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Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

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Subject: HS2 and Skills

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

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide WYCA with an update on the skills strategy needed to ensure we make the most of HS2 and to seek endorsement to develop the strategy into an implementation plan.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 This report builds on the previous agenda item and provides a summary of our skills work to date and our strategy for ensuring our people have the right skills to make the most of the HS2 opportunity.
- 2.2 The Skills and Supply Chain Growth Strategy details how the Leeds City Region is proposing to truly accelerate its development as a national and international centre of excellence for skills and supply chain expertise in High Speed and Light Rail in the UK, achieving a position of global competitiveness and driving the UK's Industrial Strategy. Building on prior successes within the city region, it includes:
- an offer to Government: what we are going to deliver, how we will do it, and the evidence base for developing these propositions;
 - how interventions are going to integrate and build on existing assets, programmes and good practice in the city region and elsewhere; and
 - how HS2 will help LCR go further and faster in realising our vision, and what we need from our partners at the local and national level to help achieve this.

3 Strategy Themes

3.1 The strategy is split into three priority themes:

- *Priority Theme 1* - Building and retaining talent for growth in the LCR
 - Career Insight Programme;
 - Careers Family Programme;
 - Employment Brokerage Plus; and
 - Graduate Retention/ Bursary Programme.
- *Priority Theme 2* - Building the supply chain capacity for success
 - HS2 Supply Chain Development and Accelerator Programmes
- *Priority Theme 3* - Nurturing economic innovation based on LCR strengths in digital, data analytics and academia
 - Institute for High Speed Railways and System Integration;
 - Catalyst Fund;

Collectively, the projects will help us to:

- Make the LCR the UK leader in Light Rail and High Speed Rail engineering and R&D;
- Have a globally competitive supply chain;
- Attract the very best UK talent to create a sustainable skills base; and
- Move the LCR from a low skills equilibrium to a higher skilled economy, with significantly increased skills levels and qualifications in areas such as STEM.

A summary document, which provides further detail regarding the proposed programmes is provided as **Appendix 1**.

4 Fit with WYCA Programmes

4.1 This strategy builds on the objectives detailed in the LCR Employment and Skills Plan and the work that WYCA and its partners already does to support the development of a skilled workforce in the Leeds City Region. The proposed programmes detailed above, will build on prior successes within the region and will link to current and future programmes. For example:

- The successful Enterprise Advisor programme, which has to date engaged and successfully linked 139 schools with 129 business leaders and aims to engage every secondary school in the region, will be further developed through the Careers Insight Programme. This will aim to reach every pupil in the region to enthuse and excite the next generation of engineers/infrastructure specialists.
- WYCA are currently developing a careers campaign for young people linked to local labour market information, the ambition is that this information will reach at least 40,000 young people. This builds on a successful #Techgoals campaign, which enhanced the teaching and learning of digital skills in the classroom for

over 10,000 young people to ensure our next generation of tech leaders are inspired and informed about the skills they need for future career opportunities. The HS2 Careers Family Programme will further enhance this work.

- The Employment Brokerage Plus will build on a programme that has already been developed with Local Authorities, DWP and partners to support suppliers delivering the WY Transport Fund to employ local people.
- Through the Delivery Agreements that WYCA has developed with the seven West Yorkshire colleges, we are monitoring how the college provision meets local needs. This will include new provision such as degree level apprenticeships, required for HS2 and evidences the relationships and influencing role held by WYCA.
- The LEP Skills Service has upskilled over 10,000 individuals across the region since it commenced in 2015. This programme will continue through ESIF funding in 2018 and will further develop links with local businesses to undertake skills plans and provide training solutions for people in work, including SME employers working as part of the HS2 supply chain.

4.2 In order to ensure the proposed programmes add value and complement national initiatives, as well as City Region programmes, dialogue has commenced with a range of potential partners including The National High Speed Rail College in Doncaster and Transport for the North.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Following feedback on the skills strategy, it is intended that this is submitted to Government as part of the HS2 Growth Strategy. The next step would then be to turn the strategy into an implementation plan. The approach to implementation will depend on how far the Government supports the plan financially.

5.2 An initial implementation meeting with government is planned for early December.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Development of the skills and supply chain workstream of the LCR HS2 Growth Strategy has been funded through the HS2 Grant received from Central Government.

6.2 As part of the wider LCR HS2 Growth Strategy asks, up to £45m is requested from Government for funding the delivery of the skills strategy measures outlined within this report. This money is requested for the period 2018-2033.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 None as a result of this report.

8 Staffing Implications

- 8.1 To turn the strategy into an implementation plan and to then deliver it will have resource implications for the Policy Team and for Economic Services. The nature of the plan will be dependent on support from Government.

9 External Consultees

- 9.1 The following key groups were consulted as part of the strategy development:

- Employment and Skills Panel (through nominated representatives including Chair)
- Business Innovation and Growth Panel (through nominated representative)
- LCR Skills Network
- Yorkshire Universities (including round table with KE/Innovation directors)
- West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges
- LCR Head teachers Network
- HS2 Ltd
- TfN (although strictly we spoke to KPMG who wrote their skills strategy)
- WNY Chamber
- DWP
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Institute of Civil Engineering
- CECA
- Supply chain businesses including 'primes' and subcontractors
- LCR Employment & Skills Officers Group

10 Recommendations

- 10.1 That WYCA endorse the HS2 skills strategy and agree that an implementation plan is developed.

11 Background Documents

- 11.1 None.