

SCR SKILLS EXECUTIVE BOARD

14th JULY 2016

BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD

No.	Item	Action
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>Present:</p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Nigel Brewster, Brewster Pratap / LEP Vice Chair, CHAIR Julie Kenny, Pyronix / LEP Jo Miller, DMBC Cllr Chris Read, RMBC</p> <p>Apologies were received from Board Members: Cllr Ann Syrett, BoDC and Dorcas Bunton, DDDC</p> <p><u>In Attendance / Advisory Members</u> Tony Tweedy, Sheffield CC Conor Moss, SHU Melanie Ulyatt, One to One Simon Perryman Ruth Adams, SCR Executive Team Claire Bowie, SCR Executive Team Roz Bentley, SCR Executive Team Richard Holmes, SCC / SCR Executive Team Tom Smith, Barnsley MBC Stuart Cutforth, Chesterfield College Paul Jagger, TRC Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The Chair informed members of proactive efforts to reduce the number of agenda items presented for consideration and enable the focussing of attention on matters requiring decisions.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st April were agreed to be an accurate record.</p>	

	<p>The following matters were noted as arising:</p> <p>6. <u>SCR Education Initiative</u> Members were advised that a series of meetings have been held to further the development of the scope for the initiative. These have taken account of a number of aligned matters e.g. the potential plans for a Northern Power House Schools Challenge (subject to the any revisions in government policy)</p> <p>It was noted the next 'milestone meeting' will be required after the Doncaster Commission work is complete i.e. mid-September.</p> <p>Action: Conor, Tony and Tom to continue to represent the SEB at meetings to develop the SCR Education Initiative</p> <p>7. <u>SCR Independent Review of Post-16 Curriculum</u> The Chair recapped the intentions and aims of the next phase of work.</p> <p>It was noted that efforts will be maintained to ensure the support of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).</p> <p>The Board considered what information might be readily available to avoid reliance on the RSC for information and were informed the Gatsby Foundation had been engaged to support this work.</p> <p>8. <u>SCR Institute of Technology</u> The Board was informed of progress where there had been consensus from stakeholders for the need to develop a digital skill strategy (which was agreed should be a component of the overarching SCR Skills Strategy) and associated work to map out digital / tech-specialist businesses across the Region, whilst on a twin track basis developing the concept of a virtual Digital IoT.</p> <p>It was noted that the employers engaged have been very supportive of the work done to date.</p> <p>Action: Conor, Tony and Stuart to progress the drafting of the digital skill strategy with the SCR Executive Team.</p> <p>The Board requested whether a catch-all 'matters arising' paper could be presented at each meeting to reduce the amount of time required covering updated actions.</p> <p>Action: Claire to scope out</p>	<p>CM / TT / TS</p> <p>CM / TT / SC</p> <p>CB</p>
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3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>In respect of Item 6, Julie declared an interest in the initiative by virtue of being Chair of the Maltby Learning Trust.</p>	
4	<p><u>Urgent Items / Announcements</u></p> <p>No urgent items were requested.</p>	
5	<p><u>Performance Dashboard</u></p> <p>A paper was presented to provide the Board with an update on the performance of all skills and employment programmes delivered across the City Region.</p> <p>The Board was also asked to approve a change request relating to Doncaster Borough Council and the National College for High Speed Rail.</p> <p>It was noted the performance dashboard has been developed as a tool to track and performance manage City Region employment and skills programmes, including programmes that operate on a City Region footprint but are not directly contracted by the Combined Authority.</p> <p>Headline performance information to the end of May 2016 was noted as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,041 jobs created against a target of 3,727 • 352 people assisted into employment against a target of 395 • 2,716 people assisted with skills against a target of 3,226 • £809,334 of private sector investment leveraged • And the first claim is in for the National College for High Speed Rail (£2,788,867.49). <p>Regarding Skills Bank activity, the Board was reminded the programme was launched on the 31st March 2016 and informed that to the 6th July 2016, 17 business deals have been agreed involving 322 learners equating to a total training cost of £356,395 of which 59% (£209,334) has been invested from the private sector.</p> <p>Members asked that more information in respect of Skills Bank activity be presented to the next meeting (including the potential attendance of PWC).</p> <p>Action: Claire to facilitate</p>	<p>CB</p>

	<p>Members were asked to note potential delays in programmes and funding announcements that might be consequent of brexit related matters.</p> <p>It was suggested the dashboard information presents no major concerns for any of the SEB projects. However, members recognised the need to keep an eye on capital project spend.</p> <p>It was further noted that the overall budgetary position across the SCR finances is one of general underspend and there may be opportunities to look at how additional spend might be accelerated for some projects.</p> <p>Regarding whether the post-16 curriculum review work might lead to the development of a capital-spend project, it was suggested this would be predicated on the development of a convincing business case.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note current performance. 2. Approve the change request for the High Speed Rail College in Doncaster (contract with Doncaster Borough Council), affecting the projected yearly spend profile, moving £1m of 2016/17 approved spend into 2017/18 quarter 1 spend and note this does not affect the total SCR funding approval of £6m. 	
6	<p><u>Rotherham HE Centre Skills Capital Business Case</u></p> <p>A paper was presented to provide an update to the Executive Board on the current status of the proposal submitted and provide a summary of the Moderation Panel feedback following appraisal of the Outline Business Case (OBC) which was re-submitted on a twin track basis with the submission of the Full Business Case (FBC) in April 2016 (a second submission/iteration of the FBC was issued by the scheme promotor in June 2016).</p> <p>It was noted that in appraising the OBC/FBC in May 2016, the moderation panel still identified a number of significant weaknesses in the evidence provided in support of the strategic, economic and commercial cases. Further clarity was also requested regarding scheme costs and finances as the request was changed from a grant only scheme to a grant AND loan request in the resubmitted FBC. Formal feedback was therefore issued on the 26th May 2016 to the scheme promotor.</p>	

	<p>Members were advised that after further moderation and appraisal by the Panel, the Board is recommended to agree to receive the submission of a further FBC from the scheme promotor. It was noted the scheme promotor now has the support of an additional specialist resource to ensure the next submission meets the expectations of the Moderation Panel.</p> <p>The Board considered whether the guidance provided to potential scheme promoters is appropriately robust and what might be done to limit situations such as this from arising in the future. It was suggested some 'masterclasses' for scheme promoters might be a useful undertaking.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the decision for a further re-submission of the FBC by the scheme promotor.</p>	
7	<p><u>Economic Shocks in SCR</u></p> <p>A report was received providing an update on work to progress a bespoke programme of support which will mitigate economic shock from large scale redundancies across the SCR.</p> <p>Members were asked to note a number of recent significant redundancy announcements which locally amount to c.2485 job losses.</p> <p>It was noted the Tata redundancy experience had enabled an opportunity to develop an encompassing, enhanced support service for employees in similar situations and helped to identify a number of additional lessons to inform potential future activity in this area. However, it was suggested that the government's support for such a proactive undertaking has disappointingly not been forthcoming, with the government asserting that other means of assisting employees should be favoured e.g. Job Centre Plus. Nevertheless, the Board reiterated its belief if the localised, proactive approach and instructed officers to continue to develop the enhanced support service model.</p> <p>Action: Ruth to continue leading work on this matter</p> <p>It was noted that work will be undertaken in partnership with other regions to consider how enhanced support for employees of major employers at risk of redundancy might be improved.</p>	RA
8	<p><u>Developing a New Skills and Employment Strategy</u></p> <p>Set against the context of the ongoing work to refresh the SCR Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), the Board was asked to note intentions to develop a defined and complementary Skills and Employment Strategy.</p>	

	<p>Members endorsed the importance of undertaking this work and suggested this was a means of moving away from what has been to date, more a succession of knee-jerk undertakings, reactively taken on in response to funding opportunities and government announcements.</p> <p>Members recognised the need to ensure all stakeholders are involved in this work and have the opportunity to endorse the strategy. It was suggested this work may benefit from University-led support.</p> <p>The group was informed that City and Guilds have embarked on the development of a similar review of activity in comparison to strategy.</p> <p>Action: Mel to circulate further details</p> <p>It was agreed the CA / LEP need a Skills and Employment Strategy but ideally need to avoid being perceived as organisations that write strategies, rather than deliver against actions.</p> <p>Members questioned whether the stated timescales are achievable, suggesting it would be preferable to get the strategy right.</p> <p>The Board therefore considered the process via which the strategy should be initially scoped out and then further developed. It was suggested this should culminate with a conference style launch at which all parties would have the opportunity to endorse the strategy and its objective-led ambitions.</p> <p>Action: Claire (with support from SEB colleagues) to devise the strategy's road-map and circulate information for comment</p> <p>Members noted the importance seeking best practise internationally and welcomes the role the 'expert panel' will play in helping to shape the strategy.</p>	<p>MU</p> <p>CB</p>
9	<p><u>Agree Items for Combined Authority – 1st August</u></p> <p>It was suggested there will be a requirement to report the future of ESIF to the CA at some point and the potential effects on programmes consequent of what is becoming an increasingly opaque funding picture.</p>	
10	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p>	

	No further items requested.	
12	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> 25 th August, 8.30am at AMP, Waverley Rotherham.	