

Education Skills and Employability Board

Monday, 20 March 2023

Programme Approvals

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

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Gareth Sutton - Executive Director Resources & Investment.

Report Author(s):

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Executive Summary

This report requests approval to award contracts for the South Yorkshire Bus and Coach Driver Training Programme following completion of procurement, approval of two project mandates to progress through the Assurance process and two change requests.

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

Through the delivery of these programme the MCA is investing in the people and businesses of South Yorkshire which support the MCA's aspirations. Performance information supports the robust oversight and management of this delivery.

Recommendations

1. Approval to award contract/s with the successful organisation/s on completion of the current procurement exercise for the South Yorkshire Bus and Coach Driver Training and Retention programme
2. Approval to progress "Barnsley College Welding and Fabrication Academy" mandate further through SYMCA's assurance process

3. Approval to progress “Aspire to be” mandate further through SYMCA’s assurance process
4. Approval of the slight change in funding applied for the South Yorkshire Bus and Coach Driver Training Programme detailed in 1.1
5. Approval of the changes for in funding allocations for the South Yorkshire Bus and Coach Driver Training and Multiply Contracting detailed in 1.5
6. Approve the recommendation not to progress scheme D0056
7. Delegate Authority to the S73 Officer in conjunction with the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for item 1

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

None.

1. Background

1.1 This report seeks approval from the Board for progression to Business Justification case for two schemes, approval to award contracts for one programme and two change requests. The report also recommends one scheme is not endorsed to progress.

1.2 Scheme Approvals

South Yorkshire Bus and Coach Driver Training and Retention Programme Award of Contracts

In December 2022 the board approved the use of Adult Education budget (AEB) funding for the SY Bus and Coach Driver training and Retention programme. Following further scoping of the programme it was identified that the funding for the programme would be £385k.

The programme aims to increase the supply of bus and coach drivers and supports operators to retain their new staff from the programme.

Stage 1. An awareness raising and myth busting campaign and training programme (minimum 250 learners)

Stage 2. An SME Bus driver training programme leading to PCV certification/licence (minimum 50 learners)

Stage 3. Programme alumnus networking sessions for a period up to 6 months from completing the programme and driver retention planning from operators that have benefitted.

This report seeks approval to enter into contract on completion of the procurement exercise.

1.3 **Barnsley College Welding and Fabrication Academy Progress to BJC**

This investment is seeking £0.50m innovation funding towards total scheme costs of £0.65m

The project will deliver an industry designed and supported training facility for the South Yorkshire region specialising in one of the key skills shortage areas – welding and fabrication. There is potential for this delivery to be widened in 23/24 to include rail working which links closely to the welding industry and represents another key staff skills shortage area.

The funding will be used to provide

- Level 1 and Level 2 welding and fabrication certification
- Level 1 Performing manufacturing Operations,
- Level 1 Metal Inert Gas Welding and
- Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations.

These are the most appropriate programmes and provide the businesses with the baseline skills required to employ the candidates who will then, in most situations, continue to undertake an Apprenticeship Standard at Level 2 or 3 as appropriate to the role they will be undertaking. Currently learners are being trained, at great expense to businesses, near Derby via a small commercial financial arrangement from Barnsley College to allow the subcontractor, Betterweld, to continue in operation.

Further details are included in Appendix A

1.4

Doncaster Deaf Trust
Aspire to Be
Progress to BJC

The project is a unique tailored and individualised non-accredited programme for the people of South Yorkshire who have Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and promotes sector specific learning, independence skills, and mindset change in readiness to enter/re-enter the world of work and or pathways into FE/Apprenticeships where applicable. The programme is designed to build on personal skills and provide opportunities to increase confidence, self-esteem, self-development, and improve their health and well-being.

The programme offers sector specific non-accredited learning at our premises that cover basic industry standards and encompass elements of a Level 1 qualification along with real work environment training in industries, such as: - Hospitality, Logistics/Driving, Warehousing/Distribution and Retail.

The qualifications have been inclusively designed to aid support for those with limited abilities or anxieties that would otherwise be excluded or would not engage in an educational based setting.

The funding will deliver up to 18 months engagement for 200 individuals with SEND who reside within the South Yorkshire region.

Benefits and Outcomes

- 50% into employment for those aged 16 – 60+

- Promote the Disability Confident employers' scheme as a tactic to engage with the SEND community and support employers to fill job vacancies.
- Demonstrate how support via specialist organisations can facilitate the scheme and engage employers to consider potential employees with SEND.
- Contribute to reducing the unemployment rate for those with SEND across the South Yorkshire region
- Promote the success stories and practice developed in Aspire to Be to the SY region and beyond as a partnership initiative with a focus on the development of the inclusion agenda in the SYMCA vision.
- Strengthen the existing relationships with JCP Advisers and other referring agencies and further develop across South Yorkshire.

Further details are included in Appendix B

1.4

Scheme rejection

This report recommends that scheme reference D0056 is not endorsed to progress any further through the Assurance process.

The assurance summary presented in Appendix C outlines the basis for this recommendation. Officers from the MCA have discussed this issue with the scheme sponsor. Opportunities to work with this business on other initiatives into the future remain available

As no budget was formally committed to this scheme its removal from processes does not result in further headroom.

1.5

Change Request

South Yorkshire Bus and Coach Driver Training and Retention Programme

In December 2022 the board approved the use of £385k AEB for the SY bus and Coach Driving and Retention Programme. Following further scoping of the programme it was identified that the funding for the programme would need to be a combination of £370k AEB and £15k Gainshare funding.

This report seeks approval to the change in source of funding

Multiply contracting approach.

In February 2023 the board approved two targeted tenders focused on in-work-based numeracy support (£120k) and capacity building programme (£356k) on a SY basis, that are in need of numeracy provision. Further scoping has resulted in the value for capacity building reducing as there was no requirement in year 1 and an increase in the in-work based numeracy support increasing to include funding a coordination worker due to the employer engagement aspect

This report seeks approval to change the allocation of funding for the activities to:

In work-based numeracy support – £200k
Capacity building programme - £240k

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

Approve all recommendations.

3.4 Option 1 Risks and Mitigations

In choosing not to endorse a scheme to the MCA the region will potentially miss out on the benefits of the investment that may otherwise have accrued. This risk has been considered in reaching the recommendation not to proceed with the scheme

3.5 Option 2

Reject the recommendations

3.8 Option 2 Risks and Mitigations

This would mean the loss of opportunity for Sheffield City Region residents to benefit from the programmes

3.13 Recommended Option

Option 1

4. Consultation on Proposal

4.1 Discussions have been on-going with the Education, Skills and Employability board and other partners

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Subject to board approvals, the statutory officers will move to affect the recommended contract awards for the SY bus and Coach Driving and Retention Programme and development of the schemes at 1.2 and 1.3 will continue.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

6.1 A budget of £350k has been set aside in the 2023/24 budget to fund the bus and coach driver training and retention programme. A total Innovation pot of £1 million has been set aside which is intended to be used to fund the Barnsley College & Doncaster Deaf Trust programmes.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

7.1 The legal implications of the programmes have been fully considered by a representative of the Monitoring Officer.

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 Please also refer to consultation undertaken as per Section 4

12.1 Provision will be promoted in line with the MCA's comms and marketing strategy, working closely with partners to ensure individuals are aware of and able to access the support on offer.

List of Appendices Included:

A Project Mandate - Barnsley College Welding and Fabrication Academy

B Project Mandate - Aspire to Be

C Assurance Summary – D0056

Background Papers

None