

**Report to:** Employment and Skills Committee

**Date:** 6 July 2022

**Subject:** **Skills Advisory Panels and Local Skills Improvement Plans**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To update the Committee on Skills Advisory Panel funding and to agree the forward plan of activity for 2022 / 23 academic year.
- 1.2. To update the Committee on Local Skills Improvement Plans

## 2. Information

### Skills Advisory Panel

- 2.1. The Department for Education have announced a fourth annual round of funding to the value of £55,000 for all local areas to enable them to deliver the key objectives of the Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) programme. The key purpose of the programme is to ensure that local skills provision better meets labour market needs, now and in the future.
- 2.2.1 The stated aim of this year's funding is for SAPs to produce high quality, local-level skills analysis to support the successful implementation of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs). The development of LSIPs will be led by employer representative bodies (ERBs) and the Government's aim is that the majority of areas will have an LSIP developed and in place by summer 2023.
- 2.2.2 The Skills and Post-16 Education Bill makes it explicit that the Secretary of State will only approve and publish a local skills improvement plan for a specified area if satisfied that due consideration has been given to the views

of the relevant MCA or GLA, with statutory guidance for this currently under development.

- 2.2.3 The Department for Education has requested details of the planned activities. The sole focus of our proposed approach is to support the development of the LSIP. This will allow for a discussion of the plans with the designated Employer Responsive Body once they have been appointed.
- 2.2.4 This Committee will retain oversight and responsibility for commissioning of strategic skills programmes in West Yorkshire. The Committee will want to consider how it will want to work with the Employer Representative Body commissioned to deliver the Local Skills Improvement Plan in West Yorkshire.

### **Local Skills Improvement Plans**

- 2.6. Trailblazer pilots for Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) took place last year across different geographies to test the model before rolling out nationally. Each pilot area has published a LSIP, with an evaluation of the pilot is expected in Autumn.
- 2.7 LSIPs are one of a number of FE reforms from the Skills for Jobs white paper published in January 2021 and seem to put employers at the heart of the post-16 skills systems and offer a more flexible and responsive skills offer for individuals and employers to upskills and retrain, whilst giving skills and supporting skills and training providers with great accountability and funding to deliver.
- 2.8 A call for expressions of interest (EOIs) from Employer Representative Bodies closed on 6 June. MCAs and LEPs were not eligible to apply. In West Yorkshire, the Chambers of Commerce have submitted an EOI to cover West and North Yorkshire – with a separate plan for each area.
- 2.9 The EOI was supported by a number of other ERBs (including CBI, FSB, IOD West Yorkshire, Make UK along with the CITB, Tech UK and Yorkshire Asian Business Association) in the Region and sets out how the Chamber will engage with the MCA and LEP. The Chambers are currently members of the LEP Board, Business, Enterprise and Innovation Committee, as well as advisory groups including the Mayor's Manufacturing and Green Taskforces, Business Communication Groups and Local Digital Skills Partnership.
- 2.10 The EOI does not require the detail of how the LSIP will be developed in the Region, full implementation is anticipated in Autumn 2022. The role of LSIPs is to strengthen the voice of employers in the skills system and work with stakeholders and providers to make provision more responsive to employer need. This will not extend to commissioning powers of skills provision.
- 2.11 The Committee will want to consider how the roll out of LSIPs will align with the governance role of strategic skills provision for this Committee, including whether it would like to recommend that an advisory role on this Committee is offered to a senior representative of the Chambers of Commerce. A

recommendation from this Committee could be taken to the next meeting of the Combined Authority to be held on 22 July.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1. Work undertaken as part of this MoU is likely to consider the skills requirements associated with achieving West Yorkshire's net zero commitment.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1. Access to skills and to good jobs for disadvantaged people is central to inclusive growth. The analysis undertaken as part of this MoU will consider how this agenda can be supported in future.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1. The analysis to be undertaken under the MoU will take account of equality and diversity issues linked to employment and skills in West Yorkshire. This could ultimately influence employment and skills programmes and the way in which they promote greater equality and diversity in terms of access to skills and access to employment opportunities.

### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The proposed activities would be fully funded through the grant from the Department for Education.
- 6.2. Funding will be allocated to undertake analytical and policy work to support the development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan for West Yorkshire.

### **7. Legal Implications**

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

### **8. Staffing Implications**

- 8.1. There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

### **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1. The West and North Yorkshire and Mid Yorkshire Chambers have been engaged with the development of this report.

### **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1. That the Committee approves the forward plan for the Skills Advisory Panel

- 10.2. That the Committee notes the update on Local Skills Improvement Plan and recommends to the Combined Authority that an advisory role and invitation for a LSIP representative join the Committee.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

None