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Hull and East Yorkshire LEP Audit and Finance Group Paper E – Careers Hub Fiona Headridge, Careers Hub Lead

# 1. Summary

1.1. This paper provides a financial update relating to the Hull and East Yorkshire Careers Hub.

# 2. <u>Recommendations</u>

2.1. The panel notes the financial arrangements for the Hull and East Yorkshire Careers Hub.

# 3. <u>Report</u>

#### 3.1. Background

- 3.1.1. The HEY Careers Hub was formed in September 2021 building on the work of the former Humber Careers Hub which operated from September 2018 as one of the first national Careers Hubs.
- 3.1.2. Careers Hubs are funded by the Department for Education via the Careers and Enterprise Company, with the aim of bringing together schools, colleges, employers, and apprenticeship providers in local areas across England. The goal is to make it easier for schools and colleges to improve how they prepare young people for their next steps.
- 3.1.3. The HEY Careers Hub has expanded and has now engaged all 50 eligible schools and colleges in the region to join the Hub since January 2023. (Previously this was not possible due to funding constraints).
- 3.1.4. Careers Hubs are funded on an academic year cycle (September to August) with a Grant Offer Letter being issued in the Spring Term every year. The Grant Offer Letter comprises of:
  - **Funding allocated for staffing -** based on the number of schools engaged in a Careers Hub. The funding is claimed retrospectively quarterly. The Hubs are allocated 50% of funding towards staff member with the remaining match being required. However the Hub Lead is fully funded.
  - **Key Performance Indicators -** These targets and outputs are reviewed quarterly by the Careers and Enterprise Company in contract review meetings.
  - **Local Hub Fund** an amount of money to enable activity. The amount is calculated on the number of schools in a Careers Hub.

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3.1.5. Careers Hubs are required to find local funding to "match" the contributions from the CEC for the funding of Enterprise Coordinators and Project administrators.

#### 3.2. Funding September 2023 to August 2024

3.2.1. Funding allocated for the HEY Careers Hub for the 2023/24 academic year:

| Role                        | Maximum funding<br>available provided<br>by The Careers &<br>Enterprise Company | Maximum Local<br>Partnership<br>Contribution<br>needed | Maximum<br>Number of<br>FTE Staff<br>Funded       |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Enterprise<br>Coordinator   | £81,267   | £81,267  | 3   |
| Project<br>Administrator    | £17,200   | £17,200  | 1 (shared with<br>Greater<br>Lincolnshire<br>LEP) |
| Strategic Hub<br>Lead (SHL) | £72,000   | N/A  | 1   |
| TOTAL                       | £170,467  | £78,900  | 4   |

a) Staffing:

- b) Local Hub Fund: £50,000
- c) Total funding made available by CEC for 2023/24: £220,467
- 3.2.2. Corporate income has been secured to provide the necessary Local Partnership Contribution needed to maximise CEC funding draw down allowing recruitment of additional Careers Hub staff.
- 3.2.3. With the corporate investment, the HEY Careers Hub is funded as below:

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# 3.3. In year investment to address sector skills needs

- 3.3.1. There is an identified need in the region to ensure young people understand the "Green Skills" needed for the future to ensure employers have access to a well informed and appropriately skilled future workforce. However, to date this has been one of the hardest sectors for schools and colleges to engage with employers.
- 3.3.2. To support employer engagement with the "Green Sector", The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan allocated £26,000 to support employer engagement across the Humber region. Despite advertising twice this role was not filled. A cross Humber employer engagement opportunity is still being pursued and it is hoped that this funding will be utilised in this joint project.
- 3.3.3. In August 2023, the Careers and Enterprise Company selected the Hull and East Yorkshire Careers Hub to participate in a pilot project related to increasing the amount of high-quality workplace Net Zero experiences (500 new placements by 31 July, 2024) for young people. This project has an income of £45,000 to spend before 31 March, 2024. Currently, a steering group has been formed to develop and lead the project and with the delivery of the project being available on an open tender opportunity.

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It is hoped that if this model is successful, it can be rolled out on a national basis to other sectors in the future.

- 3.3.4. The Inclusive Careers project funded by investment from the Integrated Care Board will deliver outcomes associated with the targets set by the CEC for the Careers Hub schools. A small amount of funding from that project has been allocated to ensure there is relevant capacity in the team to manage the project delivery.
- 3.3.5. Other opportunities for additional funding are being actively sought at present to increase the scope and reach of the Careers Hub which will become part of the HEY Strategic Skills Hub from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

#### 3.4. Local Hub Fund

3.4.1. CEC have made an aloocation of £50,000 this year for the Careers Hub to support local delivery against the priorities identified by the Department for Education. The spend of the Local Hub Fund will be monitored by the CEC Area Manager with the Hub Lead and paid termly.

#### 3.5. **Staff**

- 3.5.1. The Strategic Hub Lead role and the Enterprise Coordinator roles are currently funded until 31 August, 2024 with an expectation of continued funding for the next academic year.
- 3.5.2. The Project Administrator role, which supports both HEY and GLLEP Careers Hubs has the Local Partnership Contribution necessary to fund it until 31 March, 2024. HEY LEP and Greater Lincolnshire LEP are looking at possible ways to secure funding for the role until 31 August 2024 in line with other Careers hub contracts.

#### 3.6. Key actions for the next period

- 3.6.1. Deliver the Net Zero experiences of the workplace project
- 3.6.2. Ensure continuation funding beyond 31 March, 2024 for the shared Project Administrator with Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- 3.6.3. Explore funding opportunities to ensure Local Partnership Contributions necessary for 2024/25 academic year.