



## **Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited**

**Private and Confidential: NO**

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### **Skills & Employment - Informed Approach: Technical Education Vision & Skills Advisory Panels**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on progress towards the development of a Technical Education Vision for Lancashire. The key ambitions from the 'vision on a page' are outlined, and the vision is attached in Appendix 'A'. The final visioning document is now in production alongside a roadmap of actions.

The report also provides details of the Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) referenced in the Industrial Strategy; Lancashire was approached to be part of the trial to support DfE to develop the approach. It is hoped that the SAP will add value and feed into the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan and development of a Local Industrial Strategy.

#### **Recommendation**

The LEP Board is asked to:

1. Consider the Technical Education Vision and:
  - a. Give support to the proposed vision and the key ambitions.
  - b. Feed in any further comments that should be taken into account, building on the feedback from the Skills and Employment Board which is outlined in the text.
2. Welcome the development of the SAPs and the involvement of Lancashire in the development of the approach with Government.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The LEP's Skills and Employment Board (SEB) continues to drive priority areas, as outlined in the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework <http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk/lep-priorities/skills-employment.aspx>, which was published in February 2016.



- 1.2 As outlined at the last meeting, the SEB is undertaking a refresh of the skills and employment evidence base, which will feed into the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and the development of a Local Industrial Strategy. This paper provides an update in regard to the development of a Technical Education Vision for Lancashire, and also references the announcement of Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) in the Industrial Strategy and the LEP's role in the development of the approach with the Department for Education (DfE).

## **2. Technical Education Vision**

- 2.1 As indicated at the last meeting, SDG Economic Development (SDG-ED) have been commissioned by the SEB to develop a vision for a high performing technical education system in Lancashire.
- 2.2 The visioning piece takes into account the national policy context, the forecast labour market demands in Lancashire's priority sectors, and future ambitions of providers based in the Lancashire area. The visioning piece has also fed into the LEP's emerging Innovation Plan and vice versa, recognising the correlation between skills and productivity and innovation.
- 2.3 SDG-ED have undertaken a process of stakeholder engagement which has enabled iterative development of the vision. One-to-one stakeholder interviews have been completed, both at the initiation stage and between two well-attended stakeholder workshops. In total just over 60 stakeholders have contributed to the development, including providers, employers and other stakeholders.
- 2.4 The draft 'vision on a page', attached in Appendix A, was presented to the SEB at their last meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> November for discussion. Five key ambitions were identified through the process. The ambitions are underpinned by a rationale, drawn from quantitative analysis and the consultation, and corresponding objectives and associated outcomes. The ambitions are as follows:

Lancashire's Technical Education Vision will:

- Grow the productivity of the Lancashire's workers and businesses;
  - Anticipate and respond to the market and technology change, with provision that is driven by employer demand;
  - Start with careers education and experiences at primary level and support individuals at all points in their working lives;
  - Work to ensure providers and employers collaborate on the design and delivery of education and training; and
  - Provide a coordinated and joined-up offer to learners and employers, through collective planning and management.
- 2.5 The SEB were supportive of the process and the proposed vision and fed in a number of comments, which are currently being incorporated into the final



visioning document and the final version of the 'vision on a page'. Comments included ensuring that: consideration be given to unemployed young people and how they can be engaged into technical education; clarity regarding terminology e.g. difference between vocational and technical education; reference to the move from supplier driven to employer driven; and consideration of fit with other LEP and local strategies. The final visioning document is now being produced and an associated roadmap of high level actions.

2.6 Board members are asked to:

1. Give support to the proposed vision and the key ambitions.
2. Feed in any further comments that should be taken into account, building on the feedback from the SEB.

**3. Skills Advisory Panels**

- 3.1 The introduction of SAPs was announced in the Government's Budget Statement and new Industrial Strategy. It is intended that the SAPs will feed into and support the development of Local Industrial Strategies. It is intended that the SAPs will '*...produce rigorous analysis of the current and future supply and demand for skills and help areas form a clearer understanding of their skills requirements. They will have real, meaningful influence over the provision of education and training for those over the age of 16, and work with Mayoral Combined Authorities and LEPs to establish the best way to ensure that influence is effective, and to inform careers advice and guidance...*'
- 3.2 At this stage, SAPs are viewed as information partnerships between Government and local areas. The purpose is to facilitate access to and analysis of cross-department Government data to support the identification of local skills needs. Principles underpinning the joint approach between Government and local areas and a data framework are to be developed in partnership with 7 trial areas (5 LEPs and 2 CAs) over the coming months, with view to rolling out the approach to other areas.
- 3.3 The LEP's Skills Hub was approached by DfE to position Lancashire as one of the early trial areas. DfE officials recognised our good practice to-date in developing an evidence base, including a robust Skills and Employment Strategic Framework, producing user-friendly Labour Market Intelligence to support careers advice and guidance, plus the development of the Technical Education Vision, as the analysis aligns with proposed technical education routes.
- 3.4 An initial meeting was held with DfE prior to Christmas, and a further joint meeting with all 7 trial areas is taking place on the 25<sup>th</sup> January to scope the way forward. It is hoped the proposed approach to analysing data will be more cost-effective and enable access to national data sets that add value at a local level. Moreover, it is hoped that a joint approach will lead to greater local



influence in regard to the planning of provision and the prioritisation of outcomes.

- 3.5 The SEB will oversee development of the approach and working with the DfE, and will report progress to the LEP Board. It is hoped that the approach will add value and feed into the development of Lancashire's Local Industrial Strategy.