

**SCR SKILLS EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017**

**BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD**

No.	Item	Action
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Present:</p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Cllr Chris Read, RMBC – Chair Julie Kenny, LEP</p> <p><u>In Attendance / Advisory Members</u> Conor Moss, SHU Ruth Adams, SCR Exec Team Andrea Fitzgerald, SCR Exec Team Dave Brennan, SCR Exec Team Krysia Wooffinden, SCR Exec Team Paul Jagger, TRC Tony Tweedy, SCC Jennefer Homes, DMBC Melanie Ulyatt, OnetoOne Support Services Simon Perryman , Barnsley College Paul Corcoran, Sheffield College Tim Allan, York Consulting Tom Smith, Barnsley MBC Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit</p> <p>Apologies were received from Board Members: Nigel Brewster (LEP), Jo Miller (DMBC), Cllr Ann Syrett, (BoDC) and Dorcas Bunton (DDDC) + Dan Fell (DCoC)</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Advisory attendees noted a number of instances of association with projects and schemes directly and indirectly related to SCR activity.</p>	
3	<p><b><u>Urgent Items / Announcements</u></b></p> <p>None received.</p>	

4	<p><b><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February were agreed to be an accurate record.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>An update report on matters of significance was provided for Members information.</p> <p>At item 7 (CEIAG) Strategy, the Board was informed that ‘quote’ should read ‘note’.</p> <p>At item 10 (AGE): it was noted the requested advice note detailing why ‘this is money well spent’ would be circulated shortly.</p> <p>It was also noted the separate Skills Bank discussion session has been scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> May.</p>	
6	<p><b><u>Employment and Skills Strategy</u></b></p> <p>The Board was provided with a presentation outlining the 5 proposed conditional outcomes of the strategy and recapping the work undertaken to date.</p> <p><b>Action: Tim to circulate a copy of the presentation</b></p> <p>It was noted this work is intrinsically linked to the refresh of the SEP and further work will be scheduled to accord with SEP development.</p> <p>The Board was introduced to the 5 proposed conditional outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improvement in Key Stage 4 educational attainment across the SCR</li> <li>2. Increasing the number of 19 year olds achieving a high quality level 3 qualification (and closing the free school meal gap)</li> <li>3. Improving workforce skills profile, especially ay level 3 and above</li> <li>4. Increasing the SCR employment rate</li> <li>5. Greater levels of graduate talent retention.</li> </ol> <p>It was noted outcome targets will be developed in due course, aligned to the SEP refresh.</p> <p>The rationale for each of the conditional outputs was provided, noting statistical national comparisons with the SCR.</p>	TA



(AEB) and to seek endorsement from the Board for key decisions in relation to this initiative.

The report noted that officers are preparing for the implementation of AEB devolution by 18/19. This work has included data collection of delivery in relation to the eight Outcome Agreement priorities (in the absence of appropriate data from the SFA this includes the development of data scripts to be run on providers management information systems), the production of a Provider Delivery Agreement template (this has now been completed by all Block Grant providers), phase 2 meetings with all Block Grant providers (to unpick Responses from Provider Delivery Agreement), ongoing dialogue with Statutory Officers through a Technical Working Group and a paper for the Statutory Officers Working Group and the development of a template to establish the financial health of providers and the impact of any changes

However, it was also noted that some of the previously communicated milestones towards devolution have not yet been met, for example relevant Orders have yet to be laid in parliament and the framework setting out the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders is awaited from the Department.

The potential effect of Brexit-related matters and government departmental changes were noted. It was agreed there is a requirement to keep abreast of all risks.

The Board asserted the need to continue to ensure 'provider stability' whilst changes to AEB through devolution are developed.

Consideration was given the potential for 'our AEB' to be spent outside the region. It was suggested a flexible approach to be taken to this matter providing the funding benefits SCR residents.

The Board was informed it is expected that the Government's approach to localities budgets will be communicated shortly and understood that the Government, like the Combined Authority, remains committed to devolution of AEB (as referenced in the 2016 Autumn Statement).

**RESOLVED, that the Board**

- 1. Notes progress towards devolution of the AEB.**
- 2. Notes that whilst SCR and government are still working towards full devolution of budgets in 18/19, this year will be jointly managed as a transition year, with full**

	<p><b>implementation of the SCR Outcomes based approach happening in 19/20.</b></p> <p><b>3. Notes progress will be subject to the Combined Authority agreeing to the Devolution arrangements, when the details of this have been finalised by Government.</b></p>	
8	<p><b><u>Institutes of Technology</u></b></p> <p>A paper was presented to inform the Board that the Government has recently provided further information on its approach to Institutes of Technology (IoTs), describing a national competitive process beginning in the spring with final decision being taken in the autumn.</p> <p>The paper proposed how this should be progressed by the SCR.</p> <p>It was noted the Government has identified a chronic shortage of high-skilled technicians below graduate level (Levels 4/5) in England, with few people undertaking higher-level skills, while industry demand for these skills is growing, driven by the pace of technological change. As a response to this, the Government will be launching a call for proposals to establish Institutes of Technology in Spring 2017 and applicants will be able to bid into a £170m fund to establish institutions which specialise in delivering the higher level technical skills that employers need, in areas with evidence of a higher-level skills gap and clear learner demand.</p> <p>It was noted potential applicants have been asked to submit an expression of interest by registering their email address prior to the call for bids.</p> <p>The draft expression of interest was provided for comment.</p> <p>Questions were raised regarding what process had been followed to determine the 'partnership leads'. It was noted this matter was to be discussed at the next College Principals meeting.</p> <p>It was noted the Government has already indicated an expectation that IoTs will have a clear identity and must meet a number of pre-determined critical success factors. These were reiterated in the report.</p> <p>In addition, it was noted the Government is clear on its expectation that only 1 proposition may be submitted by each applicant. A 'hub and spoke' model will be considered to meet</p>	

	<p>the SCR’s ambitions and Government guidance. It was noted this approach has received support from College Principals.</p> <p>It was noted the Board has previously considered the SCR’s preferred approach to IoTs and has agreed that Doncaster MBC should liaise with the lead civil servants to explore the potential for an Institute of Infrastructure to be an IoT (as agreed in the Devolution Deal) and that three Board members should undertake further work to develop proposals for a Digital Institute (with a focus on Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare Technology and Digital Industries). The SCR has also recently commissioned the production of a Digital Action Plan which, if timings permit, may be used to inform and underpin development of the SCR IoT proposal.</p> <p>The report also suggested manufacturing is likely to emerge as a key priority in the refreshed SEP and this would be reflected in the IoT bid.</p> <p>The Board was reminded this is a competitive process and we will therefore need an ambitious stand-out proposition with an appropriately strong employer dimension.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Notes support for officers developing a high quality IoT proposition for SCR that will demonstrate employer leadership, a local economic impact, a fit with government guidance, be focussed on key sectors, including manufacturing and digital and will fill curriculum gaps, building on excellence and linking to the findings of the Curriculum Review and Digital Action Plan</b></li> <li><b>2. Notes that the final proposal for an IoT will be brought to the May Board for endorsement (or a later meeting of the Board if the final guidance and bidding timescales from Government are further delayed).</b></li> </ol>	
9	<p><b><u>Early Intervention Employment Support Pilot</u></b></p> <p>A paper was received asking the Board to note the likely commencement of the Early Intervention Employment Support Pilot.</p> <p>Members were reminded the Devolution Deal paved the way for the SCR to propose an employment support pilot programme.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that subject to a favourable DWP announcement and SCR CA acceptance of the offer, the programme will commence in May 2017 and continue for a period of 5 years.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the Indications are for a favourable announcement from the Minister for Employment because it will give the Department insight into how stronger integration of local services coupled with early intervention can deliver outcomes for DWP customers.</p> <p>The paper therefore asked the Board to endorse the implementation of the pilot with a view to the CA formally accepting a devolved budget for this work.</p> <p>It was suggested this initiative represents a fantastic example of the SCR coming together to address an issue of mutual concern.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Endorse work to date on the Early Intervention Employment Support Pilot, noting that the Managing Director of the Combined Authority Executive be asked to mobilise implementation of the Early Intervention Support Pilot.</b></li> <li><b>2. Note that in order to quickly progress the due diligence and implementation phase, endorse the SCR testing a two contract delivery model with the market.</b></li> </ol>	
10	<p><b><u>Health Led Employment Trial</u></b></p> <p>A report was received asking the Board to endorse the SCR Health Led Employment Support Trial proposal, noting that acceptance of the grant is a decision of the CA.</p> <p>It was noted that following endorsement, work will continue on the implementation of the Trial and referrals are expected to start in September 2017.</p> <p>A recap of announcements and work to date was provided.</p> <p>It was again noted the SCR Health Led Employment trial will introduce a new work and health support service consisting of employment specialists in a GP surgery, or other healthcare settings, taking voluntary referrals from health professionals or individuals will be able to self-refer. This voluntary trial is for SCR residents with mental health and/or musculoskeletal issues (e.g. back problems) whether they are out-of-work- and seeking to move into paid work or in employment but off sick or at risk of</p>	

	<p>losing their employment because of their health issue. The initial trial geography will cover the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw districts of the SCR.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the SCR Health-Led Trial proposal and its principles.</b></p>	
11	<p><b><u>Skills Bank Update</u></b></p> <p>A report was presented providing an update on the delivery of the Skills Bank Programme.</p> <p>It was noted the SCR Skills Bank works in support of the SEP ambition to increase GVA in the region by 10% (£3bn) through delivering interventions which help employers meet their skills challenges which are serving as a blockage to growth. The Skills Bank also helps to provide the training needed to address a shortfall of around 30,000 higher skilled people in the region by investing £17.1m funding across two funding streams.</p> <p>It was noted that a lower level of expected spend is a result of less than expected learner unit costs.</p> <p>It was noted a local authority disaggregated report available on request.</p> <p>Additional information was provided in respect of some specific employer case studies.</p> <p>It was noted a session with PwC to discuss Skills Bank matters in more detail has been scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>It was noted resolution is being sought with the SFA in respect of a number of matters.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board notes the information contained in the report and the invitation to submit questions to PwC to address any outstanding questions.</b></p>	
12	<p><b><u>Forward Plan</u></b></p> <p>The Forward Plan to July 17 was provided for information. It was noted this is subject to change due to the SEP refresh sessions.</p>	
13	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>No further matters noted.</p>	
14	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p>	



	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 8.30am, Broad Street West, Sheffield	
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