

SCR SKILLS EXECUTIVE BOARD

23rd NOVEMBER 2017

RIVERSIDE, ROTHERHAM

| No. | Item | Action |
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| 1 | <p><u>Present and Apologies</u></p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Cllr Chris Read (RMBC) – Chair Laura Bennett (SCR LEP) Jo Miller (DMBC)</p> <p><u>In Attendance / Advisory Members</u> Krysia Wooffinden (SCR Exec Team), Tim Allan (York Consulting) and Craig Tyler (JAGU)</p> <p>Apologies received from Prof Chris Husbands (SCR LEP)</p> | |
| 2 | <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest were noted by Board members in relation to the matters to be considered.</p> | |
| 3 | <p><u>Urgent Items / Announcements</u></p> <p>None received.</p> | |
| 4 | <p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>It was suggested the matters referenced within the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th April 2017 have been superseded by a number of subsequent events.</p> <p>It was noted any matters arising would be addressed under the substantive agenda items.</p> | |
| 5 | <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>As item 4.</p> | |
| 6 | <p><u>Skills, Employment and Education Delivery Plan</u></p> | |

The Board was provided with the latest version of the draft plan.

The report noted that following the presentation of the previous iteration in April 2017, work on the plan was paused to take into account the emerging work around the SCR's Inclusive Industrial Strategy (formerly Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)) and realisation the plan needs to be written in support of that strategy (the Skills, Employment and Education Delivery Plan being one of 5 thematic plans supporting the City Region's Inclusive Industrial Strategy).

The Board was reminded of the underlying principles driving the plan's development and informed of where some supporting information and monitoring metrics are still to be determined

Comments were invited, especially in respect of whether it is considered the plan has the right strategic elements and whether the proposed 'additional activities' adequately capture the SCR's ambitions.

It was suggested an ambition of the SCR LEP might be to guarantee every young person a positive work experience.

The Board was walked through the 3 proposed programmes of work and noted in-principle support for these, suggesting past discussions around the plan's contents and how it should be structured had been appropriately captured.

A number of specific comments were made regarding how the plan may be improved, and agreed these would be incorporated.

General observations made were:

- Where possible the plan needs to demonstrate the 'pathways to success' and indicate what actions within the CA / LEP's gift (i.e. as 'broker / commissioner' rather than 'deliverer') will be taken to redress barriers and how these actions could 'make excellence thrive'.
- The concepts are currently better than the words and the programme of works descriptors need to be simplified to make them more meaningful to a general audience.
- More links need to be made to digital skills agenda throughout the plan.

The Board discussed how the plan once finalised and published might be more widely publicised, acknowledging the LEP isn't capable of reaching the local business communities in their entirety.

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| | <p>The Board discussed the problem of fragmentation in the apprenticeships' providers and participants' environment and lamented the current lack of a UCAS-style brokerage facility capable of bringing these 2 elements together in a single 'market'. It was suggested some popular dating apps might offer a model for how such an approach could work in principle.</p> <p>Regarding metrics, the Board considered the need to be realistic in respect of what can be achieved during the limited lifespan of the plan (3yrs). It was therefore suggested some additional shorter term milestones are needed that link to addressing longer term issues. It was acknowledged many of the 'numbers' will need to be drawn from the SCR Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>Action: Tim / Krysia to address the Board members' comments ahead of the presentation of the updated version to the next SEB meeting.</p> | |
| 7 | <p><u>Devolution Update</u></p> <p>A report was received to provide the Board with an update on key devolution matters.</p> <p>Members were reminded that the back-drop to the report is that the SCR CA has not reached a consensus to consult on the second order which is required for government to transfer to the SCR CA, as a Mayoral CA, the powers and functions of the Mayor. Agreement is a pre-requisite of the transfer of powers for the Adult Education Budget, the Early Intervention Employment Pilot and continued influence over the national Work and Health Programme.</p> <p>It was noted that all active work on Adult Education Budget Devolution has paused.</p> <p>Regarding the Early Intervention Employment Pilot, DWP, despite announcing a £5m contribution to the SCR Pilot in September 2017, have paused the issuing of a Local Integration Board MOU. However, the SCR Executive Team are still progressing, at risk, to submit a bid for ESF match noting that the match is unconfirmed at the time of applying.</p> <p>However, it was noted the DWP Work and Health Programme pilot has been paused and subsequently un-paused. SCR involvement is now contingent on the approval of a MoU which will be sought at the next meeting of the CA.</p> | |
| 8 | <p><u>Skills Update</u></p> | |

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| | <p>A report was received to provide the Board with options for how the LEP and Combined Authority may respond to an ESF Open Call issued by DWP (under priority 2.2 (Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems)).</p> <p>The report reminded the Board that in February 2017, endorsement was given to working with DWP to develop a number of Calls under the European Social Fund (ESF) to meet the strategic priorities of the Sheffield City Region (SCR) and to ensure we maximised spend prior to leaving the European Union. Subsequently the Skills Hub initiative has been developed. This will be closely aligned to the SCR Growth Hub and act as a focus for advice for employers on options available to them in relation to up-skilling/training their staff.</p> <p>It was noted the LEP has a reserve of £1.2m (which was generated as surplus from the pilot of Skills Bank) and therefore recommended that this be used as match to bid directly for the ESF.</p> <p>It was noted the Call under 2.2 for the Skills Hub also has a direct reference to future activity commissioned under Priority 2.1 (enhancing equal access to lifelong learning). The Executive Team are currently undertaking a detailed scoping exercise in relation to this call and to reflect on the second phase of the LEP agreement for the Skills Bank. Further information will be brought to the next Board in relation to this matter.</p> <p>It was confirmed a full assessment of the financial implications of the proposal will be undertaken once the scale and preferred delivery model has been developed.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the submission of a bid under Priority 2.2 for the Skills Hub, utilising LEP retained Skills Bank monies of £1.2m as match and recommends this approach to the Combined Authority and LEP Board.</p> | |
| 9 | <p><u>Employment Programme Board</u></p> <p>A report was received proposing the governance arrangements for the Employment Support Programmes across the SCR.</p> <p>The report noted the Programme Board will report to the SCR SEB which will provide senior sponsorship and oversight to these innovative programmes.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the suggested Terms of Reference (ToR) for the new Employment Programme Board.</p> | |

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| 10 | <p><u>Skills Executive Board Membership</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to whether any changes need to be made to the wider invitees list to aid and assist the capability of the Board to undertake its required business.</p> <p>It was noted the Board members would have an off-line conversation regarding this matter and proposals will be presented in due course.</p> | |
| 11 | <p><u>Skills Bank Update</u></p> <p>The Board was advised of complexities arising from the Growth Deal funding that affect consideration around the future evolution of the current skills bank offer. It was noted options are being worked up for presentation to the CA.</p> | |
| 12 | <p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>i) <u>Hard to Fill Vacancies</u> The Board was provided with early notice of intentions to commission a cross-thematic study into how to address hard to fill job vacancies.</p> | |
| 13 | <p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>11th January, 2018, time TBC</p> | |
| | <p><u>Additional Matters agreed by Written Procedures</u></p> <p>As per the Combined Authority policy on determining matters which fall outside the usual reporting timetable but require recommendations to made to the Combined Authority for approval. The following additional matters have been agreed by the Board:</p> <p>Skills Capital – Endorsement of the launch of a small Skills Capital procurement exercise with immediate effect which directly supports the recommendation of the Post 16 Curriculum Review for specialist equipment and small scale remodelling to support L3 and above technical occupations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) related provision, and recommend this matter to the CA for approval</p> <p>Institutes of Technology – Endorsement of the submission for an SCR Institute of Technology Expressions of Interest</p> | |