
Report to: Employment and Skills Panel

Date: 28 February 2019

Subject: **Skills Commission**

Director(s): Sue Cooke, Executive Head of Economic Services, Alan Reiss,
Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Employment and Skills Panel on the launch of the Commission for a Future-Ready Skills System in a Devolved UK.

2 Information

- 2.1 This independent Commission was launched at a meeting on 21 January 2019. It is intended to shape the future of the skills system, so that it better meets the needs of individuals, businesses and the economy. There is a particular interest in how the skills system can better serve the ambitions of local areas.
- 2.2 The Commission is chaired by Cllr Hinchcliffe as Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leader of Bradford Council.
- 2.3 The full membership of the Commission is provided at **Appendix 1**. Chris Jones (former College Principal) and Jonathan Barr (OECD) have also been invited to act as expert advisers to the Commission.
- 2.4 The Commissioners were provided with an overview of the proposed scope and objectives of the Commission and why skills are so important. They were also given an overview of three proposed key themes:
- Technical education and training
 - Careers information and inspiration
 - Workforce skills

- 2.5 The Commissioners provided comments on the proposed themes, including suggested amendments to the scope and description of the themes. Officers will review and amend the Overview of the Commission document and the themes in light of the comments made.
- 2.6 A Call for Evidence will be launched in February 2019 to gather views from a broad range of stakeholders.
- 2.7 A press release is available at <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/news/future-ready-skills-commission-to-challenge-status-quo/>

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Commission will culminate in a high profile conference. A budget for this still needs to be identified and sponsorship will be sought.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 Recruitment to the posts of Policy Manager (Skills Commission) and Skills Commission Assistant is underway.

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Panel is asked to note the update on the formation of the Skills Commission.

8 Background Documents

None.

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Commission Membership