

SCR SKILLS EXECUTIVE BOARD

22nd FEBRUARY 2018

BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFFIELD

No.	Item	Action
1	<p><u>Present and Apologies</u></p> <p><u>Board Members</u> Prof Chris Husbands (SCR LEP) Laura Bennett (SCR LEP)</p> <p><u>In Attendance / Advisory Members</u> Tom Smith (BMBC), Krysia Wooffinden (SCR Exec Team), Tim O’Connell (RMBC), Ellie Churchward (DMBC) and Craig Tyler (JAGU) + Conor Moss (SHU) for item 7.</p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Chris Read (RMBC), Jo Miller (DMBC), Dorcas Bunton (DDDC), David Ayre (DMBC), Paul Woodcock (RMBC) and Eve Waite (SCC).</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest were noted by the Board Members present 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>The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January were agreed to be an accurate record.</p>	
5	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>A precis of matters arising in relation to the agenda items of the previous meeting was provided.</p>	
6	<p><u>Skills Bank</u></p>	

A report and accompanying presentation were received to provide an overview of feedback received to date on the current Skills Bank programme and to inform the Board how feedback has been used to develop a specification for Skills Bank Phase Two. The Board was asked to contribute thoughts on key design feature of Phase 2 ahead of presentation to the next meetings of the CA and LEP.

It was noted that as requested at the previous meeting, feedback has been sought from all parties engaged with Phase One, including employers, training provider and wider stakeholders.

The Board was reminded a number of key decisions have already been made in relation to Skills Bank Phase Two, including the de-coupling of skills brokerage from the Skills Bank contract to provide a more holistic Skills Brokerage service aligned to the Growth Hub, the exclusion of matching European Social Fund (ESF) with Skills Bank funds (this maintains the flexible elements of Growth fund), and the notion that Skills Bank should be viewed as a fund of last resort when all mainstream options have been exhausted

The presentation provided the Board with a precis of the feedback received in relation to Phase One and proposals for how this information is being used to improve Phase Two from the perspective of employers (e.g. more and better information to explain the offer) and service providers (e.g. less bureaucracy) and in consideration of the intended impact of these changes (e.g. potential outcomes other than GVA uplift).

Consideration was given to the matter of salary costs associated with in-house training investment and what the approach should be to Skills Bank funding costs associated with down-time and the salary costs of in-house trainers. It was agreed this usage of funding might be permissible if it complies strictly with the Skills Bank 'fund of last resort' credentials and principles.

The Board's general support for aligning skills brokerage to Growth Hub activities was noted. This included support for the suggestion that activity specialisms be focused against key 'themes' rather than sectors (e.g. scale up capabilities, leadership and digitalisation etc.) rather than industry sectors.

Action: Krysia to capture the Board's sentiments in developing the presentations for the CA and LEP meetings.

RESOLVED, that the Board:

KW

	<p>1. Notes the feedback received in respect of Skills Bank Phase One.</p> <p>2. Endorses the proposed changes for the specification of Skills Bank Phase Two.</p>	
7	<p><u>Institutes for Technology</u></p> <p>A report and accompanying presentation were received to provide an overview on the application process for an Institute of Technology (IoT) and the proposition for an IoT in the SCR.</p> <p>The report reminded Members the IoT initiative is a concept put forward by Government over two years ago as a means to address the high level technical skills gaps faced by the UK. The model proposed for IoT focuses on developing an employer driven curriculum at attainment levels 4, 5 and 6 to develop technical skills across Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.</p> <p>The Board was reminded the deadline for the submission of the SCR Outline Business Case proposition is 1st March and advised of work being undertaken ahead of this date to refine the submission.</p> <p>It was noted there remains an opportunity for a FE college to act as an anchor partner to the bid. The Board asserted the bid should be submitted even if this appointment can't be confirmed prior to the submission deadline.</p> <p>It was suggested that even if the bid is not successful the preparatory work undertaken will still have been a useful exercise capable of informing future initiatives to address the local shortfalls in attainment levels 4 and 5.</p> <p>The Chair advised the Board not to underestimate the strength of ministerial support for the IoT initiative. Consideration was therefore given to how the submission can present itself as a strongly-led, elevated pitch for something exciting and new, capable of capturing attention.</p> <p>Action: Krysia / Conor to incorporate the Board's sentiments in finalising the bid submission.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Board notes the detail of the IoT submission and benefits for SCR.</p>	KW / CM
8	<p><u>Forward Plan</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to matters intended for presentation / discussion at the next meeting. Suggestions were a further</p>	

	update on the IoT submission (noting it is not yet known by when feedback will be provided), CEIAG, the Skills Delivery Plan and an update from the SCR Employment Board.	
9	<u>Any Other Business</u> No further matters noted.	
10	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> 12 th April, 2018, 9.00am at the AMP, Waverley, Rotherham subject to confirmation due to proximity to Easter holidays	