

Subject: North East LEP – Skills Bootcamps: Green Skills**Report of: Skills Director****Portfolio: All**

Report Summary

The report seeks the approval of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), as the Accountable Body for the North East LEP, to implement the decisions made below by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Board on the 24 March through written resolution procedure.

Recommendations

The Head of Paid Service is recommended to

1. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the North East LEP, in consultation with NTCA's Chief Finance Officer, to undertake a procurement exercise for and then award {to the successful bidders) two contracts to deliver skills bootcamps up to the value of £5million (i.e. in total for the 2 contracts together).

1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

- 1.1 This report reflects decisions that were tabled at the North East LEP Board meeting on the 17 March 2022 and agreed by written resolution procedure on the 24 March 2022. A copy of the report submitted to the Board is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The North East LEP Board agreed to commence a procurement process for the delivery of skills bootcamps and that delegated authority be given to Helen Golightly, Chief Executive and Janice Gillespie, Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 73.Officer) to enter into and approve two delivery contracts subject to approved delegation from the Head of Paid Service for the North of Tyne Combined Authority.
- 1.3 The aim of the Skill Bootcamps is to secure benefits for adults by giving them access to in-demand skills training and a guaranteed interview for a more sustainable, higher skills job and higher wages over time.
- 1.4 All local Enterprise Partnerships were invited by the Department for Education to submit proposals to deliver Skills Bootcamps across their area, based on analysis of skills demand in specific sectors or by specific employers.
- 1.5 The aim of the Bootcamps will be to:
 - deliver flexible training programmes lasting up to 16 weeks, based on employer / sector 'in-demand' skills needs which may be either regulated (i.e. qualification based) or non-regulated (e.g. based on alignment with industry standards) enabling adults to do training around work and other commitments, looking to gain work, additional responsibilities, or access new opportunities and will offer a guaranteed job interview (in the case of a new job) to individual participants on completion of the course.
 - to address the needs of adults (19+) who are full-time and part-time employed, unemployed, returning to work after a break or self-employed, and provide individuals with wider access to opportunities to retrain, update or formalise their skills or acquire specialist skills

- to address the needs of employers and the wider economy, to deliver targeted interventions to meet short-medium term demand to fill vacancies and drive productivity. They will help fill medium-higher level vacancies and bring individuals closer to better jobs, by linking them with line of sight to a job/ different role, additional responsibilities or new opportunities/contracts
- to help fill vacancies and bring individuals closer to better jobs (including those currently in employment), by linking them with line of sight to a job / different role, additional responsibilities or new opportunities / contracts

1.6 The North East LEP's proposal was submitted to cover the full LEP geography and details are documented further in the Appendix. The role of the LEP will be to ensure that delivery partners are procured and that they deliver the programmes of activity against our planned proposals.

1.7 The timeline for delivery is:

Activity	Date
Grant signing	April 2022
Procurement Timeline	April/May 2022
Supply Chain mobilisation	27 th January 22 - June 2022
Employers confirmed	4 th February 2022 and on going
Project Management set up	14 th January 2022
Marketing and Engagement	18 th January 2022 – on going
Learner Recruitment	May 2022
Cohorts first starts	June 2022
Cohorts first completions	August 2022
Candidate first interviews	August 2022

2. Potential Impact on Objectives

2.1 The decision supports the vision and objectives of the North East Strategic Economic Plan.

3. Key Risks

3.1 The North East LEP manages financial, regulatory and reputational risks at both project level and programme level. Individual project level risks for this project are discussed on the programme risk register included in the proposal.

3.2 NTCA's finance and legal officers have considered the proposed recommendations.

4. Financial and Other Resources Implications

4.1 The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the recommendations but also within the attached Appendix. To undertake this proposal the North East LEP is awaiting the outcome of the funding bid.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The comments of the Interim Monitoring Officer have been included within this report.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 All North East LEP funded projects are required to be delivered in accordance with the objectives set out under s149 of the Equalities Act 2010.

7. Inclusive Economy Implications

7.1 The North East LEP follows the policies set out in its North East Strategic Economic Plan that promote sustainable economic growth across the region. The core objective of the North East SEP is to support the creation of 100,000 'more and better' jobs in the region by 2024/25.

8. Climate Change Implications

8.1 The North East LEP through its investment decisions is directly assisting or promoting carbon reduction measures in projects to support a green economic recovery.

9. Consultation and Engagement

9.1 Proposals have been developed through a comprehensive market engagement and research process. We have engaged with over 157 stakeholders and employers through a series of three market events. We collected Expressions of Interest (EoI) from 20 providers to ensure market interest. We have developed a Green Skills Bootcamp proposal against the 3 prioritised sectors as they align to the growth sectors in our Strategic Economic Plan. We have been working with sector stakeholders, undertaken research to evidence skills demand and have well developed strategies and actions plans to meet these evidenced skills needs. A common theme of this research is that the current skills provision in the North East LEP area requires support in order to meet the skills needs and recruitment requirements of these sectors.

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – North East LEP Board Report – 17 March 2022

11. Background Papers

11.1 None

12. Contact Officers

12.1 Michelle Rainbow, Skills Director
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13. Glossary

13.1 NTCA – North of Tyne Combined Authority
13.2 LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership

14. Sign-off

1) Mayor: Yes	2) Director: Yes	3) Chief Finance Officer: Yes	4) Monitoring Officer: Yes	5) Head of Paid Service: Yes
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