
Report to: Employment and Skills Panel

Date: 29 November 2018

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 plans to launch a review of the education and skills system.

2 Information

- 2.1 At its last meeting, the Panel endorsed the proposal to undertake a radical review of the post-16 vocational skills system which would:
- Assess the current performance of the system.
 - Identify future challenges.
 - Set out a coherent blue print for a reformed system that can meet needs more effectively at both local and national level.
 - Inform the national policy debate.
 - Develop the Combined Authority's thinking around powers and responsibilities.
- 2.2 Since the last meeting, it has been confirmed that Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, as Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and lead Local Authority Leader for Skills, will chair a Commission which will carry out the review.
- 2.3 Rashik Parmar and Mark Roberts of the Employment and Skills Panel have agreed to join the Commission. The Chair intends to write to other potential members of the Commission to invite them to join.
- 2.4 It is intended that the review will launch in January 2019, lasting for 12 months and culminating in a high profile conference.

- 2.5 Work is underway to draw together existing evidence to provide an initial assessment of the current state of knowledge in respect of the review's objectives. This consists of analysis of local data on the performance of the skills system and a review of the extensive national literature on skills policy and delivery. This will be used to inform the content of the call for evidence, including the key questions posed to consultees; to provide an early stage briefing to members of the Commission; and to identify gaps in our understanding where further investigation is required and resources need to be targeted.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The review remains unbudgeted within existing Combined Authority budgets. Financial resourcing of the review is currently under consideration as part of business planning for 2019/20.

4 Legal Implications

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

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 A project team meets regularly, currently comprising of existing members of staff from within the Combined Authority.

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that members of the Panel note the update.

8 Background Documents

None.

9 Appendices

Commission membership

Appendix 1: Commission membership

Chair – Combined Authority and LEP

Employers (up to 6)

Employer Representative Bodies (1)

Trade Union (1)

Education and Training Sector (4)

Think Tanks (3-4)

Local Authority (1)

Learner Voice (2)

Media/Commentator (1-2)

National Government (Advisory) (2-3)