



**Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited**

**Private and Confidential: No**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework**  
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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**Executive Summary**

As agreed at the LEP Board in June, the final draft of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Frameworks is provided for comment. The draft will go out for consultation in October and November 2015. Whilst the Framework will be finalised following the consultation events, it is recognised that the Framework will need to constantly evolve in accordance with the demands of employers and the changing policy context.

**Recommendations**

The Board are asked to:

- (i) Provide comment on the final draft of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework.
- (ii) Provide comment on the proposed method for consultation.

**1. Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework**

- 1.1 An early first draft of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework was presented to the LEP Board on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- 1.2 The framework has been further refined following the Skills Board Away Day in August and the completion of the skills and employment studies, listed below:
  - Overarching 'Comprehensive Evidence Base on Skills and Employment'.
  - 6 Sector Studies:
    - Advanced Manufacturing
    - Energy and Environmental
    - Creative and Digital
    - Finance & Professional Services



- Visitor Economy
  - Health and Social Care
  - City Deal skills and employment strategy (bringing in the 7<sup>th</sup> priority sector – construction).
- 1.3 The framework draws together the key priorities and objectives from the range of studies, identifying common themes and issues. The framework is structured into 4 themes: Future Workforce, Skilled & Productive Workforce, Inclusive Workforce and An Informed Approach.
- 1.4 These themes are underpinned by a number of key objectives, plus a common set of outcomes for the framework as a whole. These objectives articulate the priorities for Lancashire and are broken down further into a number of actions.
- 1.5 It is intended that the Strategic Framework will inform and underpin the investment decisions made in relation to discretionary funding (for example, ESIF funding and Growth Deal Skills Capital) and influence the use of mainstream skills and employment budgets, for example, the proposed apprenticeship levy. Providers making use of these budgets in Lancashire will be invited to set out how their delivery will contribute to achieving the Framework's priorities. In delivering the Strategic Priorities, the Skills Board and other strategic partners will also work with employers to leverage greater levels of employer engagement and investment in key areas.
- 1.6 An action within the framework is to establish Sector Skills Development Partnerships. This will evolve from the stakeholders involved in the development of the sector evidence bases and allied action plans. The Sector Skills Development Partnerships will oversee the implementation of sector specific action plans which will feed into the achievement of the actions and objectives detailed in the Framework.
- 1.7 The document is presented as the final draft. LEP Board members are invited to comment on the final draft of the Framework prior to consultation.

## **2 Consultation and Finalisation of the Framework**

- 2.1 It is intended that consultation will be undertaken with Local Authorities through meetings with the Chief Executives, scheduled during October and November, and through attendance at meetings and events with key stakeholders including skills providers and employers.
- 2.2 Two events will be led by the Skills Board and the Skills Hub in early November, one targeting key stakeholders such as Local Authorities, Providers (including private providers, Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Institutions) and the voluntary and community sector, and one targeting employers and representative bodies.
- 2.3 The events will be branded 'The Lancashire Skills and Employment Conversation'. The events aim to gain feedback on the framework, gain



ownership and engage key stakeholders and employers in the delivery of the actions.

- 2.4 Whilst the Framework will be finalised following the consultation events, it is recognised that the Framework will need to constantly evolve in accordance with the demands of employers and the changing policy context.
- 2.5 LEP Directors will also be invited to the events.
- 2.6 Board members are asked to comment on the proposed approach.