



To: Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)

11th March 2015

Subject: Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Skills Strategy Progress Update

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing note is to update members of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) on developments taking place relating to the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Skills (CWLEP) Strategy.

2 Recommendations:

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) are requested to:

- 1) Members are asked to note the success and achievements of the CWLEP Skills Strategy.
- 2) Members are invited to give their comments, questions and views on the content detailed below and its impact on the skills agenda for Coventry.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Skills Strategy for CWLEP was launched in November 2013 following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. It is monitored by the CWLEP Jobs and Skills Business Group which meets six times a year. The Strategy has recently been reviewed and refreshed having been through its first year of implementation.

<http://www.cwlep.com/downloads?sec=rs>

- 3.2 It has 3 core objectives:-

- Using Skills to drive and create growth
- Developing skills to tackle unemployment
- Getting a better fit between education and employment

- 3.3 Implementation has been through a work plan made up of 6 strands:

- **Apprenticeships**
- **Information, Advice and Guidance**
- **NEETS (Not in Employment, Education or Training) 16-18 and 18-24**
- **STEM (Science,, Technology, Engineering, Maths)**
- **Skills Capital and European Structural Investment Funds**
- **Workforce Development.**

3.4 The Jobs and Skills Business Group has the following membership:

Richard Hutchins, Warwick Manufacturing Group (LEP Board Member)
Marion Plant, Principal North Warwickshire and Hinckley College (Chair)
Rebecca Young, Economy and Jobs Manager Coventry City Council
Steve Logan, Principal City College, Coventry
Lee Weatherly, Chief Executive Midland Group Training Services
Mark Bailie, Headteacher Finham Park School
Paul Mackintyre, Headteacher Myton School
Ian Dunn, Pro Vice Chancellor Coventry University
Ann Williams, District Manager Job Centre Plus
Becki Coombe, Executive Director Learn 2 (representing Federation of Small Businesses)
Linda Gilleard, Chief Executive RightStep
Sally Lucas, Executive Director CWT
David Hill, Economic Development Manager Warwickshire County Council
Rachael Stewart, Skills Executive CWLEP
Roger Douthwaite, Company Secretary CWLEP

Each strand of the work plan is led by a member of the Jobs and Skills Business Group.

3.5 Progress to Date on some of the strand activity is outlined below

3.5 (i) Apprenticeships

There are just under 16,000 apprentices on programmes in Coventry and Warwickshire. In 2014 there were 7,500 starts. The LEP encourages participation in its priority sectors and this year is focussing on three areas namely increased starts for 16-18 year olds on Levels 2 and 3; Higher Level Apprenticeships Levels 4 and above; traineeships. The CWLEP will also be holding a Jobs, Apprenticeship and Careers Fair in October building on the success of last year which saw over 2,000 young people and 400 parents attend an event at the Ricoh. 52 organisations exhibited and 300 young people went into an apprenticeship on the day. In addition 38 adults were offered jobs.

3.5 (ii) Information, Advice and Guidance

The Jobs and Skills Business Group works closely with the High Value Manufacturing Business Group and has a rolling programme of bringing together employers and those responsible for information, advice and guidance in schools, colleges and training providers. Originally round STEM provision this programme has recently been extended to include construction which is an emerging priority in terms of skills shortages in the area.

3.5 (iii) NEETS (Not in Employment, Education or Training) 16-18 and 18-24

16-18 NEETs and 18-24 unemployed adults remain a key priority. Coventry has 720 16-18 year olds who are NEET out of a cohort of 10,473. Henley, St.Michaels and Binley and Willenhall are the wards with the highest NEETs. The City and the County have a Progression to Employment Strategy which feeds into the Skills Strategy and has just been awarded funding to put together a

Youth Transition Plan. Responsibility for the National Careers Service has recently been awarded to Prospects and the LEP is in the process of agreeing Key Performance Indicators around reducing 18-24 unemployment.

3.5 (iv) Skills Capital and European Structural Investment Funds Skills Capital

CWLEP secured Growth Deals 1 and 2 totalling over £89m. Part of this allocation includes a Skills Capital programme over the period 2015 to 2021. This will fund the improvement and provision of our further education provision. City College Coventry are currently applying to the fund to provide a stand- alone skills hub that compliments the provision of the Coventry Jobs Shop.

3.5 (v) European Structural Investment Fund

136 million euros is being made available through the European Structural Investment Fund and this will enable much of the Skills Strategy to be delivered. The City Council and County Council are working closely with the LEP and the two universities to ensure that these funds are focussed and targeted.

Impacts will be:

- Greater careers and employability support to the unemployed.
- Greater focus on signposting of provision to meet skills shortages and gaps especially in the STEM areas.
- Greater support for schools to engage with employers.

3.5 (vi) Workforce Development

The Growth Hub located at Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry has been established (referred to in the Skills Strategy as a Clearing House). It is now fully operational with Account Managers in post acting as brokers supporting employers in Coventry and Warwickshire on a range of issues such as skills, access to finance, innovation, inward investment, and international trade. They refer onto specialists for specific advice for example they would refer onto the specialist skills 4 growth co-ordinator for skills advice.

A separate report on the 3rd quarter of the Skills 4 Growth programme is attached as an Appendix. It outlines the strong and solid progress that this Project has achieved against the targets set.

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