



Lancashire  
Enterprise Partnership

## **Skills and Employment Board**

**Private and Confidential: No**

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## **City Deal Skills and Employment Study / Plan**

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### **Executive Summary**

Earlier in the year, a study was commissioned to identify the skills and employment implications of the City Deal programme for Preston and South Ribble, and Lancashire as a whole. The resulting implementation plan has been aligned and cross-referenced to the overarching Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework.

The reports and plan have now been presented to the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board and signed off, and it was proposed that the Skills and Employment Steering Group established to oversee the study continue and oversee the implementation of the plan, reporting progress to both the City Deal Executive and the Skills and Employment Board. It was agreed that a simpler version of the implementation plan would be developed to support reporting.

### **Recommendation**

The Skills and Employment Board are asked to:

1. Note the reports and actions resulting from the City Deal skills and employment study.
2. Support the recommendation from the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board in relation to the Skills and Employment Steering Group continuing, and reporting progress to both the City Deal Executive and the Skills and Employment Board.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Earlier in the year, a study was commissioned by the City Deal Executive to identify the skills and employment implications of the City Deal programme for Preston and South Ribble, and Lancashire as a whole. Ekosgen were appointed to undertake the work.
- 1.2 A Skills and Employment Steering Group was established to oversee the study and the development of a skills and employment action plan.

## **2. Skills and Employment Study and plan**

- 2.1 Two reports have now been produced and were presented to the City Deal Executive & Stewardship Board on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January for sign off. The two reports split the study as follows:
  - The City Deal skills and employment evidence base and development plans.
  - The City Deal skills and employment strategy and implementation plan.

The reports are provided in Appendix A for information.

- 2.2 Key issues included: building the construction workforce now and over the lifetime of the programme; ageing workforce and working age population (and thus increased competition for skilled workers); increase in demand for people with L4+ skills (Lancashire remains below the national average); employer engagement in ensuring that skills provision meets needs and is fit-for-purpose; alerting young people and adults to the scale of the opportunity; maximising the potential impact of social value (through procurement processes); building a skills base to support inward investment and the development of the Enterprise Zones; and taking a partnership approach to tackling issues.
- 2.3 The plan identifies 4 key areas of action:
  - 1) Providing a workforce for the new economy, particularly the priority sectors; including a large cohort of young and well qualified workers attractive to incoming employers.
  - 2) Providing a workforce for the construction industry which will deliver the infrastructure, commercial and residential development set out in the City Deal, addressing the challenge of delivering a marked increase in new housing development.
  - 3) Maximising the training and employment opportunities available for both young people and older people from construction activity, using procurement processes to deliver a higher level of industry engagement and increase social value for public sector construction expenditure.
  - 4) Providing training and skills support which helps to secure new inward investment and company expansion in the City Deal area.

The actions map to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework.

### **3. Skills and Employment Steering Group**

- 3.1 It was agreed at the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board that the Skills and Employment Steering Group should continue to oversee the implementation of the plan and that the group should report to the both the City Deal Executive and the Skills and Employment Board on progress.
- 3.2 It was also agreed that a simplified version of the implementation plan would be beneficial to enable reporting, with tangible outputs. This will be the task of the Steering Group.
- 3.3 The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Preston's College, Runshaw College, Training 2000, Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council and the LEP / Lancashire Skills Hub, and will be chaired by Dr Lis Smith from Preston's College.
- 3.4 An IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) Taskforce of operational people has been launched, bringing together the National Careers Service (NCS) Preston's College, Runshaw College, UCLan, Calico and South Ribble Borough Council to promote construction opportunities to young people.

### **4. Recommendation**

The Skills and Employment Board are asked to:

- 4.1 Note the reports and actions resulting from the City Deal skills and employment study.
- 4.2 Support the recommendation from the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board in relation to the Skills and Employment Steering Group continuing, and reporting progress to both the City Deal Executive and the Skills and Employment Board.