



## **LEP – Sub Committee**

### **LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Board**

**Private and Confidential: No**

Wednesday, 18 October 2017

### **Area Based Review - Update and Recommendations from the Implementation Group**

Appendices A , B & C refer

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#### **Executive Summary**

The paper provides notes from the Implementation Group and progress against the recommendations from the Area Based Review, which was completed in February of this year. An action plan for the non-structural recommendations has been developed by the Implementation Group and is provided for review.

#### **Recommendation**

The committee is asked to:

1. Review the non-structural action plan and feedback comments – particularly in relation to Section B.
2. Consider monitoring of Section B beyond the lifetime of the Implementation Group, and consider the recommendation that leads for actions update the Skills and Employment Hub, who will then report progress via the general updates to the committee.

## **Background and Advice**

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Area Based Reviews (ABRs), driven by Government and the FE Commissioner, reviewed the college infrastructure across England - with view to delivering financially viable, sustainable, resilient and efficient institutions across England with an offer that meets each area's educational and economic needs.



- 1.2 Lancashire was in Wave 4 of the reviews; the final steering group met on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017. The report detailing the recommendations from the review was published on the gov.uk website on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 and can be accessed via the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lancashire-further-education-area-review-report>, as shared previously.
- 1.3 As outlined at previous committee meetings, proposed structural changes included a merger of Burnley College and Accrington & Rossendale College, and the coming together of Preston's College and UCLan. In all other cases the Colleges preferred option was no change (i.e. stand-alone). Blackburn College also referenced the development of a strategic alliance with Lancaster University and Blackburn with Darwen Council.
- 1.4 In terms of the draft non-structural recommendations:
  - That the Skills and Employment Board establish a task and finish Implementation Group to support, advise and provide oversight of the implementation of the recommendations of the review.
  - That a time-limited Pennine Strategic Planning Group be established to focus primarily on strategic planning across the colleges, focusing on the offer to learners and businesses across the geography.
  - That The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) develop a collaborative working model (addressing the priorities outlined in the Lancashire skills conclusion).
  - That the three local authorities work with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to appraise how schools with sixth forms can better support economic and educational priorities, and take into account the outcomes of the area review in decisions about provision.

## **2.0 Implementation Group**

- 2.1 As per the recommendations a local Implementation Group was established, to track progress and to focus on the non-structural recommendations. The terms of reference were approved at the June meeting of the committee.
- 2.2 The Implementation Group has met twice since the last formal meeting of the committee in June. An action plan for the non-structural recommendations has been developed, including a collaborative action plan – Section B (see Appendix A).
- 2.3 Following feedback from committee members, it is intended that the collaborative action plan be shared with key partners, with view to a final version being brought to the next committee for endorsement. Committee members are asked therefore to focus, in particular, on Section B of the plan. To note the plan in Section B has been developed to support collaborative working between the Colleges, the LEP and the Local Authorities, as well as other key partners such as private training providers, to drive forward the



priorities identified in the Lancashire skills conclusion. The Implementation Group are keen to position the plan as a plan that goes beyond the 'parameters' of the ABR, to support collaborative working across key partners in the post-16 landscape.

- 2.4 As the Implementation Group is intended to be a task and finish group, discussion also took place in regard to the non-structural recommendations, and in particular the collaborative action plan in Section B. Members concluded from the discussion that it would be useful if identified leads for the actions in all sections fed updates into the Skills & Employment Hub.
- 2.4 The notes from the two meetings are provided in Appendix B and Appendix C. The notes include progress against the structural recommendations. A verbal update will also be provided at the meeting.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 That committee members review the non-structural action plan and feedback comments – particularly in relation to Section B, with view to a final version being endorsed at the next formal committee meeting.
- 3.2 That committee members consider monitoring actions against the non-structural recommendations beyond the lifetime of the Implementation Group, and consider the recommendation that leads for actions provide updates on progress to the Skills and Employment Hub, who will then feedback to the committee in the general update provided by the Hub at the committee meetings.