Scheme Summary

Name of Scheme:	**AGE Extension**
PMO Scheme Code:	WYCA-AGE-001
Lead Organisation:	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Senior Responsible Officer:	Sue Cooke, Executive Head of Economic Services
Lead Promoter Contact:	Catherine Lunn, Skills Funding Manager
Case Officer:	Martin Fox

Applicable Funding Stream(s) – Grant or Loan:	LEP AGE (administered by Economic Services, Skills and Employment)
Growth Fund Priority Area (if applicable):	Priority 2: Skilled People, Better Jobs

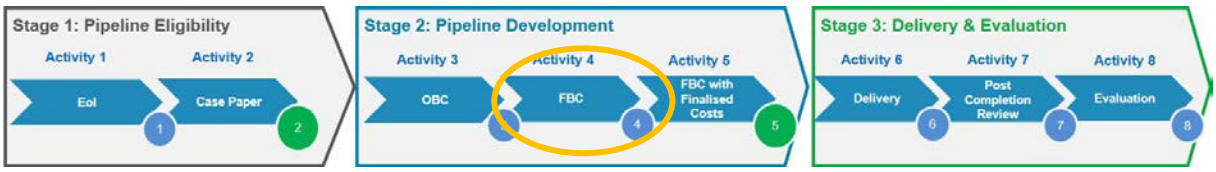
Approvals to Date:	The original AGE Programme funding was provided to the Combined Authority from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and ran 2015-2017. The unallocated funding has been discussed with ESFA, and the Economic Services – Employment and Skills Team have agreed with ESFA that the remaining funding of £1.2 million can be used to provide further support to businesses to offer apprenticeships.
Forecasted Full Approval Date (Decision Point 5):	06/04/2018 – MD approval
Forecasted Completion Date (Decision Point 6):	30/09/2019 Post-delivery evaluation Sept/October 2019

Total Scheme Cost (£):	£1.2 million
Combined Authority Funding (£):	£1.2 million from LEP AGE Funding devolved by ESFA
Total other public sector investment (£):	N/A
Total other private sector investment (£):	N/A

Is this a standalone Project?	N/A

Is this a Programme?	Yes – The funding is to deliver the AGE programme for Grants, funding in accordance with the agreement with DfE and DCLG
Is this Project part of an agreed Programme?	No

Current Assurance Process Activity:



Scheme Description:

The Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) programme is a national initiative to support businesses, who would not otherwise be in a position to do so, to recruit individuals aged 16 to 24 into employment through the apprenticeship programme. The original programme ended in 2017, however the Combined Authority has unallocated funding, which has been made available to progress a follow-on AGE Extension Programme. This has been agreed with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), and endorsed by DfE (Department for Education)/MHCLG (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government).

The AGE Extension programme builds upon the previous delivery of AGE within the city region and establishes a new Grant programme which will utilise unallocated funds of up to £1.2 million. These funds have been devolved to the Combined Authority from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, and will be returned to Government if not used on the AGE Extension Programme.

The aim of the programme is to build on the successes of the original AGE Programme which ran 2015 – 2017, to engage businesses (minimum of 375), who have not previously offered apprenticeships to offer new apprenticeship/employment opportunities (minimum 375 new opportunities). The programme is to encourage and support more businesses to offer apprenticeship opportunities, and has used the lessons learned from the previous AGE programme to deliver a more focused marketing strategy to target businesses meeting the qualifying criteria. The Combined Authority will lead and deliver the programme in partnership with businesses and training providers.

Business Case Summary:

Strategic Case	The AGE Extension Programme has a good strategic fit with the SEP Priority 2 and headline indicators for skilled people and better jobs. This also fits with the national priority to deliver 3 million apprenticeship starts, and is integral to the Employment and Skills Plan 2016-2020 More and Better Apprenticeships. It has the support of ESFA who have agreed that the unallocated funding from the previous AGE Programme can be redeployed in this way. The ESFA have secured approval from DfE/MHCLG to deploy the funding, which has been devolved to the Combined Authority.

Commercial Case	There is a strong commercial case for the programme and analysis of the market demand has been undertaken to verify the benefit in taking the scheme forward as planned. The new programme has been structured to take account of the lessons learned from the original AGE Programme. The market demand has been analysed and demonstrates that there is a significant number of businesses that would meet the criteria and qualify for the Grant funding. The programme will market directly to businesses, and work with partners in the delivery of the Grant programme. Risks have been considered in some detail and a risk register provided with appropriate mitigation measures identified.
Economic Case	Wider Scheme Benefits are identified and an assessment of monetised costs and benefits has been undertaken and a cost profile provided for the administration of the programme. A cost/benefit appraisal has been provided based on the evaluation report from the original AGE programme. A copy of this report is available to PAT members. The deployment of the unallocated funding to the AGE Extension Programme has been agreed with ESFA (, who have in turn secured approval from DfE and MHCLG.
Financial Case	The financial case is appropriate for the scheme, and provides a detailed cost profile for the programme. This is suitable for FBC+. The funding is for Grant payments to businesses meeting the qualifying criteria and is sourced from unallocated funds from the original AGE Programme. The funding is finite at a maximum of £1.2 million, and costs will be managed by the team within this financial envelope. Businesses applying for the Grant will be required to complete a statement on State Aid as part of the application process.
Management Case	The programme benefits from experience of the original AGE Programme, which ran 2015-2017, and lessons learned from that have been incorporated in to the proposals for the extension. The team structure proposed to manage and deliver the programme is appropriate to the requirements of the programme and has the necessary skills and expertise for a successful outcome. A risk register has been provided, and demonstrates a good knowledge of the AGE programme risks that might occur, together with appropriate risk mitigation measures.