funding will be received from April 2016, there is therefore a requirement to progress work on how the funding will be best invested.</p> <p>It was noted that a Leaders' workshop will be held in mid-March to bring the various themes' work streams together.</p> <p>It was suggested the first year of operation might present some additional challenges and programmes commence and address</p>	

	<p>any preliminary hurdles.</p> <p>It was confirmed that efforts will be maintained to ensure all funding decisions are undertaken in consideration of what additional government funding might be leveraged or identified as 'complementary'.</p>	
<p>9.1</p>	<p><u>Devolution - Employment Programme</u></p> <p>A paper was received seeking endorsement of the Executive Board to reassign the original allocation of SCR ESIF funds for Progress to Work, to the devolution strands of our work with the aim of meeting a timetable for the delivery of the Work and Health Programme by October 2017 and an SCR pilot for the harder to help from autumn 2016.</p> <p>It was noted that the recommendation for this action is based on the conclusions of the SCR Employment Working Group.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board Members</p> <p>1. Endorse the recommendation to the ESIF Committee to withdraw £3.589 million of ESIF (funding previously allocated to Progress to Work) in favour of co-investment in the Work and Health Programme and SCR pilot proposal for the harder-to-help. Noting discussions are continuing with DWP regarding procurement and commissioning of services.</p>	
<p>9.2</p>	<p><u>Devolution - Adult Education Budget</u></p> <p>A paper was presented asking the Board to discuss and endorse the final Skills Outcomes Agreement developed for the SCR Adult Education Budget in academic year 2016/17.</p> <p>Members were reminded that since November 2015, the SCR Post 19 Working Group, consisting of BIS, SFA, Local Authorities and FE Principals, has been working towards the development of a Skills Outcomes Agreement; designed to influence and shape and the mix and balance of provision delivered under the Adult Education Budget by SCR Colleges.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board Members:</p> <p>1. Endorse the SCR Skills Outcomes Agreement in order to progress this work onto the next phase in developing more detailed delivery agreements with individual colleges.</p>	

10	<p><u>Area Based Review</u></p> <p>Matters were addressed at agenda item 2.8.</p>	
11	<p><u>Skills Executive Board Business Plan 2016/17</u></p> <p>A paper was provided to present the <u>draft</u> Skills Executive Board Business Plan for 2016/17.</p> <p>The Board was asked to comment on the narrative table of the plan and recommend this to the SCR CA for inclusion in the composite SCR Delivery Plan 16/17 which is currently under development based on each of the Executive Boards programme of activity.</p> <p>It was noted that information to populate definite outputs and costs profiles is still progressing.</p> <p>Members were asked to note that the Business Plan incorporates the key objectives for the City Region as set out in the Strategic Economic Plan and the programme of activity in place as developed throughout 2015/16, and that which is in the pipeline for 2016/17.</p> <p>The Board was also asked to note a draft of the composite Delivery Plan, incorporating the Skills Annex, will be circulated, when approved in draft form and each of the annexes included delivery plan will be revisited subject to devolution ratification as this will significantly influence the direction of the 2016/17 activity and priorities.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Board Members note the contents of the draft Business Plan and support the actions being taken to develop the final iteration.</p>	
12	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>i. <u>'CDI' Sector Group</u> Conor informed the Board that following the discussion held at the last meeting, regarding the need to further develop our understanding of the local CDI sector to support the identification and implementation of actions going forward, it was noted that the Group had identified a preliminary need to define what 'we' mean by 'creative and digital' noting this means different things to different stakeholders.</p> <p>It was noted that plans are being developed for an assessment of the key strengths of the SCR's current CDI landscape, to profile the companies currently operating and assess the potential future gaps that might exist in respect of how it is</p>	

	<p>envisaged the sector will expand.</p> <p>It was noted that this approaches mirrors that being taken by officers working on other sectors e.g. construction.</p> <p>Simon noted similar undertakings nationally and offered to help generate some introductory leads to enable further discussion.</p> <p>Action: Conor / Simon to progress</p>	CM / SP
11	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>i. <u>Refresh of the Skills Strategy</u> Ruth reminded the Board of the Devolution Deal's reference to undertaking a refresh of the Strategy post – ABR.</p> <p>It was noted that a panel of independent industry experts is being created to help critique and steer this process.</p>	
12	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>21st April, 8.30am at AMP, Waverley Rotherham.</p>	