

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 26 September 2024

Skills Strategy Implementation

Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Reason why exempt: Not applicable

Purpose of this report: Discussion

Is this a Key Decision? No

Has it been included on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions? Not a Key Decision

Portfolio: Education, Training & Skills

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE

Lead Chief Executive: Kate Josephs

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Fliss Miller, Director for Skills

Report Author(s):

Fliss Miller, Director for Skills

Fliss.Miller@Southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Joe Gardner, Head of Contracts and Performance

joe.gardner@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of the Skills Strategy and sets out the process for the development of the implementation plan.

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

The South Yorkshire Skills Strategy sets out the skills offer to residents and gives certainty that they will be able to access skills training and support. It also provides businesses with certainty over where and how they can access skills training and support for employees to ensure they have the skills they need for their businesses to succeed and grow, while challenging businesses to invest in their workforce and improve the region's skills base.

The Skills Strategy outlines the steps the region will take to support the economy and how the region will build a pipeline of talent that will make South Yorkshire the best place to live and work.

Recommendations

That the Board/ Committee:

1. Note the content of the paper.
-

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 September 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 The Skills Strategy was approved by the MCA Board in March 2024. It was also agreed at that meeting that an implementation plan would be published in Autumn 2024.
- 1.2 In 2022 the MCA began the process of developing a Skills Strategy and appointed Kada Consulting to research and develop an evidence base. This included running workshops with key regional stakeholders on their vision for the skills system in South Yorkshire.
- 1.3 Kada's report was published in summer 2023 and subsequently the MCA began turning findings into a strategic document that sets out the region's priorities. Throughout the process officers engaged with partners and stakeholders frequently on the strategy's development.
- 1.4 The Skills Strategy has three clear missions:
 1. Move those far from the labour market into work or ready for work;
 2. Raise attainment of core knowledge and skills;
 3. Increase the supply of a high-skilled workforce.
- 1.5 The Strategy also identifies seven flagship programmes aligned to the three missions:

1. South Yorkshire Young Person's Offer
2. South Yorkshire Community Hubs
3. Expanding and simplifying Skills Bank
4. South Yorkshire Single Skills and Employment Portal
5. South Yorkshire Technical Offer
6. Good Business Campaign
7. Mayoral Awards

2. **Key Issues**

- 2.1 The Skills team are currently working with partners and stakeholders in the region to develop the implementation plan for the Skills Strategy. As part of this work an outcomes framework, logic model and set of actions are being developed.
- 2.2 The implementation plan is being codeveloped with partners. All constituent authorities have agreed to lead one of the flagship programmes, working in true partnership to deliver the skills strategy.
- 2.3 The South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board (SYSAB) is also taking an active role in the development of the implementation plan, which has representation from key stakeholders from the region.
- 2.4 The Implementation plan will be considered at the MCA Board in November. It is therefore proposed to hold a session with this committee prior to November to review the implementation plan prior to approval at the MCA Board.

3. **Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

3.1 **Options**

The Board is asked to note the updates included in this paper, no options for decision are presented.

4. **Consultation on Proposal**

SYMCA continues to meet with stakeholders across the region (provider leaders, local authority officers, MCA portfolio leads, employers, employer representative bodies and third sector organisations) to discuss and develop the Skills Strategy Implementation plan.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

The implementation plan for delivery of the Skills Strategy will be presented to the MCA Board in November 2024 with delivery to commence following approval.

6. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

The Skills Strategy itself does not have any direct financial or procurement implications, implications of individual interventions will be considered as part of implementation of the strategy.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

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

7.2 The Skills Strategy will contribute towards the MCA Education Skills and Training functions in the Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2020.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

This Skills Strategy sets out the actions the MCA will take to improve skills within the region. The implementation plan will detail how delivery will be resourced.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

An equalities impact assessment has been completed. Overall, the assessment is the impact of the Skills Strategy on characteristics outlined in our EIA framework will be neutral and/or positive.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

The Skills Strategy sets out the framework and action through which we will ensure that the region has the skills needed to tackle the climate crisis and deliver on our net zero goals.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

N/A

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

Communications and Marketing team involved in launch of Skills Strategy, and implications for delivery to be considered as part of implementation planning.

List of Appendices Included:

- A. South Yorkshire's Skills Strategy

Background Papers:

N/A