

HEY LEP Business Support Board

12th May 2022

Paper D – Employment & Skills Board Update & Future of Work
Report by Chris Howell, Employment & Skills Manager

1. Summary

- 1.1. This paper gives an overview of the work of the HEY LEP Employment & Skills team and Employment & Skills Board

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The board notes the progress made by the Employment & Skills team.

3. Report

3.1. Employment & Skills Board

- 3.1.1. The Employment & Skills Board fulfils the statutory function of the Hull & East Yorkshire Skills Advisory Panel.
- 3.1.2. The Employment & Skills Board provides the strategic oversight and direction for the LEP's people-based outcomes. In the LEP's Economic Growth & Workforce Wellbeing Strategy this is Priority 3 – Skilled and Inclusive Economy.
- 3.1.3. In terms of economic growth, the Employment & Skills Board is primarily concerned with productivity and the pillars that support this. In simple terms this involves shaping and influencing the labour market to ensure that skills gaps and shortages are minimised and that workforces are healthy and available.
- 3.1.4. Since its inaugural meeting in October 2021 it has focussed on discharging its statutory functions around supporting the development and production of the Local Skills Report (the strategic skills planning document for Hull & East Yorkshire).
- 3.1.5. It has also initiated a piece of work around workplace health & wellbeing named "HEY Workforce" which is due to be launched in Business Week.
- 3.1.6. The Employment & Skills Board has re-instated working groups previously operating under the auspices of the Humber LEP to help deliver it's aims and objectives. These are detailed below in section 3.2.

3.2. Employment & Skills Board working groups

- 3.2.1. The HEY LEP Apprenticeship & Technical Education working group has been established to focus on technical education and apprenticeship outcomes for the region. The group is being chaired initially by Richard Sellick, Director of Business Programmes, East Riding College. The purpose of the group is to ensure that local apprenticeship, technical and vocational education learning and skills provision meets local economic need.
- 3.2.2. The HEY LEP Career Aspirations group has been established to support the careers education, information, advice and guidance agenda, a key aspect of the LEPs work in influencing labour market supply. The group is being chaired initially by Andy Crossland, CEO of the Humber Learning Consortium. The remit of this group is to support the development and promotion of careers-related initiatives that relevant to all age groups.
- 3.2.3. Work is in progress to re-instate the “Talent Forum” which is a group of senior HR officers from local employers. This group offers strategic input to the LEP from employers.

3.3. Local Skills Report

- 3.3.1. The Local Skills Report is the strategic skills planning document for the HEY region. All LEP areas are required to produce an LSR which is embedded within their governance and overseen by the Employment & Skills Board.
- 3.3.2. The LSR is a statutory requirement of the Department for Education, the purpose of which is to influence local partners to match the provision offer against employer skills demand.
- 3.3.3. The intelligence that forms that basis of the LSR is a data set prescribed by the DfE which is used to inform the strategic priorities for the area. The full report with data annexes can be accessed here: <https://heylep.com/our-priorities/employment-skills/local-skills-report/>

3.4. Broader HEY LEP Employment & Skills related activity includes:

3.4.1. Humber Freeport

- The HEY LEP Executive Team continues to support the development of the Freeport. The Freeport Steering Group are continuing working with government on responses on clarifications that arose from the final business case.

3.4.2. Careers & Enterprise Company

- The HEY LEP delivers the HEY Careers Hub project on behalf of the Careers & Enterprise Company. The Careers & Enterprise Company

is the national body for careers education in England supporting schools and colleges deliver modern 21st century careers education. The project links local employers to schools in a strategic capacity to create sustained private sector input into local schools to improve outcomes for young people.

3.4.3. The Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership

- The Humber Local Digital Skills Partnership brings together public, private and education organisations to help increase the digital capability of individuals and organisations. This project operates on a Humber-wide geography.
- The official launch of the Humber LDSP took place on 3rd March at the Guildhall in Hull. The event included a keynote speech from Chris Philp, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Feedback from stakeholders has been positive and the event received good media coverage further promoting the Humber's digital economy.
- The event also launched the Humber LDSP's Digital Maturity Tool for SMEs. The tool allows SMEs to self-assess themselves against a series of digital categories, produces an analysis of strengths and weaknesses and signposts participants to digital support programmes that help to fill any identified gaps to enhance business productivity. The tool can be found [HERE](#) and Board members are asked to actively promote this with local businesses.

3.4.4. Workforce Development

- Part of the HEY LEP Employment & Skills team's remit is to support local employers with their workforce development. The team has links with all types of local employers including large businesses & SMEs, training providers and a wide variety of partnering organisations throughout the Hull and East Riding region.
- Outcomes of this work to date has included the development of new apprenticeship standards, securing agreement from local levy paying organisations to reinvest unspent levy into the local area with the HEY LEP team acting as informal gatekeepers and facilitating the transfer process and supporting business with other aspects of workforce development.