

Coast to Capital – Skills 360 Board Meeting 12

Thursday 17 June 2021 - 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Board Members:

Frances Rutter (FR) – Chair; Alison Addy (AA); Ana Christie (AC); Christina Dennis (CD); Dawn Redpath (DR); Jenny Andersson (JA); Jonathan Sharrock (JS); Kevin Delf (KD); Liane Richardson (LR); Louise Punter (LP); Robert Pye (RP); Simon Bland (SB); Simon Pringle (SP); Tim Walder (TW); Winston Mahaffy (WM)

Deputies

Alison Barrett (AB)

Officers:

Claire Witz (CW) – Coast to Capital; Kirsten Trussell (KT) – Coast to Capital; Millie Bew (MB) – Coast to Capital

Observers:

Lisa Mobbs (LM) - Coast to Capital

1. Introduction

a) Welcome, apologies and introductions

FR introduced the twelfth meeting of the Skills 360 Board.

Apologies were noted from Ruth Whittaker, Mark Power, Simon Conway and Nick Hibberd. It was noted that Jonathan Sharrock would be late, and that Ana Christie would leave the meeting at 5:00.

FR welcomed Dawn Redpath to the meeting as a new member, and Board members introduced themselves.

b) Minutes from last meeting and Matters Arising

There were no outstanding actions from the last meeting.

c) Conflict of interest

FR read out the standard Conflicts of Interest statement. There were no conflicts arising from agenda items.

2. Local Skills Improvement Plan and Strategic Development Fund

AC gave an overview of the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) proposal submitted by the Sussex Chamber of Commerce, along with an overview of the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) proposal submitted by Chichester College Group on behalf of a consortia of the Sussex FE colleges.

The Sussex LSIP looks at sectors crucial for future economic success (engineering, manufacturing, construction, digital, visitor, cultural, land-based and health and care). Sussex Chamber will take the lead in engaging with businesses, other business networks and stakeholder groups. The Sussex SDF bid will focus on green technologies.

LP gave an overview of the parallel work happening in Surrey. They have brought together a variety of business network groups to understand shared priorities in terms of geography and sectors. Surrey was identified as a priority geography. LP also described a piece of work consulting businesses on their skills requirements – the response was that there is a need for customer service and professional skills, digital skills, health and social care and access to green technology.

LP gave an overview of the Surrey SDF bid, which was submitted by three FE colleges in Surrey and led by Nescot. If the bid is successful then it would enable more employer engagement work to better understand skills gaps.

AC agreed that although there is clearly work going on in Sussex and Surrey to engage with businesses and understand their needs there is more work to be done to fully understand the gaps and work with skills providers to address them.

KT asked what role the Skills 360 Board (and SAPs in the other relevant LEPs) would have in the LSIPs. LP responded that it would be good to see more quantitative research at a LEP level through the SAPs, as the information and data provided so far was helpful in supporting the bids. AC added that it would be useful to have access to the Growth Hubs as they have a prominent presence and are engaged with businesses so are well placed to support with establishing detailed skills needs. KT commented that the Skills 360 Board membership has a wealth of business expertise which should also be tapped in to.

3. Coast to Capital Update

FR introduced JS to present the item.

JS reminded the Skills 360 Board of the current state of the regional economy compared to the national picture. Coast to Capital are tracking behind in terms of contraction compared to nationally.

It is expected that there will be a levelling up white paper in September which will outline proposed approach to regional growth and the role of LEPs. Coast to Capital have introduced a new business plan and structure ahead of this.

JS gave an overview of the new Coast to Capital business plan, with two main priorities:

1. Becoming the leader in engaging with and understanding businesses
2. Identifying and delivering on issues that matter to the region – “Regional Projects”

The regional projects that will be included in the portfolio will be decided at the Coast to Capital Board on 1 July. In total there were 43 project ideas submitted before the deadline, and more since. Requests were submitted from a variety of different stakeholders, from businesses to

education to local authorities. The LEP intend to support the chosen projects in a variety of ways.

The third priority will be to focus on the labour market, skills and innovation.

The re-prioritisation of work has meant an organisational re-structure and subsequent changes in the team. These changes will be communicated to the LEPs funders, along with the new business plan, imminently.

AC asked how the LEP's approach to business engagement would work alongside that of the Chambers as both organisations are business-led. JS confirmed that Coast to Capital are conscious of the role of the Chambers and the intention would be to work collaboratively. There will be a focus on engaging with and understanding large businesses needs, as well as sector specific needs. AC responded that the Chambers also have a sector focus and it will be good to see how the partnership between the Chambers and the LEP can grow and be strengthened.

WM asked what the timeline for implementation for the restructure and new business plan would be. JS confirmed that the re-organisation was almost complete, and the new Business Plan has been approved this week and will be shared with funders, local authorities and government imminently.

JA asked if there is there a place in the new work of the LEP for the Skills 360 Board to research future trends that impact the development of skills, internationally, nationally and regionally, and whether this is a role that the LEP might take on. JS responded that these themes will come through in the selected projects, which will be the ones that best respond to emerging issues, for example innovation, sustainability of the economy, equality, diversity and inclusion, trade and investment , infrastructure, places and towns.

JA asked whether there had been any update on potential merging of LEPs. JS advised that he is not anticipating a merger of LEPs but we should await the outcome of the LEP review for further details .

LP asked where the funding for the projects would come from. JS responded that the LEP will be asking for funding from Local Authorities this year, but in future he envisages that with the new business plan priorities the LEP can add value and generate its own income.

4. Community and Voluntary Spotlight

FR introduced KD to present the item.

KD gave a presentation on the Community and Voluntary sector including:

- An overview of what the sector is and does
- Information on the sector within Coast to Capital and how it is funded
- The role of the sector and the impact of Covid-19
- Other opportunities and threats to the sector
- How organisations represented on the Skills 360 Board can engage

LR commented that companies put on training courses and often there are spaces where people have dropped out and there may be opportunities to place someone through community and voluntary organisations to fill the spaces.

ACTION: MB circulate slides and information on ESF Community Grants (see below)

- The Community and Voluntary Sector presentation can be viewed [here](#).

- London Learning Consortium are delivering the Community Grants contract in Coast to Capital, information can be found on their website [here](#).

5. Board Champions

Board champions gave updates as follows:

Simon Bland and Alison Addy (Tourism) – SB gave an update on domestic tourism. Inbound tourism demand figures have started to increase, but are still around a third of that in January 2020. Around 40% of the population would still not feel comfortable staying in a hotel. The most popular accommodations are self contained such as caravans and mobile homes, which are typically associated with low numbers of employees and lower level jobs. This update is based on data before the ministerial update stating restrictions will be extended to the 19 July. AA added international tourism activity is still very low, and there is an increase in demand for domestic flights, and interestingly some passengers on flights coming in from Belfast were construction workers.

Liane Richardson and Tim Walder (Construction) – LR and TW gave an update on the Construction Sector Spotlight project. On the 25 May there was a skills provider roundtable event, attendees were very engaged. Genecon (consultants) are compiling a report on the major construction schemes coming up in the area over the next 10 years and the skills needs that are likely to arise from that. An event to share the findings of the report is planned for later in the year (date to be confirmed). TW added that the Construction Training Board predict that 217,000 new recruits will be needed in the industry by 2025.

KT agreed that the provider roundtable was very successful, and that this project should feed in to the work of the Chambers and the LSIPs, if successful. This project is an example of the Skills 360 Board leading on collaboration between providers and businesses.

Tim Walder (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) - TW led an inclusion moment in which he shared [this video](#).

6. DWP Update

FR invited AB to present the item.

AB gave the Board an overview of DWP priorities in the area including:

- [Kickstart](#) – almost 1,200 start Kickstart opportunities across Surrey and Sussex with more opportunities still available
- [SWAPs](#) – Placements across all ages working with employers, ending with the possibility of an employment offer
- Youth Hubs – All are now either open or opening across Surrey and Sussex
- Programme referrals including Job Finding Support (JFS) and Jet, supporting people with employability skills such as CV development
- [Restart](#) – 1.4 million starts over the next 3 years

Job centres are moving back to business as usual with face to face appointments. Claimant numbers are reducing steadily from month to month, however this is likely to change if the furlough scheme ends in September.

7. Action Plan Delivery

FR introduced CW to present the item.

CW gave a brief update on the Home Decarbonisation Academy, work on the business case development continues, the provider meeting has been postponed until the business case is further along. CW went on to update that a bid has been submitted to the Careers and Enterprise Company for an effective transition project for the Careers Hub. Coast to Capital has been shortlisted and we await the final outcome of the competition. A successful virtual careers fair was held this week and the content will be accessible to schools online for the next month.

WM asked when the final result of the Institute of Technology bid would be made. FR confirmed that the final bid has been submitted, 8 Institutes will be awarded and we will find out towards the end of this year.

8. AOB

No further business was raised.