

Committee/Board Name and Date of Meeting:
Education Skills and Employability Board

Meeting Date:
12 December 2022

Report Title
Skills Bootcamps – Wave 4

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Policy Decision
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Jim Dillon, Director of Business and Skills

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Executive Summary

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) has been offered the opportunity to apply for funding to deliver Department for Education (DfE) Bootcamps – Wave 4 in South Yorkshire from 1st April 2023. SYMCA in consultation with local stakeholders has selected three key subject areas to deliver against and is therefore seeking permission to progress with the application.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

Skills Bootcamps will provide South Yorkshire residents, aged 19+, the opportunity to access skills training across identified key sector areas, to help support them progress in work, gain a higher-skilled job and higher paid wages over time.

Skills Bootcamps will also help provide the assistance needed by local employers, for example to deliver targeted interventions to meet short-medium term demand to fill vacancies and drive

productivity. They will support the infrastructure for skills training at place that will help to reduce unemployment and drive economic improvement.

Recommendations

That the board consider and approve:

1. The subject areas for Wave 4.- Skills Bootcamps as set out in paragraph 2.2 below.
2. Delegated authority to Head of Paid services and Chief Finance Officer to apply for Wave 4 - Skills Bootcamps.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

None.

1. Background

- 1.1 Skills Bootcamps form part of the National Skills Fund, a government manifesto commitment to help businesses find and hire the workers they need; as well as supporting adults to flourish and fulfil their potential through high quality training.

Skills Bootcamps are intensive, Level 3-5 or equivalent flexible training courses up to 16 weeks, based on employer / sector 'in-demand' skills needs.

- 1.2 Skills Bootcamp courses are fully funded for the unemployed and self-employed, there are no charges to the individual learner aged 19 or over.
- 1.3 For people who are employed, those at risk of redundancy or moving into a new role Skills Bootcamps will be co-funded at 30% by the employer where the employer is training their own existing employees (reduced to 10% for small or medium enterprises).
- 1.4 SYMCA were successful in their submission for grant funding to deliver Wave 3 but this was deferred due a key provider withdrawal.

2. DfE bootcamps – Wave 4

- 2.1 On the 29th October 2022 the Department for Education (DfE) invited SYMCA to submit a proposal for the DfE Bootcamps – Wave 4 with a submission deadline of 30th November.
- 2.2 The MCA has consulted with key stakeholders to prioritise bootcamps that can be delivered within Wave 4 including:
 - South Yorkshire Colleges Group
 - South Yorkshire Provider Network
 - Local employers
 - Local Authorities
 - Skills for Care / ICS

The Authority is proposing to request £724,000 grant funding from the DfE to deliver skill bootcamps in three subject areas:

- Digital – Software development (80 learners – demand has increased for Software developers by 434% since 2020.
- Construction Green Skills – Retrofitting (60 learners – focus on supporting the social housing retrofit agenda.
- Health / Professional Services – Leadership & Management (40 learners pilot – aimed at first-line managers)

This will be the first time the Authority will deliver the DfE bootcamps and this will mean that there will be up to 3 additional contracts to manage. The Authority's approach is to be conservative in terms of the volume of learners that can be achieved as it establishes a bootcamp offer.

Delivery will commence from 1st April 2023.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

Do not approve the recommendation and do not progress the application for Wave 4.

3.2 Option 1 Risks and Mitigations

The Authority has accepted grant funding from the DfE for AEB, Multiply, UK Social Prosperity Fund (UKSPS) and the Skills Advisory Network. There is a risk of reputational damage to the Authority, with DfE and other key stakeholders such as Local Authorities, employers and training providers, if it does not deliver on this offer.

3.3 Option 2

Approve the recommendation - progress the application.

3.4 Option 2 Risks and Mitigations

The Authority mitigates reputational damage and is in a stronger position for successful, future programme delivery.

3.5 Recommended Option

Option 2

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 4.1 If the Board approves the proposal preparations for procurement will need to be made as soon as possible to commence start of Wave 4 by April 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

- 6.1 We will need to procure the delivery of the bootcamps. It is recommended we begin the procurement process as soon as possible to avoid any delays.

A full cost plan will be devised to support the £724,000 being asked for. No amount is yet in the budget, but will be added when a grant offer letter is read and accepted by the MCA.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

7.1 SYMCA has devolved powers to enable it to deliver the proposed activity. Grant Agreements will need completing with providers to formalise the contracting arrangements.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

8.1 N/A

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

9.1 Appropriate equality and diversity considerations are taken into account as part of the assessment of the programme delivery models.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

10.1 Climate change impact will be assessed as part of the process for proposed activity.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 N/A

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

12.1 It is proposed for Marketing and Communications activity to commence in January 2023 with a view to successfully recruit in March for an April start. Full marketing and communication plan to be implemented as lead provider with support from delivery partners once procurement has taken plan.