

## Section A: Scheme Summary

<b>Name of Scheme:</b>	Leeds City Region Skills for Growth
<b>Location of Scheme:</b>	Leeds City Region
<b>PMO Scheme Code:</b>	
<b>Lead Organisation:</b>	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>	Michelle Burton
<b>Lead Promoter Contact:</b>	Jane Green
<b>Combined Authority Lead/ Programme Manager:</b>	Jane Green
<b>Case Officer:</b>	Heather Briggs
<b>Applicable Funding Stream(s) – Grant or Loan:</b>	ESIF- grant
<b>Growth Fund Priority Area (if applicable):</b>	Priority 2: Skilled People, Better Jobs
<b>Combined Authority approvals to date:</b>	Activity 1: MD approval 5 September 2019
<b>Forecasted Full Approval Date (Decision Point 5):</b>	20 December 2019
<b>Forecasted Completion Date (Decision Point 6):</b>	December 2022
<b>Total Scheme Cost for the preferred way forward (£):</b>	£2.929 million
<b>WYCA Funding (£):</b>	ESIF- £1.464 million Local Skills Funding- £964,925
<b>Total other public sector investment (£):</b>	N/A
<b>Total other private sector investment (£):</b>	Business Sponsorship- £500,000

<b>Is this a standalone Project?</b>	No
<b>Is this a Programme?</b>	Yes

<b>Is this Project part of an agreed Programme?</b>	No
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<b>A.1</b>	<b>Scheme Description</b>
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The programme will provide a bespoke and tailored offer to businesses, in order to enable them to interact with education in the most appropriate and mutually beneficial way. The programme will create meaningful employer encounters and actively target areas of disadvantage and connect businesses to underrepresented groups within education who may otherwise not gain the opportunity to engage. The local delivery will include Business Partnership Advisers to provide advice that reflects the different offers available in different Local Authority areas in order to effectively support employers based on need. The model will be tailored to respond to significant variation in the scale and approaches of the different LAs, in terms of the resource and models they have in place to support engagement with businesses, schools, colleges and universities.

The Skills for Growth programme builds upon the Combined Authority's experience of delivering services and skills programme and will build on the track record of current programmes linking closely with other business-facing services and products to support businesses to engage with the full breadth of the education landscape in order to improve the relevance of education and training provision.

The main focus of the programme will be to:

- Respond to and engage with businesses to identify issues, concerns, gaps and future needs in relation to skills gaps and recruitment issues
- Involve more employers in awareness raising of their business/ sector with future employees
- Link businesses and a range of learning providers including further and higher education institutions to facilitate understanding by both parties of each other's work, priorities and barriers to engagement and then to facilitate collaborative working.
- Facilitate providers rationalising their curriculum provision to respond to business skills gaps and recruitment issues
- Research, plan and implement a range of projects which bring educations and businesses together, which might include company visits, work experience, industrial placements, internships etc.

The programme aims to:

- Increase the number of businesses offering work inspiration opportunities
- Have improved connections between businesses and education resulting in fewer businesses reporting skills shortages
- More young people being informed about options including apprenticeships as a career route
- More young people benefitting from business interventions

<b>A.2</b>	<b>Business Case Summary</b>
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<b>Strategic Case</b>
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Research from the Education and Employers Taskforce indicates that poor careers education and support limits aspirations, lowers expectations and probability of success for all ages, particularly those who live in areas of deprivation, or whose ethnicity or gender is under represented in certain occupations. It is therefore vital that young people have more encounters with employers. This will benefit both the individuals and business who will be able to ensure that the right skills are developed to all them to succeed.

The programme fits with the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan priority 2: Skilled People, Better Jobs. The programme will shape support for people to access a pipeline of new job opportunities and equip people with the skills needed to progress in work, including low paid workers and those in receipt of in-work benefits.

The LCR Skills for Growth programme will build on the track record of current skills programmes, linking closely with other business-facing services and products, to support businesses to engage with the full breadth of the education landscape in order to improve the relevance of education and training provision. Currently there is no impartial voice supporting businesses to engage with education and access this area of skills development.

### Economic Case

Four options have been considered drawing on experience of delivering other Employment and Skills programmes:

- Do nothing
- Small scale Skills for Growth programme
- Ambitious Skills for Growth programme
- Deliver Skills for Growth programme through an external provider.

The ambitious Skills for Growth programme has been identified as the preferred way forward.

The outcomes of the programme include:

- Enable 300 SMEs to engage with education establishments ranging from supporting employer engagement, influencing the curriculum or offering an industrial placement programme
- Create 300 employer led projects and businesses engagement activities that will impact and engage 1,000 individuals
- Develop teaching resources for 3 key sectors linked to regional LMI to provide differentiated resources for a range of audiences including SEND, university and primary audiences
- Reach 8,000 individuals through a regional Skills Show to highlight practical skills required in key priority sectors and showcase the work of the programme, targeting 30% attendance from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups

### Commercial Case

Evidence from current programmes show a demand for engagement with education. The current Enterprise Advisor Network has engaged with 125 businesses focused on supporting schools which demonstrates that businesses recognise the benefits of engaging with education.

An OJEU procurement exercise will be undertaken to procure subcontractors for the delivery of the Skills Show. The process will be led by the Combined Authority's Procurement team and administration of the framework will be handed over to the Employment and Skills team once they are in place.

### Financial Case

The total cost of the preferred way forward is estimated to be £2.929 million. The programme will be funded through 3 funding sources:

- ESIF- applied for
- Local Skills Funding- secured
- Business sponsorship- unsecured

The outcome of the ESIF bid is expected to be confirmed by the early November 2019.

### Management Case

The programme will be managed by the Combined Authority's Employment and Skills team using MSP and PRINCE 2 methodologies.

For successful delivery of the programme, 8 new Business Partnership Advisers will be recruited along with a Project Manager/ Team Leader to oversee the programme. A Contract Manager and Officer

currently in post are available to enable successful procurement of the Skills Show element. Recruitment to the programme will commence once the outcome of the ESIF bid is known.

It is estimated that the full business case with finalised costs will be approved on 20 December 2019 in order for delivery of the programme to commence from April 2020, once recruitment has finalised. The programme will run until December 2022.