

Cambridgeshire Skills Accountability Agreement

To: Communities, Social Mobility, and Inclusion Committee

Meeting Date: 18 May 2023

From: Head of Cambridgeshire Skills

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: To approve the Accountability Agreement for Cambridgeshire Skills.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Approve the Accountability Agreement; and
- b) Adopt the key performance indicators listed in the Accountability Agreement, in addition to those already in place.

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1. Background

- 1.1 An Accountability Agreement is a new requirement for providers that receive in excess of £1m in funding from the Department for Education. It sets out the provider's Vision and Statement of Purpose. In addition, it offers a high-level overview of what and how it intends to deliver with the public money it receives, and the rationale behind those decisions. This will contribute to ensuring that Cambridgeshire Skills delivers high-quality adult education services that meet the needs of learners, employers and the wider community.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire Skills' Accountability Agreement was developed using the Council's Strategic Framework as its foundation and taking the elements most relevant to Cambridgeshire's residents of national policies, such as the government's Skills for Jobs white paper and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, and regional ones, such as the Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Strategy. This information is then combined with local knowledge and data, such as the Census, to develop an offer that meets the different needs of all communities and localities.
- 1.3 Linking the Agreement to the Strategic Framework will evidence effective management and a good use of public funds that is required by showing that decisions are linked to wider plans and aims. On an operational level, this will also be the case with all courses that Cambridgeshire Skills designs and delivers, being linked to at least one of the seven ambitions.
- 1.4 The Accountability Agreement sets out a limited number of priority aims and targets for the year ahead, but not all, that the service has identified as the best use of the funding. These proposed key performance indicators (KPIs) have also been linked to the seven aims in the Strategic Framework.
- 1.5 The annual Accountability Agreement is designed to be used in a range of discussions with local partners, such as the Combined Authority, city and district councils, community organisations, and national bodies, including Ofsted and the Department of Work and Pensions.
- 1.6 The Accountability Agreement will need to be reviewed and updated annually and will have no direct bearing on funding allocations.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The Agreement must set out the provider's vision. It is proposed that the vision should be:

Providing learning that empowers Cambridgeshire's residents and communities to fulfil their potential.

The proposed Statement of Purpose is:

At Cambridgeshire Skills we are committed to providing, and targeting, high-quality learning opportunities that meet the diverse needs and aspirations for the people of Cambridgeshire, with a focus on those most in need. Our purpose is to empower

adults and their communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to achieve their personal and professional goals. We support individuals to adapt to new challenges and opportunities, contribute to their communities and help create a greener, fairer, and more caring Cambridgeshire.

- 2.2 The Agreement also needs to provide some, but not all, KPIs, which are included in the Accountability Agreement attached at Appendix 1.

3. Alignment with ambitions

- 3.1 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes.

The Accountability Agreement sets out how Cambridgeshire Skills will contribute to achieving this aim.

- 3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable.

The Accountability Agreement sets out how Cambridgeshire Skills will contribute to achieving this aim.

- 3.3 Health inequalities are reduced.

The Accountability Agreement sets out how Cambridgeshire Skills will contribute to achieving this aim.

- 3.4 People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs.

The Accountability Agreement sets out how Cambridgeshire Skills will contribute to achieving this aim.

- 3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality.

The Accountability Agreement sets out how Cambridgeshire Skills will contribute to achieving this aim.

- 3.6 Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.

The Accountability Agreement sets out how Cambridgeshire Skills will contribute to achieving this aim.

- 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive.

The Accountability Agreement sets out how Cambridgeshire Skills will contribute to achieving this aim.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications.

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Status: Neutral

Explanation:

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Status: Neutral

Explanation:

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats, and land management.

Status: Neutral

Explanation:

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Status: Neutral

Explanation:

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability, and management:

Status: Neutral

Explanation:

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Status: Neutral

Explanation:

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Status: Neutral

Explanation:

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Clare Andrews

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes

Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or Pathfinder Legal? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Emma Duncan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User?

Yes

Name of Officer: Lisa Riddle

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Christine Birchall

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Lisa Riddle

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Kate Parker/Val Thomas

5. Source Documents

5.1 None