

Coast to Capital – Skills 360 Board Meeting 4

Wednesday 21 August: 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Coast to Capital, Pacific House, Crawley

Meeting Minutes

Board Members:

Frances Rutter (FR) - Chair; Darren Hockaday (DHo); Debra Humphris (DH); Jonathan Sharrock (JS); Kevin Delf (KD); Zoe Wright (ZW)

Attendees:

Alex Quattrone (AQ) – Hatch Regeneris; Chris Paddock (CP) – Hatch Regeneris; Claire Witz (CW) – Coast to Capital; Kirsten Trussell (KT) – Coast to Capital; Millie Bew (MB) – Coast to Capital

1. Introduction

a) Welcome, apologies and introductions

FR introduced the fourth meeting of employment and skills board for Coast to Capital LEP, Skills 360 Board.

Apologies were noted from Bob Pickles, Christina Dennis, Gavin Wright, Nick Juba, Simon Pringle, Winston Mahaffy and Alison McManamon.

Guest apologies were noted from Cath Goodall (BEIS) and Dena Read (Education and Skills Funding Agency).

FR thanked JS for hosting the meeting. Members and attendees introduced themselves, and FR welcomed Kevin Delf as the new board member representative for the Community and Voluntary Sector, and Alex Quattrone and Chris Paddock from Hatch Regeneris.

FR informed the board that Oonagh McPhillips and Bob Pickles were stepping down from the Board, and that recruitment has been launched for new business representative members.

b) Minutes from last meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes confirmed as accurate.

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. Education and Skills Political Landscape

FR introduced the item and gave a summary of the Association of Colleges (AoC) report 'Skills Shortages and Funding Gaps', highlighting points including the reference to skills gaps in the labour market, the impact of T-levels and funding issues in FE.

There was a discussion about the report and wider issues relating to education and skills including:

- The impact of the higher costs associated with T-Level courses and the expectations on employers in the delivery of T-Levels
- The growing skills gap and the influencing factors, including graduate retention, out commuting and the future impact of Brexit
- How FE providers can work with employers to improve the relevance of the education offer, and what the potential barriers to this are e.g. funding constraints

JS said that not coming from an FE background some of the terminology used in these reports is not easy to understand. Other Board members agreed, and it was decided that it would be beneficial to include an item on the next agenda to give an overview of the National Qualifications Framework to give a better understanding of the education ecosystem.

ACTION: Coast to Capital to include item on the education ecosystem in the next agenda.

3. Local Industrial Strategy update

FR introduced the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) update agenda item.

JS gave an update presentation on the Coast to Capital LIS including:

- Update on LIS's published by other areas
- Preliminary highlights from the Coast to Capital research programme
- The likely structure and content areas of the LIS
- An update on timelines

Discussions followed including what the aspirations of the area are and how the LIS could contribute to achieving them, and which of the four Grand Challenges would be the most appropriate focus for Coast to Capital.

4. Skills and Labour Market Research Project (Part B)

FR Introduced the Skills and Labour Market Research item. AQ and CP presented 10 key findings and recommendations that had arisen from the draft Skills and Labour Market Research report.

The board discussed the key findings and offered feedback which was noted by AQ and CP.

5. Enterprise Adviser Network Update

FR introduced the item. CW gave an update on the Coast to Capital Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) including;

- Staffing and recruitment: A new Enterprise Coordinator (EC) has joined and recruitment for an interim EC is in process to cover the Brighton & Hove and Worthing areas.
- Performance for the last academic year: Although the EAN had not reached its targets, performance was considerably better than the previous academic year.

There was a discussion around improving the performance of the EAN in the next academic year, and the future of careers advice in general in the Coast to Capital area.

6. Any other business

There were no further items raised for discussion.

Footnote: Unconfirmed minutes – subject to approval/amendment as necessary at the next meeting of the Committee.