



Lancashire Skills and Employment Advisory Panel

Private and Confidential: No

Thursday 9th June 2022

Food and Agriculture Study

Report Author: Cassie Holden, Associate Director, AMION Consulting

Executive Summary

As per the Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub update at the last committee meeting, a Food and Agriculture Sector Study has been commissioned utilising Skills Advisory Panel funds.

Regarding background, the Food and Agriculture sector, which was introduced as a growth pillar as part of the development of the LEP's Strategic Economic Framework, has not benefited from a deep dive as has been undertaken in other sectors. The study, which has been undertaken by AMION Consulting, aims to provide labour market intelligence by sub sector and by travel to work area and draws in the findings from the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and Strategic Development Fund (SDF) trailblazers in relation to employer's skills and employment challenges. The study also draws on opportunities and challenges to the sector resulting from industrial digitalisation and net zero.

The LEP's Food and Agriculture Sector Group has supported the study and agreed the scope of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes, providing the parameters for the study. The report describes the sector in Lancashire, with a focus on skills and employment opportunities and challenges. Information will support the development of dedicated careers pages on the Start in Lancashire careers platform, mirroring the information and video clips provided for other growth pillars.

The draft report is provided in the pack, and a presentation will be provided at the meeting regarding the headlines and recommendations.

Recommendation

Committee members are asked to note the draft Food and Agriculture Study and provide comment on the draft report and recommendations.