

Hull and East Yorkshire Board

Report to the Board 19th April 2021,
Report from Gill Dillon, Senior Advisor for Employment and Skills and presented by
Teresa Chalmers, Chief Operating Officer. Agenda item 9 Paper E

1. Summary

1.1. This paper provides an overview of the LEP Local Skills Report which will be published after Purdah ends on 6th May 2021.

2. Recommendations

2.1. To approve the initial five priorities identified in the Local Skills Report; future additions may be considered.

3. Report

3.1. The Department for Education (DfE) leads on Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs). In 2019 the DfE required all LEPs and Mayoral Combined Authorities to set up a SAP to bring together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs and to work together to understand and address the immediate and future skills needs and key local challenges. The role of SAPs included looking at what is required to adapt to future labour market changes and opportunities to help colleges, universities and other providers deliver the skills required by employers. The Humber LEP's Employment and Skills Board (ESB) fulfilled the responsibilities of the Skills Advisory Panel function, as will the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP ESB.

3.2. The DfE required all SAPs to publish a Local Skills Reports (LSR) by 31 March 2021 to support the government's aim of ensuring local colleges and other skills providers are firmly linked to local business needs and the vision for 'upskilling, reskilling and retraining'. The LSR aims to influence local partners and feed intelligence to the central government, including the national level Skills and Productivity Board. They are to be updated on an annual basis with a fuller refresh every two years.

3.3. The LSR will help to grow the influence of the HEY LEP's ESB by:

- Acting as an engagement tool - a vehicle through which the ESB can directly engage, influence and rally employers and providers to support the local skills agenda.
- Being a 'go-to' document for everything local-skills related, bringing together existing and new skills information into one consistent document common to all SAPs.
- Clearly setting out key skills needs, ensuring local skills needs are visible to local partners who can then engage with them.

- Feeding intelligence to the national Skills and Productivity Board and central government using a consistent common output that can be used to understand the needs and priorities of local areas and build a national picture of the supply and demand for skills.
 - Offering valuable insight and evaluation, detailing the progress made on current local skills initiatives and outline future skills plans to resolve key skills gaps.
- 3.4. The Humber LEP commissioned Hatch Regeneris to produce the Local Skills Report using the data sets provided by the Department for Education (DfE) for the Humber area; additional data sets for the HEY LEP area have also been included. We agreed with DfE that the HEY report that whilst the document will have a Humber focus on the key sectors and skills priorities such as clean energy, ports and logistics, there will also be a clear emphasis on the HEY LEP area. This report will provide a clear evidence base for the LEP's Employment and Skills Strategy which we will start to develop once the new Employment and Skills Board is formed.
- 3.5. Due to the formation of the HEY LEP and Purdah period, DfE agreed that the full LSR report could be published after 6th May 2021 once the new LEP Board had met and considered the skills priorities. In the meantime the report's core indicators and data annexes have been published here <https://www.humberlep.org/skills/skills-resources/>
- 3.6. The LSR will be published after Purdah and is available for Board members to view [HERE](#) . A password to access the draft report will be sent separately.
- 3.7. The emerging cross-cutting priorities identified in the LSR from the data analysis and stakeholder feedback are:
- Upskilling and Reskilling the Workforce: Hull & East Yorkshire needs to better utilise workforce potential, respond to employer demand and drive productivity growth.
 - Embedding Digital Skills: Hull & East Yorkshire needs to embed digital skills in all subjects and at all levels.
 - Delivering a Green Recovery through Skills Development: Hull & East Yorkshire needs additional capacity to realise the potential of the Green Economy.
 - Retaining and Attracting Young People: Hull & East Yorkshire needs to inspire young people to progress their careers within the region to fuel economic growth.
 - Supporting labour market participation: Hull & East Yorkshire needs to provide supported pathways to sustainable destinations.

3.8. The above priorities are supported within the report by a suggested Skills Action Plan which can form the basis of HEY LEP's future Employment and Skills strategy.

4. Financial and resource implications

4.1. Given that the ESF local funds are now allocated the new LEP will need to seek alternative funding streams to progress this work.

Report written by

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HEY LEP