

**SCR SKILLS EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017**

**BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
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 Nigel Brewster, LEP</p> <p><u>In Attendance / Advisory Members</u> Andrea Fitzgerald, SCR Exec Team Dave Brennan, SCR Exec Team Andrew Hartley, Sheffield College Krysia Wooffinden, SCR Exec Team Paul Jagger, TRC Karen Challis, SCR Executive Team Tom Smith, Barnsley MBC Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit</p> <p>Apologies were received from Board Members: Jo Miller (DMBC), Cllr Ann Syrett, (BoDC) and Dorcas Bunton (DDDC) + Dan Fell (DCoC), Simon Perryman (Barnsley College), Paul Corcoran (Sheffield College), Conor Moss (SHU) and Melanie Ulyatt (OnetoOne Support Service),</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Nigel declared an interest at item 7 (CEIAG) noting he is engaged with the Board overseeing the Doncaster Opportunity Area initiative.</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 6<sup>th</sup> April were agreed to be an accurate record.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>An update report on matters of significance was provided for Members information.</p> <p>Regarding Institutes for Technology (for which a final proposal will be brought to a future meeting for endorsement subject to final guidance and bidding timescales being announced by the Government), the Board was informed of an apparent wording change in the manifesto. It was noted tis is being investigated as to whether it constitutes a material change. Government announcements on Institutes of Technology are expected soon.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b><u>Devolution of the Adult Education Budget</u></b></p> <p>A paper was presented to provide the Board with information regarding recent communications from the Department for Education (DfE) in relation to the devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB), including a copy of the letter received from Philippa Lloyd (DfE) on 7<sup>th</sup> April setting out the DfE’s ‘plans’.</p> <p>A supporting presentation was also provided covering a recap of what will be delivered in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and details of activities currently being undertaken by officers in support of budgetary devolution.</p> <p>It was noted the implementation timeline had been affected by the General Election (and period of purdah) and the government’s revised timetable is still awaited.</p> <p>It was noted that existing contracts will be effectively rolled over into the transitional year and the intention is that full devolution will commence from 2019/20. It was suggested this delay provides an opportunity for additional data collection and task and finish initiatives will be commissioned to look at specific matters in more detail e.g. payment structures and commissioning strategies and enhanced knowledge of how delivery agents operate.</p> <p>It was noted all AEB devolution areas are to submit a jointly authored letter to Philippa Lloyd requesting clarity on the government’s devolution timetable.</p> <p>It was confirmed the required preparatory work on area based review has been undertaken as per AEB devolution requirements. However, there are a number of other ‘readiness</p>	

	<p>conditions' for devolution that will be determined by government and are currently unknown.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the actions proposed to support implementation of devolution by the SCR Executive team</b></p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b><u>Career, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance</u></b></p> <p>A report and supporting presentation were received requesting the Board's agreement of the final draft of the Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy for SCR (noting this has been informed by comments made in respect of earlier iterations presented at previous meetings), and to confirm contracts with the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) for two new areas of work.</p> <p>The Board was provided with an explanation of the latest changes made and also the role and responsibility of the SCR in respect of the Doncaster Opportunity Area (DOA) and Enterprise Adviser Network Grant Offer initiatives. It was noted the CEC have been keen to channel all monies through the same route and provide the SCR (and other administrations with devolution) with the ability have a vested interest in the success of all devolution based schemes.</p> <p>The Board Members subsequently sought assurances that appropriate due diligence had been observed in assessing how these arrangements will impact on the SCR and that no additional liabilities are being introduced. It was confirmed all appropriate checks had been undertaken.</p> <p>Next steps were noted.</p> <p>The Board endorsed and welcomed the proposals but suggested the SCR needs to be continually mindful of cohorts e.g. 'neets' that are still not being captured by the raft of SCR employment initiatives.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Agrees the final draft of the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy.</b></li> <li><b>2. Endorses the decision for the continuation of funding for the Enterprise Advisor network and the grant received for the Opportunity Area of Doncaster to sit within Doncaster Chamber for contract management purposes.</b></li> </ol>	

<p>8</p>	<p><b><u>Employment Pilots (Early Intervention and Health-Led)</u></b></p> <p>A report was received to provide the Board with an update on the progress and implementation of the two employment support programmes for the SCR (early intervention and health-led).</p> <p>It was noted a version of the report is due to be presented to the forthcoming Combined Authority meeting to seek approval (should the Combined Authority be successful in securing the Early Intervention Employment Support Pilot), for the Finance Director to accept this grant offer on behalf of the Authority, after considering acceptable all the terms and conditions imposed by the grant awarding body.</p> <p>A supporting presentation demonstrated how the employment pilots fit with other SCR employment initiatives, how the initiatives will play out practically through the various routes of referral and partnership working with other agencies and next steps including the commissioning of consultation and establishment of agreed programme governance protocols.</p> <p>It was noted the intention is for both programmes to go live from November 2017.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the actions proposed to support implementation of the programmes by the Executive team and agree their support of the proposals should be reported to the Combined Authority.</b></p>	
<p>9</p>	<p><b><u>Skills Bank Update</u></b></p> <p>A report was received to provide an update on developments affecting the implementation of the Skills Bank.</p> <p>It was noted the matter had been reported at the previous LEP Board at which Board members were informed of recent 'policy shifts' by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and imposition of stricter rules on funding which threaten to unbalance the programme and introduce a number of risks to current delivery activity due to the insistence that Growth Deal funding be used ahead of European funding.</p> <p>It was noted that the LEP Board, dismayed, agreed that the Chair, Deputy Chair and Head of Paid Service, continue to escalate this matter within all government departments and with Ministers the need to find a strategic and satisfactory resolution. The LEP Board also delegated programme management decisions regarding the Skills Bank to the Head of Paid Service,</p>	

	<p>in conjunction with the Chair / Vice chair, with updates being provided to the LEP Board.</p> <p>It was noted the Executive Team officers are looking at how the risks might be partially mitigated by alternations to financial allocations such as the inclusion of more local growth fund money (from the previous year's underspend) or finding new ways to spend ESF.</p> <p>The Board was advised of the potential outcomes that may arise is the situation doesn't change, including the risk that ESF funding may have to be handed back to the DWP.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED, that the Board note the actions agreed by the LEP Board</b></p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b><u>Forward Plan</u></b></p> <p>The Forward Plan to October 2017 was provided for information.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>No further matters noted.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 8.30am, Broad Street West, Sheffield</p>	