

Coast to Capital – Skills 360 Board Meeting 10

Tuesday 23 February 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Board Members:

Frances Rutter (FR) – Chair; Winston Mahaffy (WM) – Vice Chair; Alison Addy (AA); Jonathan Sharrock (JS); Kevin Delf (KD); Liane Richardson (LR); Mark Power (MP); Robert Pye (RP); Ruth Whittaker (RW); Simon Bland (SB); Simon Pringle (SP); Tim Walder (TW)

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; Clare Mulholland (CM) - BEIS

1. Introduction

a) Welcome, apologies and introductions

FR introduced the tenth meeting of the Skills 360 Board.

Apologies were noted from Jenny Andersson and Christina Dennis. It was noted that Mark Power would join the meeting late.

FR welcomed Alison Barrett from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), who is deputising for new Board member Sian Drabble from DWP.

FR welcomed observers Clare Mulholland and Lisa Mobbs. Clare is the new representative from BEIS and Lisa is the Enterprise Adviser Network and Careers Hub Lead for Coast to Capital and will be joining all future Skills 360 Board meetings.

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.

d) Terms of reference

The updated Terms of Reference were approved. The update included the proposed recruitment of representatives from each of the three upper tier local authorities in the LEP.

2. Coast to Capital Update

FR invited JS to present the item.

JS gave an update on the economy, particularly the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit on businesses locally:

- The impact of Covid is greater than that of Brexit on local businesses.
- Brexit impacts locally are mirroring national trends where larger businesses are managing better in terms of import and export whereas smaller businesses who trade in Europe are finding it more difficult, including increases in freight costs, complexity of paperwork and VAT.
- Labour market changes resulting from Brexit are likely to be felt locally due to prominence of sectors dependent on EU workers, for example hospitality, in the region.
- Covid may also present similar labour market and skills challenges for sectors such as retail and hospitality where employees have had to seek alternative work during the pandemic and may not want to return.
- While Government support schemes have been relatively successful in keeping businesses afloat there many that now have large debt due to Covid-19
- It is unclear what recovery of the Aviation sector looks like i.e. how and when international travel will be re-introduced post-lockdown

3. Skills for Jobs White Paper

FR presented a high level overview of the headlines in the recently published Skills for Jobs White Paper, including:

- Create 'Local Skills Improvement Plans' and college business centres
- New intervention 'powers'
- Strengthened governance
- Potential switch to outcomes-based funding
- Multi-year funding to be considered
- Implement the flexible lifelong loan entitlement from 2025
- Central role for employers to design technical courses
- New national teacher recruitment campaign

WM gave an insight from a business perspective and a discussion followed about the white paper including:

- The role of the Chambers of Commerce, FE Colleges and Skills Advisory Panels
- Co-design with employers and how that will be coordinated, and how the process will be agile enough to get courses out in a timely way to meet ever changing demand
- Opportunities to pilot and the importance of the Skills 360 Board engaging early with government
- The role of providers other than FE, for example community and voluntary organisations, and how those can be linked in
- The role of the Skills 360 Board

4. Board Champions

KT explained that this item would be a standing agenda item and provides an opportunity for Board Champions to give updates from their sector or champion area to the Board.

KT invited TW to lead the 'inclusion moment' and the importance of confidence and capability in being inclusive, and how the work done so far will help the Skills 360 Board to become more inclusive. TW shared a video on 'blind spots' which can be viewed [here](#). There was a discussion around inclusion and the implications for the Skills 360 Board. KT gave an overview of the work to date with TW as the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) champion as outlined in the paper, with particular focus on governance, behaviour and delivery of the skills strategy.

KT presented the proposed Communications Strategy for the Skills 360 Board, which was developed with Jenny Andersson as the Stakeholder Conversations champion to raise the profile of the Board externally. The Communications Strategy is particularly important now as there are various skills and employment groups covering different areas of the LEP which the Skills 360 Board will need to collaborate with to avoid duplication. Board members approved the Communications Strategy, which can be viewed [here](#). There was a discussion around how Board members can represent the Skills 360 Board at external meetings and events, using the key messages (to be developed) as a prompt.

ACTION: Coast to Capital to advise Board members how they should feed back from any conversations they have when representing the Skills 360 Board.

5. Construction Focus

CW introduced the item and gave an overview of progress to date on the Construction Focus project.

LR and TW gave a more detailed presentation of the project so far including project objectives; short, medium and long term project activities; key partners and next steps.

Next steps include:

- Share plans and agree collaborative working, starting with a round table with education and skills providers in March 2021
- Promoting the construction talent retention scheme
- Identify opportunities in the sector to support the unemployed
- Work with providers to develop/expand construction retraining programmes for unemployed adults

The full presentation can be viewed online [here](#).

FR raised that there should also be focus on getting women into construction roles.

AB suggested collaboration with DWP to support unemployed people to re-skill into construction occupations.

AA will be reviewing the employment and skills strategy for the construction and operation of the new runway which could be a good opportunity for collaboration with this project.

JS asked how far away we are from having a full picture of the future construction pipeline in the

area which will give an idea of the number and types of roles that will be in demand in future. CW explained that one of the medium term activities of this project is to map the construction pipeline out to build and share a picture of the planned infrastructure construction programme in the Coast to Capital area to understand the type and quantity of skills needed.

Action Plan Delivery

CW gave an overview of the progress made on delivery of the action plan as outlined in the paper.

LM added that a set of resources (linked below) have been produced and sent out to schools for National Careers Week.

[Subject Resources](#)

[KS3 Tutor Resources](#)

[KS4 Tutor Resources](#)

[KS5 Tutor Resources](#)

ACTION: Any employers that would like to get involved with careers activities should contact LM

6. Close

No further business was raised.