



Lancashire
Enterprise Partnership

Lancashire Skills and Employment Board

Private and Confidential: No

Wednesday 27th July 2016

Area Based Review – Update from the Working Group

Report Author: Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub, michele.lawty-jones@lancashirelep.co.uk

Executive Summary

The Area Based Review (ABR) is due to commence in Lancashire in September, with the first steering group scheduled for the 4th October. It has been confirmed that the steering group will be chair by the FE Commissioner, David Collins, in the first instance.

The ABR Working Group, established by the committee, met in July to further progress the development of the 'skills conclusion' which will be presented by the LEP and the Local Authorities at the first steering group. It was agreed that the principles, mapped against the Skills and Employment Strategic Framework were useful to frame the conclusion, as agreed at the last committee meeting and the LEP board meeting. The draft slide pack will be shared at the next meeting.

Discussion took place in regard to steering group membership. Recommendations have been discussed with the chair, who is supportive. Recommendations are provided below for endorsement by committee members. The notes of the meeting are provided for information.

Recommendations

The Skills and Employment Board are asked to:

- (i) Approve that West Lancashire College is invited to be a member of the Steering Group to provide the full picture of provision in Lancashire. The College will be reviewed under the North East Wave 4 (parallel) review as they are part of the Newcastle College Group (NCG).
- (ii) Approve that the Executive Director, Robin Newton-Syms of The Lancashire Colleges group is invited to be a member of the Steering Group.
- (iii) Approve that Paul Holme represent the Skills and Employment Board at the steering group, along with Dr Michele Lawty-Jones as senior officer.

Lancashire Area Based Review Working Group Friday 8th July 2016

Present:

Julia Coleman
Michele Lawty-Jones (chair)
Lisa Moizer
Robin Newton-Syms
Ajay Sethi
Mike Taplin
Andy Walker

Guest:

John Barber (Joint Area Review Development Unit – JARDU)

Apologies:

Dean Langton
Paul Holme

Key Points:

JARDU input

John confirmed that JARDU provide the secretariat support for each of the reviews, and run the review in accordance with the guidance and timescales within the guidance.

John provided an insight into other reviews around the country and learning points. The assumption in wave one that evidence and data would lead to clear options has not played through in all areas.

It is important to pose questions at steering group one (in the skills conclusion presentation) that 'challenge' and enable the Colleges to recommend options that address key issues; it is easy to get lost in the volume of data.

Whilst the primary focus is infrastructure and financial viability and sustainability, it is important that the ABR also establishes a platform for future curriculum development and future devolution of funds e.g. AEB; there is an expectation that the steering group will continue beyond the ABR to oversee implementation of the recommendations but to also ensure that broader issues are addressed.

Whilst West Lancashire College is in the North East review (also in wave four), John recommended that the College be part of the steering group to ensure that data was fed in and that recommendations did consider the positioning and contribution of the College in Lancashire. **ACTION:** All members of the working group were supportive.

It was also agreed that it would be beneficial for The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) to be part of the steering group and that the executive director, Robin, be invited to join the steering group and receive allied data.

ACTION: John to progress with Robin.

Up-date from Lancashire Colleges

Robin indicated that the RCU data packs were not yet ready; an issue with the data has been identified which RCU are currently reviewing. It is hoped that the data packs will be available next week. Robin will keep the group apprised of progress.

Robin confirmed that Rosie Fearn had joined the team at TLC. Rosie is ex-SFA/JARDU and is very knowledgeable re: data and data analysis and will be reviewing the RCU data packs. It was agreed that it would be useful for Rosie to attend future meetings to provide insight.

ACTION: Robin to invite Rosie to future working group meetings.

LEP and Skills & Employment Board / principles matrix

Michele circulated the LEP Board paper and provided an up-date from both board meetings. Both boards are supportive of progress and the principles which will frame the skills conclusion. The principles map to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework.

Michele also provided an up-date on Growth Deal 3 (GD3) and the submission from Lancashire to Government. The current pipeline of skills capital projects is being used to justify an allocation and a programme approach to skills capital within Lancashire's GD3 ask, as specific projects can only be reviewed once the outcome of the ABR is agreed. It is understood that the process will be highly competitive; initial indications are that the scheme has received asks from LEPs which collectively add up to four times more than the funding available.

The principles were discussed, and it was agreed that the matrix would be used to scope the skills conclusion from both the LEP and the LAs.

LA data collection and analysis

Ajay, Mike and Julia provided an update and indicated that they hoped to have the data collated and analysed by the end of July.

Development of the skills conclusion

It was agreed that draft slides from the LEP (Michele/Andy) and the LAs would be shared at the next meeting with view to pulling together into one pack. Michele to share the slides from the Thames Valley review – John indicated that these are being shared as best practice. John to also provide the Stoke and Staff's conclusion and Liverpool's.

ACTION : LEP and LA representatives to share draft slides prior to the next working group meeting (9th August). Michele and John to circulate documents.

Membership of the steering group

There was a brief discussion about the potential membership of the steering group. At present it is likely that Dean Langton will represent the Combined Authority, and Bob Stott the Local Authorities with officer support from Ajay and Sarah Hurst. Julia and Mike to check expectations with each unitary. Michele to check whether a LEP or Skills and Employment Board member would wish to attend alongside her.

ACTION: Julia and Mike, and Michele to confirm positions re: membership.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 09TH August 2016, 10am – 12noon, Lancashire Adult Learning College