



## **LEP – Sub Committee**

### **LEP - Lancashire Skills and Employment Advisory Panel**

**Private and Confidential: NO**

**Date:** Wednesday, 16 October 2019

### **Skills Advisory Panels and Labour Market Intelligence**

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#### **Executive Summary**

The paper provides an overview of the development of the Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs), including progress to date regarding the £75,000 of funding granted to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Advisory Panel to support analysis of local labour market intelligence.

#### **Recommendation**

The Board are asked to note the update and contribute to a discussion at the committee meeting in regard to future success measures.

## **Background and Advice**

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) were referenced in the National Industrial Strategy, with the aim of supporting the development of the 'People' foundation of Local Industrial Strategies. Lancashire was invited to participate in the modelling of SAPs by the Department for Education (DfE), based on the strength of Lancashire's Skills and Employment Board.
- 1.2 In October 2018 the DfE completed their modelling, and also the development of an Analytical Toolkit (to provide guidance to local areas regarding the analysis of labour market intelligence). In parallel a consultation took place with LEPs and MCAs and the key issue raised was capacity, in that there was no 'core' resource from Government to gather data or undertake analysis of local labour market intelligence.



- 1.3 The DfE aligned their work with the wider LEP review and in December 2018 formally announced the formation of the SAPs and issued documents to LEPS and MCAs: 'Guidance on the Development of Skills Advisory Panels Boards' and 'SAPs Analytical Toolkit'. The former sets out expectations relating to remit, governance and composition and the latter expectations regarding high quality analysis of skills-related data.
- 1.4 In response to the issue of capacity, each LEP and MCA was offered a £75k grant to help support local analytical capacity.

## **2 Progress in Lancashire**

### **Development of SAP remit, governance and composition**

- 2.1 In accordance with the LEP Review implementation plan, the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board has been renamed to the Lancashire Skills and Employment Advisory Panel and the Terms of Reference refreshed to reflect the guidance from Government.
- 2.2 In line with the recommendations regarding SAP composition the Lancashire SAP has appointed Liz Tapner to the committee to represent the Voluntary and Community Sector, and an officer from the ESFA now attends.

### **Development of SAP Analytical Toolkit**

- 2.3 A Memorandum of Understanding was completed and submitted to the DfE, to release the £75k to support analytical capability in January 2019.
- 2.4 To summarise, the MoU sets out that the funds will be used to support the development of the Lancashire Industrial Strategy, the development of the local Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) Toolkit, by combining the strength of the local toolkit with the Analytical Toolkit proposed by DfE, and data analyst capacity in the LEP. It is unclear whether there will be further funding from DfE beyond the £75k to support analytical capacity in future years.
- 2.4 The funds have been used to commission Eksogen to refresh and improve the Lancashire LMI Toolkit in line with the Analytic Toolkit guidance provided by DfE (where it adds value to the understanding of the Lancashire skills and employment landscape).
- 2.5 The refresh of the LMI Toolkit is also being guided by feedback from local partners who have used the Toolkit to support activity, for example, curriculum planning, careers information, advice and guidance and local plans. Feedback indicates that the current format of the LMI Toolkit is valued and that the refresh should seek to build on this.
- 2.6 The outputs from the commission will include a refreshed LMI Toolkit which will be published on the Skills Hub website, and a wider report for the SAP which will map to the DfE Analytical Toolkit. The wider report will contribute to a refresh of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework, including the development of success measures.



- 2.7 Ekosgen will present the approach to the development of the LMI Toolkit at the meeting, and there will be opportunity to contribute to a discussion about the development of success measures.
  - 2.8 The funds have also been bolstered with funding from the LEP core budget to enable a data analyst post to be funded for 18 months. This post will be based in the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub but will work across the Skills Hub team and the core LEP team providing analytical support to both. The post is due to go out to advertisement in the next month.
- 3. Skills and Advisory Panel Summer Review**
- 3.1 As part of the SAP development process the DfE conducted a review to determine if each LEP/MCA was making sufficient progress towards the SAP requirements. Lancashire received positive feedback overall and the points of improvement that were highlighted are already being addressed in the work being undertaken by the Skills Hub.
- 4. Recommendations**
- 4.1 The Board are asked to note the update and contribute to a discussion at the committee meeting in regard to future success measures.

### List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		