



Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: No

Thursday 22nd October

Up-date from the Lancashire Skills Hub

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Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of the Lancashire Skills Hub activity since the last meeting.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the up-dates set out in the report.

1 Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework

1.1 The final draft of the framework, as approved at the last meeting, was presented by the Chair of the Skills and Employment Board to the LEP Board on Tuesday 6th October 2015 and was endorsed and approved for consultation.

1.2 Consultation is being undertaken via a number of methods:

Meetings are underway with each of the Local Authority and Unitary Authority Chief Executives to discuss the framework. Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool have taken place, with further meetings in the diary. A positive response was received from the first 3 meetings. This element should be completed by the beginning of November.

Two consultation events (branded 'The Lancashire Skills and Employment Conversation') are planned in early November, one targeted at the 'supply side' e.g. providers and the third sector, and the other at employers. Members of the Board are invited to both events and we ask that they

encourage organisations they engage with to attend, especially private employers.

Michele and Lisa are also attending a variety of network meetings to present and discuss the framework.

Consultation should be completed by mid-November, at which point the framework will be finalised and published on the LEP website (recognising that the framework will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains fit-for-purpose).

- 1.3 The framework will be used to guide priorities in relation to ESIF and Growth Deal Skills Capital, to influence mainstream funding and local delivery, co-ordinate activity to achieve greater impact and to guide discussions in relation to policy and infrastructure e.g. devolution 'asks' for skills and employment and the area review.

2. Growth Deal Skills Capital

- 2.1 As per the timetable agreed at the last meeting the second round of Growth Deal Skills Capital was launched on the Monday 14th September 2015.
- 2.2 An information event for providers was held on Monday 21st September. Thirteen providers attended the event. The slides from the event and the Q&A were published on the LEP website alongside the prospectus and application forms.
- 2.3 Skills providers were also asked to feed through ideas for projects from 2017/18, so that a pipeline of feasible projects can be established. This will enable the LEP to be in a good position to request further Growth Deal Skills Capital should the opportunity arise.
- 2.4 The deadline for expressions of interest for the second round of funding is early November. Recommendations in regard to the expressions of interest, and which projects should go forward to full business case will be brought to the December meeting for approval by the Committee, as agreed at the last meeting.

3. Apprenticeship Levy

- 3.1 A response to the consultation in regard to the Apprenticeship Levy was submitted on behalf of the Committee by the deadline.
- 3.2 The response included enthusiasm from the LEP to pilot approaches in Lancashire with larger employers and supply chains, with particular reference to Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing.

4. ESIF

- 4.1 A paper was submitted to the ESIF partnership in September, providing an overview of the evolving framework and the themes and objectives. The purpose of the paper was to brief the partnership on progress with the framework and to set out the priorities in relation to skills and employment. The framework will be used to guide the priorities for the European Social Funds (ESF).
- 4.2 Further work has been undertaken on the SFA and DWP opt-in models, and a review of the ESIF pipeline projects. It is hoped that the first procurement round with the SFA will be launched at the end of October.
- 4.3 A full up-date will be brought to the December meeting of the board.

5. Liverpool, Cumbria and Lancashire Apprenticeship Regional Awards

- 5.1 The Apprenticeship regional awards were sponsored by the Lancashire LEP.
- 5.2 The awards took place on Monday 12th October at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Joanne Pickering, on behalf of the board, gave a speech about the importance of apprenticeships to Lancashire businesses and the economy. Michele and Lisa also attended the awards.
- 5.3 This year's winners for Liverpool, Cumbria and Lancashire were (See Lancashire winners and highly commended in **bold**):
- **McDonald's Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year: Adam Huddleston, Dr Oetker UK Ltd.** Highly Commended: Jacqueline Whitehead, Plus Dane Group
 - **EAL Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year: Paul Haynes, BAE Systems (Submarines).** Highly commended: India Ratcliffe, Loungy Upholstery Ltd, **Craig Eccles, Paradigm Precision**
 - **The Nuclear Decommissioning Site Licence Companies Award for the Higher Apprentice of the Year: Joanne Sharples, BAE Systems.** Highly Commended: Natassia Sinclair, Weightmans LLP; Hannah Bell, GlaxoSmithKline
 - City & Guilds Apprenticeship Champion of the Year: Poppy Wolfarth, Asset Training and Consultancy Ltd. Highly Commended: Natalie Roberts, Merseyside Police; **Liam Hogan, Cathy at Image Hair and Beauty.**
 - Unilever Small Employer of the Year: Prima Software Ltd. **Highly commended: Arthur Padgett Limited**
 - **The E.ON in partnership with the National Skills Academy for Power Award for Medium Employer of the Year: A & G Precision and Sons Ltd.**

- **BAE Systems Award for Large Employer of the Year: Silentnight Brands.** Highly commended: Weightmans LLP
- **BT Award for Macro Employer of the Year: Sellafield Ltd.** Highly commended: Unilever UK Limited; Aintree University Hospital
- **EDF Energy Award for Newcomer SME of the Year: Driscolls Antiques Ltd.** Highly commended: Eden Rivers Trust

6. Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

- 6.1 Discussion is underway with the Careers and Enterprise Company to undertake a pilot in the Lancashire area. The Company has been established by Government to instigate increased interaction between schools and local businesses, to increase young people's awareness of the local labour market and to inspire young people. It is hoped that a pilot will be in place by Christmas.
- 6.2 Discussion is also underway with DWP in regard to a pathfinder (1 of 9) with Job Centre Plus, to provide additional resource to enable JCP to interact with schools to support LMI inputs, employability skills and business engagement. The intention is to align this with the pilot above, and the Careers Inspiration activity led by Iain Logan, who is currently co-located with the Skills Hub.
- 6.3 A mapping exercise of CEIAG activity in Lancashire is underway, led by Iain, and will be presented to the board in due course. It is clear that there is positive activity, but that it is fragmented and lacks co-ordination.

7. Twitter: @LancsSkillsHub

- 7.1 A twitter account for the Lancashire Skills Hub is now in place – please do follow us and spread the word!