

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 24th September 2021

Subject: Progress update covering Education, Work & Skills activity over past 12 months along with specific recommendations for key programmes

Report of: Councillor Andrew Western; Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Tom Stannard; Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the GMCA on progress across the Education, Work & Skills Directorate over the past 12 months whilst also setting out key recommendations for specific activities that are required for new and existing programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GMCA is requested to:

1. Note overall progress set out in the report against a wide range of activity across the Education, Work & Skills Directorate.
2. **Digital Skills Bootcamps:** To delegate authority to the Treasurer in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Education, Work & Skills to agree grant conditions, commissioning route & contract award for the skills bootcamp element of National Skills Fund, as necessary in the event this is devolved. (It is not yet certain that funding will be devolved but past experience suggests that funds could be allocated at short notice and therefore delegated authority will enable swift mobilisation).
3. **Skills for Growth:** To note the progress made to date on the ESF Skills for Growth Programme, following delegation previously approved in June 2020.
 - a. To renew delegated authority to the GMCA Chief Executive Officer and GMCA Treasurer to continue with the procurement and contracting of providers and activity relating to the GM Skills for Growth programme in conjunction with the Lead Portfolio Holder.

4. **ESF NEET & Youth Unemployment reduction:** To renew delegated authority to the GMCA Chief Executive, as set out in the GMCA report June 2020, to award contracts to the winning bidders following the outcome of the competitive procurement exercise.
5. **JETS:** To approve an amendment to the existing Working Well (Work and Health Programme) contract to include the extension of the Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) provision /element from March 2022 to March 2023, with an additional investment of £6,737,400 secured from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP). DWP will be extending the national JETS service to the same extent.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Gemma Marsh, Director, Education, Work & Skills

Matthew Ainsworth, Assistant Director, Education, Work & Skills

Equalities Implications:

| Impacts Questionnaire | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Impact Indicator | Result | Justification/Mitigation | |
| Equality and Inclusion | G | Proposals will support access to skills and employment opportunities for some of our most disadvantaged residents, including young people who are not in education, training or work, and people who are unemployed as a result of the pandemic | |
| Health | G | By supporting young people and adults into education, training and/or employment there are significant short and long term benefits for individual and collective health and wellbeing The integrated nature of support through the Working Well programme will help improve access/remove barriers to a range of support services through integrated onward referral | |
| Resilience and Adaptation | N/A | Upskilling residents and tackling skills gaps will support individuals, businesses and GM's labour market to become more adaptable and resilient Some of the provision tackles low carbon infrastructure, eg upskilling construction workers to deliver vital retrofitting programmes | |
| Housing | | | |
| Economy | G | Addresses skills gaps identified by employers in both GM's frontier and foundational economies Proposal supports both young people and adults into education, training and work, reducing the risk of long term unemployment/economic activity and delivering systemic benefits to the economy and wider public services Addresses need for upskilling and retraining to support in-work progression and career change, including in high value fields such as digital/tech Taken together, these programmes support a talent pipeline to ensure businesses have the skills they need now and in the future, responding to employers' real time skills gaps/mismatches Our employer-led approach to gathering and responding to employer intelligence has already been seen to support inward investment and job creation Significant new opportunities created across the full spectrum of skills needs, from entry level to specialised higher level technical skills | |
| Mobility and Connectivity | | | |
| Carbon, Nature and Environment | G | | |
| Consumption and Production | | | |
| Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target | | Commissioning goes beyond delivering skills programmes and includes working with sector business leaders and training providers to build systemic capacity to lead/respond to the low carbon agenda | |
| Further Assessment(s): | Equalities Impact Assessment | | |
|  Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term. |  Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider. |  Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider. |  Negative impacts overall. |

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures –

| Carbon Assessment | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Overall Score | | | | |
| Buildings | Result | Justification/Mitigation | | |
| New Build residential | N/A | | | |
| Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc | N/A | | | |
| New Build Commercial/Industrial | N/A | | | |
| Transport | | | | |
| Active travel and public transport | N/A | | | |
| Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access | N/A | | | |
| Access to amenities | N/A | | | |
| Vehicle procurement | N/A | | | |
| Land Use | | | | |
| Land use | N/A | | | |
| No associated carbon impacts expected. | High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon. | Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon. | Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve. | Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts. |

Risk Management:

There are no additional risks to the organisation, delivery or finance identified

Legal Considerations:

All contracts and procurement have been supported by GMCA Legal & IG.

The MoU has been assessed by legal prior to approval being sought. No additional risks identified.

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

- *Skills for Growth & NEET are ESF funded Programmes and are paid out in arrears so no risk.*
- *Digital Bootcamps are funded by DfE via Section 31 grants.*
- *DWP will continue to issue the WHP JETS grant quarterly for the life of WHP JETS provision. The grant payment will be in advance of any contracted expenditure as agreed by the GMCA with its contracted supplier(s)*

Financial Consequences – Capital:

There are no Financial Capital implications

Number of attachments to the report:

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A – continuation of existing service

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Memorandum of Understanding between GMCA and DWP in relation to JETS

ESF - GMCA paper June 2020

Greater Manchester HM Treasury Skills Pilots – Update GMCA – 29 March 2021

| | | |
|--|--|-----|
| TRACKING/PROCESS | | |
| Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution | | Yes |
| EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN | | |
| Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? | | N/A |
| GM Transport Committee | Overview & Scrutiny Committee | |
| N/A | Presentation to Economy, Business & Skills – 10 September 2021 | |

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Prior to the pandemic, the challenges and opportunities facing Greater Manchester and the UK more generally had been articulated in respective industrial strategies; in GM, our [Local Industrial Strategy](#), together with the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS – currently undergoing a refresh), has provided a strategic framework to drive our skills and work activity and set out a vision for an integrated education, skills and work system that will help all of our residents to be ready for life and for work:

- **Young people leave education and training ready to succeed** in the labour market, with a balance of academic, technical and ‘life ready’ skills
- **Adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need** to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs throughout their lives, from entering employment for the first time through to highly skilled careers and retraining
- **Employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs** in the rapidly changing 21st century world of work, driving a sustainable economic future for GM in which companies compete on the basis of high productivity, good quality work, and excellent employment practices
- Residents are supported by a welfare system, under Universal Credit, that provides access to **good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can’t.**

1.2 Today, and with much turbulent water having passed under the bridge, that vision for our labour market, the ambitions and opportunities set out in our Local Industrial Strategy, and many of the priorities that had been identified prior to the pandemic, remain as relevant as ever.

1.3 There is a strong appetite to not simply return to where we were, but, with collaborative partnerships on the ground in GM and the right support from Government, to create a fairer, greener, and more inclusive Greater Manchester: a city-region that is as ambitious as ever in terms of inclusion and future growth, which works with employers to create good jobs and opportunities to progress, and high quality, responsive providers who can deliver the skills provision and employment support needed at every level and in every place.

2. PROGRESS

2.1 By necessity, significant activity over the last year has focused on responding to and mitigating the impact of the pandemic. That impact has been felt unevenly across the country, across Greater Manchester and across different sectors; all too often it has been those who already faced disadvantage or inequalities who have felt the impact most acutely. Most recently, this has been compounded for many businesses and sectors by the emerging challenges of operating in a post-Brexit environment; local employer networks are predicting unprecedented sectoral divergence in the labour market challenges that lie ahead and some of these are

already starting to play out, with labour/skills shortages in the foundation economy in particular (eg logistics, social care and hospitality).

2.2 In addition to the direct and immediate skills and employment challenges these factors have posed, they have also had the dual effect of reversing gains that had been made since the previous financial crisis and – with many employers focusing on business survival rather than growth – stalling some of the wider work around boosting employer demand for/investment in developing the workforce and the talent pipeline, and heightening challenges around improving the quality of work and levels of pay.

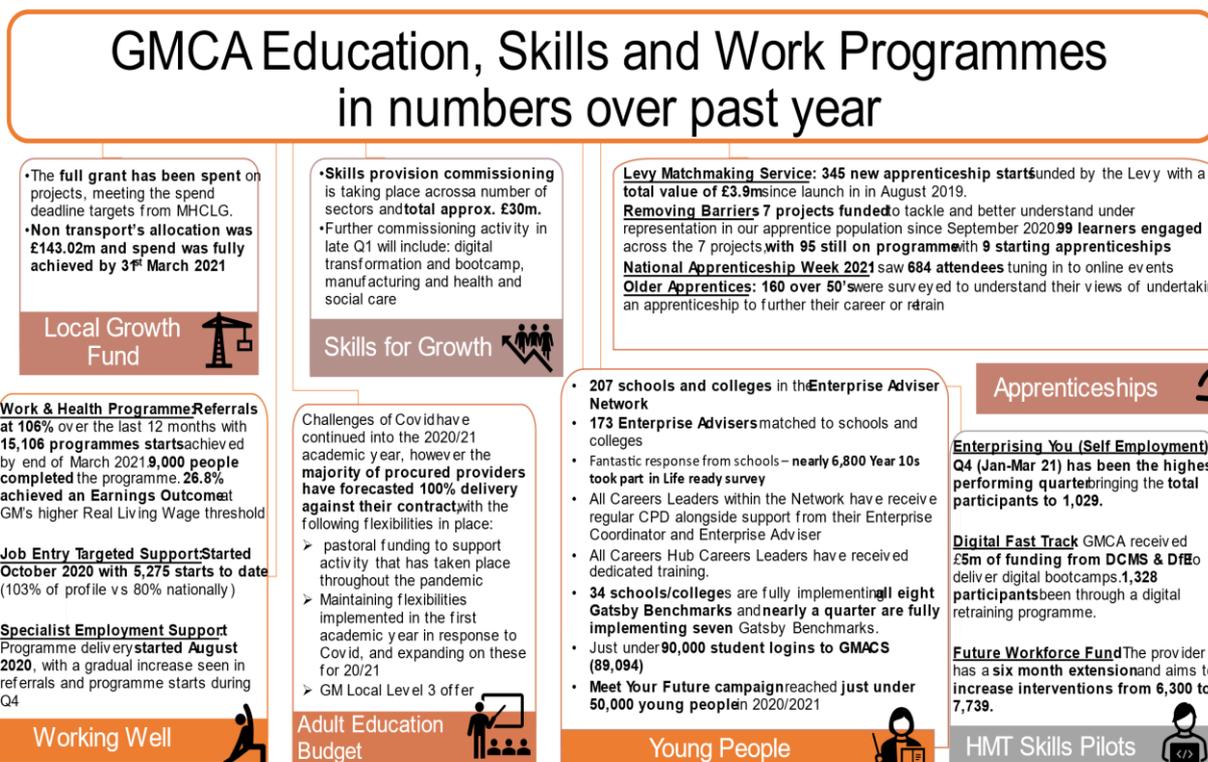
2.3 Nonetheless, by delivering/aligning our portfolio of devolved functions, co-commissioned activity, local programmes, and system stewardship where we have no formal role in national programmes, significant support has been delivered to our people, our communities, and our businesses.

Key highlights:

- Developed/delivered England's first online **Apprenticeship Levy Matchmaking Service**, retaining over £5m levy funding within GM and creating over 500 new apprenticeship opportunities to date. A similar model is now being rolled out nationally.
- **Supported 16,500 residents to date through the devolved Working Well (Work & Health Programme), of whom more than 6,000 have entered work**, outperforming the national WHP. It has delivered over ten times the national rate of onward referrals to related support services that deliver wider systemic benefits
- Developed additional local services within the Working Well suite, including:
 - Supporting **>10,000 newly unemployed people in the first 9 months of the Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) programme** (launched Oct 2020), achieving 125% of the referral target and more than 200% of the job outcome target. JETS has now been extended (total value £19.5m)
 - **£6.5m Early Help programme, designed to test an early intervention system which supported 3,000 residents** who were newly unemployed or at risk of becoming so due to adverse health conditions
 - **£4m three-year Specialist Employment Service that will support 1,200 people with complex health needs and disabilities** to move towards/into work.
- **Supported 1,350 low-income self-employed residents and gig economy workers through the £8m Enterprising You pilot**. Two-thirds of participants reported increased business turnover, 54% increased business profitability, 59% improved business stability and longevity, and 71% report having improved skills needed to run their business. This is the only programme of its kind in England supporting workers in the gig economy
- **Funded almost a quarter of a million adult skills courses for 100,000 residents during the first two years of the devolved Adult Education Budget** (c.£96 million/pa). We have introduced flexibilities to respond to changing needs during the pandemic and to fill gaps in national support (eg supplementing the new L3 entitlement with a GM qualifications list including retrofit), and provided targeted funding including a £1.5m Local Authority grants programme to tackle digital exclusion and barriers to accessing AEB and ESOL courses
- **Upskilling 1,200 GM workers via the £5 million Digital skills bootcamp pilots**, working with DCMS, DfE and Lancashire LEP. Our success has resulted

in further funding from government to test the model to train 200-250 unemployed residents/career switchers for work in the Retrofit sector

- Commissioning further skills and employment activity through our **ESF co-financing organisation status**:
 - **£10m NEET prevention/reduction and youth employment programme** for 6,000 15-24 year olds facing barriers to education, training and work
 - **£42m Skills for Growth programme**, supporting up-skilling and progression for 25,000 residents, and support for 3,000 SMEs
- **Developed and launched GMACS (currently 96,000 users)** to fill a systemic gap around the way that young people explore and apply for different career pathways
- Supporting transitions for young people through the **Young Person's Guarantee, GMACS, the GM Careers Hub and the GM Enterprise Adviser Network** in partnership with the Careers & Enterprise Company, a network of 170 business volunteers currently working with 209 GM schools and colleges this year, rising to 226 in 2021/22
- **Developing targeted test & learn activity**, including support for the over-50s, the Removing Barriers apprenticeship pilots, and the Tameside in-work progression pilot.
- **Worked with 7 LAs to scale up Manchester City Council's ESOL service model**, which has improved the assessment, referral and enrolment process for residents waiting for English language provision and shortened waiting lists
- Working with **Criminal Justice and Probation Service on commissioning of specialist education, training and employment programmes** for ex-offenders through the FPS, with a view to alignment with/transition to the mainstream offer
- Established **locality partnership teams** within the directorate to strengthen the focus on integration in each place and provide additional support/capacity to LAs.



3 THE NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET LANDSCAPE

3.1 Looking forward, GM is at a critical moment for the labour market and in the UK more generally, and will soon see a number of changes/events in the national skills and employment support landscape, including:

- Short-term financial support measures linked to the pandemic, including the Job Retention Scheme (furlough), Self-Employment Income Support, and £20 Universal Credit uplift, cease at the end of September. This could represent a cliff-edge for businesses, workers and job-seekers alike, with some forecasters predicting an increase in both unemployment and in the number of people and families who fall below the poverty line.
- Development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, for which the heads of terms were published in March, with the full programme design to be informed by the UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF). At the time of writing this report, outcomes were still awaited of the government's evaluation of CRF applications (shortlisted bids were submitted to government by MCAs and other local lead authorities in mid-June, with announcements due from late July onwards and project delivery envisaged from September 2021 to March 2022).
- HMT confirmed on 7 September that the Comprehensive Spending Review will take place on 27 October, setting revenue and capital budgets to 2024/25 – the first multi-year spending review since 2015. It is expected that the Levelling Up White Paper will be published around the same time and GM will be making submissions to government in relation to both of these major strategic and fiscal events.

3.2 Against this backdrop, one of the challenges facing GM will be to ensure that increased demand for relevant support can be met in ways which support economic and social recovery and mitigate the risk of worsening disadvantage and inequalities of opportunity, something that will be reflected in our submission to government ahead of the CSR/White Paper. More than ever, the responsiveness of GM's Working Well suite of programmes, our wider employment support, and the adult skills / retraining offer – the volume and scope of which is illustrated by the non-exhaustive highlights in Section 2 – will be vital, as GM looks at how best to help individuals to move towards/into education, training and work, particularly in those sectors and occupational areas currently experiencing high vacancies and acute labour shortages.

4 GM PROGRAMME UPDATES

4.1 Within that broad spectrum of activity, there are four programmes for which delegated authority is required (or renewal thereof where previously agreed by the Combined Authority). Detailed information on each programme is contained in the annex. In summary:

Skills Bootcamps

4.2 Skills bootcamps are now being rolled out nationally by DfE as part of National Skills Fund. GM needs to use intelligence to encourage the formation of partnerships and focus provision on occupational clusters within places with particular skills gaps e.g. advanced machinery in Rochdale, creative content around MediaCityUK. GM is actively seeking further devolution of funds to test innovative

approaches with Government, and delegated authority is sought to support this. To Note: We may need to bid into a national procurement process in order to secure funds.

Greater Manchester ESF Skills for Growth

4.3 Delegated authority was granted in June 2020 to proceed with the procurement and contracting of providers and activity relating to the GM Skills for Growth programme. The first skills commission of £1.1m has been awarded to deliver Retrofit skills to 1140 individuals working in the construction sector and four further commissions are currently in the pipeline focusing on Digital Upskilling / Reskilling, Digital Skills for Growth & Productivity, Health & Social Care and Manufacturing. We will continue to use industry intelligence to inform the commissioning, and further reports are being finalised in addition to those [already published on the GMCA website](#). In order to achieve delivery before the end of 2023 – the deadline for ESF expenditure - it is expected that the majority of commissioning should take place prior to Summer 2022, allowing sufficient time for skills delivery to mobilise and commence. Renewal of the relevant delegated authority is sought to support this.

ESF NEET and Youth Unemployment Reduction

4.4 Within the ESF 2014-2020 portfolio GMCA has received £10 million funding to commission via competitive procurement a programme to support young people aged 15-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). GMCA has developed the ESF NEET and Youth Employment commissioning specification in consultation with LAs and other partners, with the intention that it complements and adds value to existing support for young people, and helps overcome the impacts of COVID-19 on young people's access to skills and employment opportunities. The programme is split equally across two lots (Lot 1: 15-19 year olds, Lot 2: 18-24 year olds), reflecting the different needs/context within the target cohort. Contract award is envisaged in November, with delivery from January 2022-September 2023; renewal of the delegated authority agreed in June 2020 is sought to support this.

Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS)

4.5 As part of the devolved Working Well (Work and Health Programme), Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) was introduced from October 2020, and originally intended to run until March 2022, supporting 13,200 GM residents who are newly/recently unemployed and in receipt of benefits as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the success of this devolved programme, GMCA has received an Amendment request from DWP, which provides the opportunity to extend the JETS programme for a further 12 months to March 2023. Approval is sought for this extension, which would involve further DWP grant funding of £6.7m, to support an additional 9,120 GM residents.

Annex: Programme Updates

1. Skills Bootcamps

Background

- GMCA have developed & delivered a multiyear £5m digital bootcamps pilot in partnership with DCMS, DfE & Lancashire LEP. The objectives are to retrain residents for digital roles and support employers to address local digital skills gaps and diversify their workforce through bespoke courses co-designed with innovative training providers.
- The pilot started when GMCA were awarded £3m by HMT/DCMS in the 2018 budget. Success led to a further £1.5m from DfE who were keen to partner with GM to extend the reach of the pilot and test “what works” to inform development of National Skills Fund.
- Authority was delegated by Leaders to the GMCA Treasurer in 2019 to sign off skills bootcamp grant awards in consultation with the portfolio lead.

Key Updates / Successes

- 30+ consortia of employers and providers have delivered a wide range of job focused digital skills training including software development, dev-ops, content creation, digital marketing, data analytics, additive manufacturing and much more.
- Over 1000 GM residents have started on a digital skills bootcamp; 76% of which completed (during a pandemic). 33% of people that started courses have progressed into employment so far. 65% of whom were unemployed prior to starting the course.
- Demographics of participants:
 - Gender: 55% Male, 45% female
 - Age: 69% of participants under 35, just 10% 45+.
 - Ethnicity: 55% of participants were from ethnic minorities.
 - Prior Employment Status: 59% unemployed, 40% in-work, 1% in education.
 - Prior Skill Level: 89% had L3+ quals, nearly 45% were educated to degree level.
- The success of the digital skills bootcamps pilot has led to a further £500k of funding from DfE to test a construction/retrofit skills bootcamp. Mobilising from September 2021 this project will create pathways into retrofit for 200-250 unemployed people / career switchers in GM. Ensuring they are upskilled to the appropriate standard to work on retrofit projects.

Future Plans

Skills bootcamps are now being rolled out nationally by DfE as part of National Skills Fund. GM needs to use intelligence to encourage the formation of partnerships and focus provision on occupational clusters within places with particular skills gaps e.g. advanced machinery in Rochdale, creative content around MediaCityUK. GM is actively seeking further devolution of funds to test innovative approaches with

Government. To Note: We may need to bid into a national procurement process in order to secure funds.

2. ESF GM Skills for Growth

The £42m GM Skills for growth ESF Co-Financing Organisation application was approved in Summer 2020, the MoU has been signed and delivery on the programme has commenced. The project inception visit was conducted by ESF managing authority in April 2021, and is currently be reviewed.

Greater Manchester's Skills for Growth Programme is delivering an innovative and employer led approach to understanding the skills needs of employers and their current and future workforce. The programme aims to create a shift in the skills system, improving dialogue and understanding between business and skills providers. Working with continuous feedback it will ensure that GM has the talent pipeline required to meet employer needs across our frontier and foundational sectors, providing residents with the skills they need to achieve high quality, well paid technical roles.

By gathering intelligence around skills gaps in both large and small employers, and matching this against existing GM skills provision the programme will be able to highlight gaps in our current skills landscape then work to resolve these through evidence based commissioning of required skills delivery. Throughout all employer interaction, engaging them in the wider skills and employment landscape through initiatives like the Good Employment Charter and Bridge GM will ensure a more effective and joined up skills and employment system with clear progression pathways from education into high quality employment opportunities.

In its totality, the programme will support projects that make skills, education and training provision more responsive to the needs of the economy so that employers' skills needs are more effectively met. It will build capacity and broker opportunities for work placement & internships, which support the GM Mayors ambition. The programme will enhance relationships between employers and providers of education in order to encourage employers to play a more active role in shaping the skills and employment system.

The £42m programme has been planned across 2 ESF priority areas, together with a management fee:

- **PA 2.2** - £10m to complete projects with SMEs in Greater Manchester that will support them to identify their skills needs, access existing provision and feed skills gap intelligence into the intelligence function at GMCA. Delivering business growth and productivity to more than 2750 SMEs.
- **PA 2.1** - £29.2m to commission skills delivery based on the intelligence gathered around employer needs and lack of provision available. Supporting more than 25,000 individuals, who are in work to gain vital skills and progress.
- **CFO Admin** - £2.8m to resource project team, performance, and contracts team and GMCA's Employer intelligence team. Allowing GMCA to effectively manage a funding package of this size effectively.

Delegated authority was granted in June 2020 to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and GMCA Treasurer to proceed with the procurement and contracting of providers and activity relating to the GM Skills for Growth programme in conjunction with the Lead Portfolio Holder.

PA2.2 activity commenced Autumn 2020 with the award of the PA 2.2 contract of £7m to GM Business Support, who have been contracted to complete projects with 3200 SME's in Greater Manchester before Autumn 2023. To date 595 SME's have been supported through Skills for Productivity plans, 673 individual plans have been completed with those employed in the SMEs.

PA2.1 activity commenced in Autumn 2020 with the GMCA's intelligence function using the intelligence gathered from PA 2.2 activity, along with their work across large employer networks to produce the first intelligence reports, published on the GMCA website. Following these reports commissioning activity has now commenced.

The first skills commission of £1.1m was awarded to Northwest Skills Academy to deliver Retrofit Construction skills to 1140 individuals working in the construction sector. Four further commissions are currently in the pipeline focusing on Digital Upskilling and Reskilling, Digital Skills for Growth and productivity, Health and Social Care and Manufacturing.

Contracted PA2.1 activity to date, along with the pipeline commissions, will take the delivery to supporting at least 10,500 individuals supported across these commissions totalling £13.4m, please note these commissions are still pending award. Therefore, there is further work to be undertaken on commissioning the remainder of the programme which totals £15.7m.

We will continue to use industry intelligence to inform the commissioning, and further reports are being finalised, in addition to those [already published on the GMCA website](#). In order to achieve delivery before the end of 2023 – the deadline for ESF expenditure – it is expected that the majority of commissioning should take place prior to Summer 2022, allowing sufficient time for skills delivery to mobile and commence. As with previous commissions all activity will respond to the priorities identified by employers and sector bodies, as set out in the intelligence reports.

3. ESF: NEET & Youth Unemployment

Supporting our young people to be socially and economically prosperous is a key priority for the city-region, but whilst good progress is being made to reduce disadvantage and inequality within our education and skills system, we know there are too many young people experiencing structural and systematic barriers, which limit their ambitions, achievements and aspirations. Young people are our future workforce and they are critical to achieving our ambitions set out in the Local Industrial Strategy. Therefore, we must ensure they are equipped with the skills and opportunities needed to contribute to the growth and future prosperity of Greater Manchester.

Within the ESF 2014-2020 portfolio GMCA has received £10 million funding to commission via competitive procurement a programme to support young people aged 15-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). GMCA has developed the ESF NEETs and Youth Employment commissioning specification in

consultation with LAs and other partners, with the intention that it complements and adds value to existing support for young people, and helps overcome the impacts of COVID-19 on young people's access to skills and employment opportunities.

In commissioning the overall programme, it has been split into two lots which reflects some of the different support needs and the context within which the age groups are currently engaged and supported within the system. We have encouraged bidders to develop strong partnerships to develop and deliver their model, in recognition of some of the specialist needs of priority groups and the local networks that exist across GM. Bidders will need to show how they have engaged with young people in their programme development.

- Lot 1 (£5 million funding) will support 3000 vulnerable young people aged 15-19 who are disengaged from mainstream education, work and skills services. It will provide a differentiated and personalised mentoring, wellbeing and support offer that builds confidence, resilience, and motivation to progress into a positive transition outcome
- Lot 2 (£5 million funding) will proactively engage and support 3000 young people aged 18-24 who are not in employment, education or training. It will focus on those who are experiencing greater disadvantage and are not accessing or adequately supported through existing provision, via a holistic response to their needs to help them progress towards a positive outcome

Across both elements of the programme, providers will be expected to progress young people into a positive outcome to include employment, training, skills provision, apprenticeships, internships and traineeships. Alongside this, providers will be required to provide and refer to holistic support for their participants to meet wider needs, for example health and wellbeing.

We are expecting to award contacts to the winning bidders in mid/late November, with the programme delivery starting by the end of January 2022. The date of last delivery on the programme is end of September 2023.

Recommendation: It is requested that the GMCA renew delegated authority to the GMCA Chief Executive, as set out in the GMCA report June 2020, to award contracts to the winning bidders following the outcome of the competitive procurement exercise.

4. Job Entry Targeted Support

As part of the devolved Working Well (Work and Health Programme), Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) was introduced from October 2020, and was intended to run until March 2022, supporting 13,200 newly/recently unemployed GM residents. The service is aimed at residents who have been unemployed for 13 weeks and are in receipt of benefits as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

JETS is a light touch programme, with monthly interventions being primarily conducted remotely. Support is provided to its participants around CVs, job applications, identifying transferable skills, and confidence building, along with additional links and signposting to support around mental health, skills, and debt.

The primary focus is to support employability with a sector-based approach and response to local priorities. The programme provides fast-paced continuous support for a maximum of 182 days, aiming to get programme participants back into work within 6 weeks

To June 21, the JETS Programme has delivered above expectation with 125% (12,941) of referral profile, 96% of start profile (9,165), 153% of job start profile (1,851) and 227% profiled sustained job outcomes (783) being met.

CONTRACT EXTENSION PROPOSAL

The GMCA has received an Amendment request from the Department for Work and Pensions which provides the opportunity to agree a 12 month service delivery extension to the JETS programme. The amendment would mean a continuation of the existing service to March 2023 (with referrals to the programme ceasing in September 2022)

In support of the Amendment DWP have committed to an increase of Grant funding for the periods 2021/22 and 2022/23. The table below outlines the previously agreed funding totals for 2020-22 equalling £12,997,223 and the additional (extension) payments for 2021/22 (£2,919,540) and 2022/23 (£3,817,860) totalling £19,734,623 over the full period.

| Local Authority Area | WHP JETS 2020/21 | WHP JETS 2021/22 | WHP JETS (extension) 2021/22 | WHP JETS (extension) 2022/23 | Total |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) | 5,056,364 | 7,940,859 | 2,919,540 | 3,817,860 | 19,734,623 |

The additional funding and extended period of delivery will enable at least an additional 9,120 referrals and support to be delivered to an additional 6,840 starts. This should result in 2,462 additional job starts and 1,505 job outcomes (based on nationally agreed performance outcome rates).

The GMCA is requested to:

Approve the extension of WW(WHP): JETS from original timeframes (October 2021 – March 2022) to include an additional 12 months of provision to March 2023 utilising an additional investment of £6,737,400 secured from the Department for Work & Pensions.