

Decision Notice

Decision Title: Future Bright (FB) Funding Options for 2024/2025 and future development approach

Decision Date: 16 August 2023

Decision Reference Number: ODN23_0024

Decision Taken

That:

- 1) Increase funding envelope to £1.413m using Mayoral Priority Skills Fund (MPSF) and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the 2024/25 year, on the basis that this funding rate would then reduce as Future Bright integrates into the Skills Connect service beyond 1 April 2025, benefitting from greater synergy and economies of scale.

Reasons for the Decision

Future Bright is the Mayoral Combined Authority's (MCA) well established employment support programme for individuals currently in-work. It is the only in-work support service providing individualised, intensive (3-6 months) coaching and mentoring support to residents in the West of England. It strongly aligns with the Metro Mayor's priority of securing good jobs for all.

Future Bright is co-designed, and co-delivered, with the region's Local Authorities (LAs) under a hub and spoke model. The MCA provides all programme management functions and the LAs provide the direct engagement functions.

Critically, unlike any other service, Future Bright can support any resident who is in work, be it on in-work benefits, part-time, self-employed or those with caring responsibilities etc. The Future Bright model also ensures individuals are referred onto other provision, with Skills Connect now picking up all ineligible referrals.

The purpose for the report was twofold:

1. As requested at CEOs on 28th June 2023, present funding options and recommendations to continue funding the regional Future Bright service between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025; and
2. Outline the approach for Future Bright implementation from 1st March 2025 onwards.

The Future Bright service is funded at the current rate of £1.413m between 1 March 2024 – 31 March 2025 (using £1.013m from the MPSF and £400K from UKSPF). As discussed with CEOs (28 June 2023) and Senior Office Group (26 July 2023), it is expected that Future Bright will integrate with Skills Connect (Local Authority funded spokes) during the coming year, following which direct funding to Future Bright will be reduced to circa £1.2m.

Authority for the decision

Regional Recovery and Adaptation Fund Decision:

The Combined Authority Committee **RESOLVED** to allocate a further £5m to the Regional Recovery and Adaptations Fund and delegate the approval of business cases to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils.

[Decision - Regional Recovery & Adaptation Fund - Modern Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

Decision-Taker

Full Name: Richard Ennis

Position: Interim Chief Executive, West of England Combined Authority

Date: 10/04/2024

In Consultation with: - the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils.