



**HEY Skills Board**  
**2.00pm on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Ergo, Hessle**

**Present**

Councillor Aitken, Paul Britton, Mark Burley, Andy Crossland, Iain Elliott, David Gent (Deputy Chair), Rob McNaught, Danny Metters, Michelle Peacock, Councillor Ross, Councillor Tock and Adrian West.

**In attendance**

Alex Codd, Rod Chambers, Chris Howell, Sharon Isaacs, Alan Menzies, Steven Skelton and Councillor Ross.

Dorinda Guy (Democratic Services Officer).

**Apologies**

Jayne Adamson, Anita Halbrook, Lizann Lowson and Susan Weeks.

| Minute No | Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Action By/Deadline |
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| 58        | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b><br><br>A. Cross declared a personal interest in items 61 and 62, insofar he was bidding on both projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                    |
| 59        | <b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025</b><br><br>The Democratic Services Officer submitted, for approval, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026.<br><br><b>Agreed</b> – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026 be approved as a true and correct record.                                                  | Dorinda Guy        |
| 60        | <b>HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY (HEYCA) LOCAL GROWTH PLAN</b><br><br>S. Skelton provided a verbal update on the progress of the Local Growth Plan.<br><br>The Board was informed –<br><br>a. That the Local Growth Plan was a 10 year economic plan and a key policy framework for all combined authorities. Core requirements were to produce a robust economic assessment, develop an |                    |

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|    | <p>investment pipeline and agree shared priorities with Government. Within the LGP skills was a key constraint and therefore a priority, identifying skills and routes into high value employment in growth sectors;</p> <p>b. that the Growth Plan also presented a very clear and prioritised sector framework which was a requirement – identifying growth driving sectors growth potential sectors and growth enabling sectors;</p> <p>c. that a key emphasis of the LGP it was about aligning policy and investment on sectors that would drive growth in the economy, recognising that we needed to back local businesses across the economy so our skills and employment focus and address both points;</p> <p>d. that there was a crucial focus on progression into higher value roles, developing the skills that we needed to create, taking advantage of supply chain opportunities linked to those growth driving sectors and increase the share of employment in the region, as well as the value of those roles, and</p> <p>e. that there was ongoing work between the Combined Authority and the Chamber of Commerce as Employer Representative Body for the Local Skills Improvement Plan – the LSIP required Combined Authority sign off as well as the ERB's.</p> <p>The Board discussed the following matters –</p> <p>a. that not all Board Members had seen the most recent copy of the Local Growth Plan, and that this be circulated as soon as possible, and</p> <p>b. that the main concerns were around alignment and assurances were needed that we were working to a single agenda, and</p> <p>c. that due to timing of the establishment of HEYCA and the development of the Local Growth Plan, these were working parallel to each other.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> – That the most recent copy of the Local Growth Plan, be circulated off agenda as soon as possible.</p> | Chris Howell |
| 61 | <p><b>CONNECT TO WORK/WORK WELL/EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT</b></p> <p><b>(A. Cross declared a personal interest in this item, insofar he was bidding on one of the projects).</b></p> <p>S. Isaacs provided a verbal update on the progress of the Connect to Work Programme.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |

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|    | <p>The Board was informed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That £11.4billion had been granted over 4 years, with its target of 3400 people based on the programme and with a 50% conversion.</li> <li>b. that the Department of Working Pension (DWP) had approved the Delivery Plan;</li> <li>c. that this was now at the procurement stage, and</li> <li>d. that the contract would be awarded in May.</li> </ul> <p><b>Agreed –</b> That the update be noted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 62 | <p><b>ADULT SKILLS FUND</b></p> <p><b>(A. Cross declared a personal interest in this item, insofar he was preparing a response to the open tender).</b></p> <p>S. Isaacs provided a verbal update on the progress of the Adult Skills Fund</p> <p>The Board was informed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. that all the documentation required by the Department for Education (DfE) in readiness for devolution had now been approved. Once the English Devolution Bill had received Royal Assent and the appropriate statutory instrument had concluded, both were expected to go through parliament in May;</li> <li>b. that there had been ongoing discussions regarding 2026-27 funding allocations with all the grant-funded providers as well as visits to community providers;</li> <li>c. that funding would be allocated as a grant to providers, with independent training providers securing funding through an open tender for contracts for services opening 27<sup>th</sup> March with deadline for submission of 24<sup>th</sup> April. Contracts are estimated to be awarded by 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026;</li> <li>d. that there had been a significant cut in terms of the 2026/27 allocation for Skills Bootcamps by 82% nationally, and delivery would move from financial year to an academic year. The reduction in funding would impact on future delivery which would need to be focused on key priority sector areas.</li> </ul> <p>The Board discussed the following matters –</p> |  |

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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. that in terms of the procurement, there had been an overlap in issuing the tendering opportunities around the same time for Connect to Work and Adult Skills Fund tendering process, and</li> <li>b. that we had the 5<sup>th</sup> largest amount of funding during 2025-26 for the Skills Bootcamp programme nationally, and</li> <li>c. that we had achieved the top two position in terms of successful Skills Bootcamp progression.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| <b>63</b> | <p><b>HORIZON SCANNING UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Employment and Skills Manager, HEY Business Growth and Skills Hub submitted a briefing paper which gave details to the Board on new or emerging policy, strategy, research or thought pieces relevant to the work of the HEY Skills Board.</p> <p>The Board was informed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The youth employment drive was backed by £1billion which would help create 200,000 jobs for young people;</li> <li>b. that the government was to set to pilot a university clearance-style system where near miss applicants who did not secure their top choice of apprenticeship would be re-directed to similar opportunities in their area;</li> <li>c. that young people would be able to make the very first V Levels in education, finance and digital in 2027;</li> <li>d. that the Combined Authority was working with the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to develop the plans for Hull and East Riding with the Expansion of the WorkWell programme, and</li> <li>e. that the AI Labour Market Survey report 2025 reported skills gap as it stands was significant, 97% of respondents surveyed identified at least one gap in skills in the AI labour market.</li> </ul> <p><b>Agreed</b> – That the briefing paper be noted.</p> |  |
| <b>64</b> | <p><b>WORK PROGRAMME</b></p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer submitted the Work Programme to update the Board on future agenda items.</p> <p>The Board was informed to contact the Chair of the Combined Authority Skills Board or Democratic Services Officer if they wished to have an item to be considered for the Work Programme.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |

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|           | <p><b>Agreed –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That the Work Programme be noted, and</li> <li>b. that the suggested items be added to the Future Work Programme for discussion at a future meeting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | b. Dorinda Guy |
| <b>65</b> | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The Board was informed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That as agreed at the HEYCA Executive Board on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 the Business Board and Skills Board were to be merged;</li> <li>b. that the initial draft Terms of Reference for the proposed “Business and Skills Board” was being developed by the Chair of the Business Board and would then be forwarded to the Chair of the Skills Board;</li> <li>c. that agenda items would be agreed by both Chairs once the Boards were merged, and</li> <li>d. that Members of both Boards would be required to apply for a position of the merged Boards.</li> </ul> |                |