

Report to: Employment and Skills Committee

Date: 21 March 2023

Subject: **Evidence Report**

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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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 present the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to employment and skills, together with an analysis of more timely labour market indicators.

2. Information

Monitoring Arrangements

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 29 October 2021, the Employment and Skills Committee agreed a new approach to monitoring and reporting. The Committee approved a set of indicators relevant to its remit and agreed to receive regular reporting against these indicators, with this topic becoming a standard item on the Committee's agenda. These are the key regional indicators that measure the outcomes that the work of the committee is seeking to improve. Indicators will be reported on by exception i.e. when fresh data becomes available for each indicator, allowing the analysis to be updated.
- 2.2 The indicators have been incorporated into State of the Region 2022 report, the Combined Authority's annual stock-take of West Yorkshire's socio-economic performance. This was published on December 16, 2022. The State of the Region indicators are intended to provide a high level, strategic picture of performance against this priority rather than a detailed examination of operational performance of specific projects.

2.3 In addition to the State of the Region indicators, analysis of a range of more timely indicators is also included to provide the most up to date picture of labour market conditions in West Yorkshire. Alongside this an overview of the national picture provides important context.

The Indicators

2.4 The core State of the Region indicators agreed by the Committee are set out below. A headline overview of performance against these indicators is provided in **Appendix 1**:

- Employment rate;
- Jobs paying below the real living wage;
- Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups;
- Unemployment;
- People with no / low qualifications (qualified below level 2);
- Apprenticeship take-up;
- Basic digital skills;
- NEETs;
- People qualified at Level 4 and above (higher level qualifications).

2.5 Since the last meeting the following indicators have been updated with new data:

- Employment rate
- Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups
- Unemployment.

2.6 For all three indicators the changes since the last report have been small and the key messages remain unchanged.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 There are no implications for tackling the climate emergency directly arising from this report. However, work is currently underway to assess the employment and skills needs of the green economy in West Yorkshire, which will be reported to the Committee at its next meeting.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 A number of the State of the Region indicators have direct relevance to an inclusive economy, including unemployment, NEETs and jobs paying below the real living wage. The evidence shows that improving inclusiveness, in terms of access to jobs and the education and training system, is key to supporting growth and achieving the wider economic agenda for West Yorkshire.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Some of the indicators provide direct measures of equality and diversity, most notably the comparison of employment rates for disadvantaged groups. A dedicated equality and diversity report has been published as part of State of the Region. The general picture provided is one of a continuing need to promote equality and diversity in respect of both employment and in terms of access to education and training opportunities.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

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 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 The Committee is asked to note the latest intelligence relating to employment and skills in West Yorkshire and the current performance of West Yorkshire against the State of the Region indicators.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1: Indicator report