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**Report to:** Employment and Skills Panel

**Date:** 14 September 2020

**Subject:** **Annual Labour Market Report**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

1.1 To update the Panel on the LEP's labour market intelligence programme for 2020/21. A presentation of interim key messages from the analysis will be given at the meeting to inform discussion.

## **2. Information**

2.1 The purpose of the labour market intelligence work is to provide robust analysis of the City Region's labour market and skills needs to influence planning and action. As well as being used to support strategy and policy development by the LEP and Combined Authority, the analysis is used to shape the focus of local learning delivery with reference to evidence of labour market demand and to inform careers choice by individuals by providing clear and robust information on labour market opportunities.

2.2 The work is produced to an established annual cycle which centres on the publication of a labour market report in the autumn, usually in October, accompanied by a series of workshops to communicate key messages.

2.3 The main geographic focus of the report will be West Yorkshire, to reflect the coverage of the new Mayoral Combined Authority area, but key messages will continue to be set in the context of the functional economic area of Leeds City Region. The Research and Intelligence Team of the Combined Authority will also be supporting York and North Yorkshire LEP in the production of their labour market analysis.

2.4 A key focus of the report will be the impact of COVID-19 on the local labour market and the employment and skills challenges and opportunities presented by the economic recovery. Consequently, it is recommended that the annual labour market report be published at the end of November 2020, as:

- The prospects for the labour market are currently highly uncertain with the economy in a state of flux. In particular, the unwinding of the furlough

scheme (ending in October) will have important implications for labour demand and skills needs, which need to be reflected in the report.

- There is a time lag in the publication of official and other statistics and earlier publication would mean to report is more reliant on data relating to the pre-crisis period, limiting the value in assessing employment and skills needs in the context of recovery from the crisis.

2.5 The dates of the dissemination workshops (likely to be delivered as webinars) will be confirmed in due course but are expected to be in early December.

2.6 Prior to the publication of the annual labour market report, timely intelligence on the labour market is being shared via the LEP's weekly economic dashboard and fortnightly economic monitoring report. Headline messages from this intelligence will be presented at the meeting.

### **3. Clean Growth Implications**

3.1 There are no clean growth implications directly arising from this report.

### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **6. Staffing Implications**

6.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

### **7. External Consultees**

7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### **8. Recommendations**

8.1 To note the arrangements for the annual labour market analysis and support the recommendation for publication to be at the end of November 2020.

8.2 To consider and discuss the key messages from the presentation of interim findings to be given at the meeting.

### **9. Background Documents**

None.

### **10. Appendices**

None.