

Cabinet Member response to the recommendations of the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee on the Skills, Interventions and Initiatives led by the Skills and Employment Hub

General comments

I welcome the recommendation from the Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee on this important matter.

I have considered the recommendation agreed by the committee on 24 October 2024 and my response is as follows:

Recommendation 1

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(iii) The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills gives consideration to:

- a. Expanding the out of hours provision.
- b. Where possible, utilising local community centre venues to deliver training.
- c. Linking training with local labour market intelligence."

Cabinet Member Response

The recommendations are accepted however, it is noted that a) and c) are currently incorporated into the development of the programme annually and the delivery as per the presentation and discussion at the committee.

- a) Through the procurement process for Skills Bootcamps, providers are requested to consider the delivery of the learning, to ensure that there is scope for out of hours learning which enables a wider range of residents to engage in the programme. This includes opportunities for blended learning (a combination of face to face and online learning) and recorded sessions. The delivery model and the providers approach to providing an inclusive programme form part of the scoring criteria.
- b) Where face to face learning forms part of the Skills Bootcamp providers are encouraged to use venues based in communities across Lancashire – a number of training centres are used, but also community venues, with the Skills Hub team facilitating introductions to local partners where applicable.
- c) Local labour market intelligence (LMI) underpins the priorities of the Skills Bootcamp programme. Providers, to be successful, must demonstrate employer commitment to the programme – both in terms of the provision of guaranteed interviews and job vacancies (where the bootcamp aims to move unemployed learners into employment) and commitment to upskilling staff (where a bootcamp is co-funded by an employer to upskill staff). This is triangulated with LMI and vacancy data to ensure that the Skills Bootcamp addresses a skills shortage in Lancashire.