



LEP – Sub Committee

LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: No

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Apprenticeship Growth Plan

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Executive Summary

The draft Apprenticeship Growth Plan has been consulted on with key stakeholders. Those who responded to the Apprenticeship Growth Plan consultation agreed that planned growth needs to focus on the socio economic benefits for Lancashire. It was also agreed that the focus of activities should continue to be informed by intelligence which seeks to identify issues of the balance of supply and demand in the apprenticeship market. There is a plan in place to collate and analyse data to allow for an informed plan with allied targets.

Recommendation

The Board are asked to sign off the Apprenticeship Growth Plan which includes the way forward in regards to activities around collecting intelligence and conducting analysis which will in turn inform updates of the plan.

Background and Advice

1. Background

In the first instance the Apprenticeship Growth Plan has been informed by the Lancashire Skills and Employment evidence base and as such the action plan (see pages 6-9 of Appendix A) outlines a wide range of activity that is taking place which is addressing issues and opportunities in regards to apprenticeship growth across Lancashire.

The draft Apprenticeship Growth Plan has been consulted upon with key partners including the Lancashire WBL Forum and The Lancashire Colleges.

Both members of the Board and consultation responses raised the need for an informed and nuanced approach to determining local apprenticeship growth priorities that would focus on the socio economic benefits for Lancashire.



2. Update

The Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub have successfully sought funding of £5k from the Skills Funding Agency to commission a piece of research analysing Lancashire employers to determine the expected number of potential apprenticeships for Lancashire that will be generated through the larger levy paying businesses. This research is planned to be completed in April 17.

The Hub are planning to trial a process of collating data from apprenticeship providers which will identify planned apprenticeship growth by priority sector and level. The data requested will be for the next two years 2017-18 and 2018-19 and at all apprenticeship levels up to level 8. Once trialled it is hoped that the major apprenticeship providers in Lancashire will participate and the data will only be shared with participants at an amalgamated level so that the data is not commercially sensitive. The data will highlight opportunities to develop provision to those in the partnership to act upon.

The two pieces of research/data looking at the demand and supply of apprenticeship provision will come together to support the plan and allied targets including informing the apprenticeship activity and targets across ESF projects, in particular SFA opt-in activity.

3. Recommendations

The Board are asked to sign off the Apprenticeship Growth Plan which includes the way forward in regards to activities around collecting intelligence and conducting analysis which will in turn inform updates of the plan.