



**LEP – Sub Committee**

**LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board**

**Private and Confidential: NO**

Wednesday, 30 November 2016

**Draft Apprenticeship Growth Plan**

**Report Author: Lisa Moizer [lisa.moizer@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.moizer@lancashire.gov.uk)**

**Executive Summary**

The benefits of apprenticeships to Lancashire, both to our people and businesses, alongside unprecedented reforms to apprenticeships, has led to the creation of an Apprenticeship Growth Plan for Lancashire.

**Recommendation**

The Board are asked to note the update and agree the proposed way forward.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework identifies growth in apprenticeships as a key priority in tackling replacement demand and skills shortages, as well as improving economic wellbeing in Lancashire. The Government has set a target to achieve 3 million apprenticeships starts by 2020 which is underpinned by a series of unprecedented reforms in apprenticeship policy and funding.
- 1.2 A revised draft of the Apprenticeship Growth Plan was presented to the Board at the October board meeting.
- 1.3 The Board's comments from the October meeting have been taken on board and the Apprenticeship Growth Plan has been revised accordingly, see Appendix A for the latest version.
- 1.4 The Board also raised concerns regarding aligning a Lancashire apprenticeship growth target to the national £3m target. The Board agreed that the plan should be based on incremental growth. The Board also agreed that while it isn't an easy task, the Lancashire targets should focus on the socio economic benefits for Lancashire and be sufficiently granular to focus on the priority sectors and needs by apprenticeship level.



## **2. Update**

Since the October Board meeting the draft Plan has been shared with The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) and the Lancashire WBL Executive Forum. Both groups are keen to contribute to the plan.

## **3. Next Steps**

3.1 To determine meaningful apprenticeship growth targets for Lancashire, it is proposed that a bottom up / top down approach is taken:

- A short piece of work is carried out to determine the expected number of potential apprenticeships for Lancashire that will be generated through the larger levy paying businesses.
- If key Lancashire providers are willing to share data in regard to planned growth (which could be amalgamated and shared at a level that was not commercially sensitive), this would allow identification of gaps by sector and by level pertinent to the Lancashire economy, which could then be collectively addressed through the plan.
- Contribution of the apprenticeship activity and targets across ESF projects, in particular SFA opt-in activity.

The above would provide Lancashire-focused data which would inform the development of the plan and allied targets.

3.2 Stakeholders will continue to be involved and consulted in the development of the plan.

## **4. Recommendations**

The Board are asked to agree the next steps as set out above.