

SCR SKILLS EXECUTIVE BOARD

12th JANUARY 2017

BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD

No.	Item	Action
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>Present:</p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Cllr Chris Read, RMBC - Chair Jo Miller, DMBC</p> <p><u>In Attendance / Advisory Members</u> Conor Moss, SHU Ruth Adams, SCR Exec Team Roz Bentley, SCR Exec Team Dave Brennan, SCR Exec Team James Farr, SCR Exec Team Paul Jagger (TRC), Dan Fell, DCoC Simon Perryman Paul Corcoran, Sheffield College Tom Smith, Barnsley MBC Tony Tweedy (SCC) Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit</p> <p>+ Tim Allan (York Consulting) for item 6</p> <p>Apologies were received from Board Members: Nigel Brewster (LEP), Julie Kenny (LEP), Cllr Ann Syrett, (BoDC) and Dorcas Bunton (DDDC) + Melanie Ulyatt (OnetoOne Support Services) and Richard Howard (SCC / SCR Executive Team).</p>	
2	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th November were agreed to be an accurate record.</p> <p>It was confirmed all actions are complete and updates were to be addressed under the substantive agenda items.</p>	

3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Jo Miller, Paul Jagger and Simon Perryman declared an interest for item 8 on the back of work undertaken in partnership.</p>	
4	<p><u>Urgent Items / Announcements</u></p> <p>No urgent items were requested.</p>	
5	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>An update report on matters of significance was provided for Members information.</p>	
6	<p><u>Skills and Employment Strategy Development</u></p> <p>A verbal update was provided on the strategy, noting that work is progressing rapidly.</p> <p>It was noted this would be a substantive item at the next SEB meeting (23rd February).</p> <p>Tim Allan thanked all board members for their participation.</p>	
7	<p><u>Establishing the Local Integration Boards across the SCR</u></p> <p>A report was received requesting the Board’s consideration of the suggested framework for mobilising the Local Integration Boards and that this be recommended to the CA for adoption and implementation</p> <p>It was agreed that this work needs to facilitate the incorporation of local flexibilities; noting that each district is in a different ‘place’.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board recommends the “Framework for Delivering Employment Support in the SCR” (presented at appendix 1 to the report) to the Combined Authority.</p>	
8	<p><u>Skills Capital – RNN Group Ltd – Centre for Higher Level Skills</u></p> <p>A paper was presented to provide an update to the Board on the current status of the proposal submitted and to provide a summary of the Moderation Panel feedback following the appraisal of the third iteration of the Full Business Case (FBC) which was re-submitted to the SCR Executive Team on the 8th October 2016.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that in appraising the previous versions of the FBC, the moderation panel 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 second iteration of the FBC.</p> <p>It was confirmed the Appraisal Panel has determined that the third iteration has clarified all of the above supported by strong evidence of employer engagement.</p> <p>It was noted the appraisal at this stage, doesn't go beyond capital appraisal.</p> <p>Members questioned how this scheme will fit with the wider Apprenticeship Hub ambition and discussed the ambition and expected increased demands for higher apprenticeship places going forward.</p> <p>Action: Ruth / Roz to commence the process of quantifying synergies between the various Apprenticeship 'offers'</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board endorse progression of the Centre for High Level Skills to Full Approval and Award of Contract at a cost of £3,513,134, subject to the conditions set out in the Project Approval Summary Table attached at Appendix 2 to the report. Noting that endorsement of this recommendation is subject to approval by the SCR CA.</p>	<p>RA / RB</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><u>Apprenticeships Update</u></p> <p>Following up on the initial presentation received at the last meeting. An update presentation was provided on SCR's emerging apprenticeship ambitions.</p> <p>It was noted that at the last meeting it was agreed an action plan should be developed to assist learners, employers and providers in SCR with government's planned reforms to apprenticeships and requested that the action plan include a focus on activities that can be undertaken in the coming months, ahead of the changes taking effect from April 2017</p> <p>Members were reminded of the key forthcoming changes to apprenticeship delivery including a new funding model (including application of the levy which will go live in April/May this year), the new register of apprenticeship training providers (for levy-paying employers) and SFA ITT for delivery to non-levy payers, the Digital apprenticeship system (DAS) via which levy-</p>	

paying employers will manage payments and delivery, and new 'apprenticeship standards' replacing existing frameworks.

It was noted the action plan has been divided into 3 key objectives:

- Objective 1: To support employers to develop high quality apprenticeship programmes
- Objective 2: To ensure the SCR-based apprenticeship providers have the capacity to respond to changes in apprenticeships, including trailblazer standards
- Objective 3: To stimulate learner demand for apprenticeships

The Board was presented with the detailed activities, lead responsibilities and timescales for implementation / delivery and rational / impacts for each objective. A further commentary on current provision and gaps identified was also provided in respect of each Objective.

Members thanked James for his work to date and acknowledged the difficulties involved with planning for an ever changing picture. It was suggested we will need to track all actions carefully to avoid unintended consequence and minimise risk to delivery.

Members discussed the need to prioritise the planned activities. It was agreed that the action to collectively 'identify key standards for SCR economy, linked to skills strategy and curriculum planning activity' should be prioritised and accelerated.

Regarding the need to develop an effective 'call to action', consideration as given to past initiatives that haven't necessarily worked as expected and from which lessons may be learnt. It was also suggested our actions must pursue an ambition of inclusive growth and aligned to what the SCR is trying to deliver. It was therefore suggested there may be merit in developing a specific 'SCR apprenticeships' brand to promote the variety of opportunities to a local audience.

Consideration was given to whether a UCAS style process of potential candidates seeking full / part-time apprenticeships might be feasible. It was noted UCAS have been asked to devise a pilot for such a model.

It was acknowledged this is a complex subject involving a number of participants

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	<p>Action: James to incorporate the Board members' comments received in developing the Apprenticeships Action Plan</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board endorse the proposed actions and agree to receive updates at future meetings, including fully developed business plans</p>	
10	<p><u>Devolution and Programmes Update</u></p> <p>A report was provided to give the Board an update on key aspects of the Devolution Deal in relation to Skills and Employment and activity on current key programmes.</p> <p>It was noted a more detailed update on changes to devolved Adult Education Budgets is to be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>Regarding Area Based Review, it was noted a tender has been released for the curriculum review aspect and it is intended a contract will be awarded shortly.</p> <p>It was noted a stocktake of Skills Bank performance is to be undertaken. It was noted there are apparent issues with underspend but these may dissipate due to some large deals pending.</p>	
11	<p><u>Forward Plan</u></p> <p>The Forward Plan to May 17 was provided for information.</p> <p>Action: ALL to submit any further suggestions for agenda items to Ruth</p>	RA
12	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>No further matters noted.</p>	
13	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>23rd February 2017</p>	