

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

23 November 2022

Local Skills Improvement Plan

(1) Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of the Local Skills Improvement and current approach to its development, including input from local authorities.

(2) Discussion and decision required by the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Economic Prosperity Committee (D2JC)

2.1 The D2JC is requested to:

- i) Consider the background information set out in this report and additional information presented in the meeting**
- ii) Agree the priorities as presented – and any additional issues emerging through discussion**
- iii) Discuss how local authorities can take an active role in LSIP in the Steering Group**
- iv) Flag or share key reports that will help shape LSIP preparation.**
- v) Indicate if your authority would be interested in participating in future focus groups, events, online surveys and consultations.**
- vi) Indicate if your authority can help expand our employer reach**

(3) Information and Assessment

3.1 Statutory Guidance for the development of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) was launched in October and for the Derby and Derbyshire area (D2), confirmed that the Federation of Small Businesses would provide the lead co-ordination role as the Employer Representative Body (ERB).

3.2 The core purpose of the LSIP is to:

- Set out the key priorities and changes needed in a local area to make post16 technical education or training more responsive and closely aligned to local labour market needs

- Provide a representative and coherent employer view of the skills most needed to support local economic growth and boost productivity, and improve employability and progression for learners
- Set out actionable priorities to better meet these skills needs that employers, providers and stakeholders in a local area can get behind to drive change in ways that add value to relevant local strategies and effectively join-up with other parts of the local skills system
- Not attempt to cover the entirety of provision within an area but focus on the key changes and priorities that can gain traction and maximise impact informed by meaningful dialogue between employers and providers LEPs, LAs and other stakeholders.
- Be drawn up for a period of three years and reviewed/ updated as appropriate to ensure it remains relevant and reflects the skills needs of the area.
- Describe how skills, capabilities and expertise required in relation to jobs that directly contribute to or indirectly support Net Zero targets, adaptation to Climate Change or meet other environmental goals have been considered.

3.2 Whilst all post-16 technical education or training is in scope, Government does not intend the D2 LSIP to be a comprehensive anthology of all the skills gaps in our area. It is for employers through the designated ERB to identify the most pressing skills issues informed by local economic strategies and employment and skills plans.

3.3 Government expects that being employer-led, LSIPs will be able to shine a spotlight on the actual skills employers most need in the workplace but may be struggling to find locally. In addition to looking at the type, level and volume of existing qualifications and apprenticeships, LSIPs need to identify the sort of non-accredited, local provision that can best meet emerging skills needs.

3.4 Recognising that to raise productivity, there is a need for people to do their current jobs better and that means addressing shortfalls in provision for employed adults in particular. The LSIP process is therefore expected to embed a stronger and more dynamic relationship between employers and providers within local skills systems – and a better dialogue with local authorities, hence the discussion at the Joint Committee meeting.

3.5 The presentation attached given by the FSB will describe -

- FSB's role as Employer Representative Body (ERB)
- The LSIP process and final report
- Timescales
- Actions to date

- How local authorities can contribute
- Working with D2N2 B6 Local Group

4. Recommendations

It is recommended the Joint Committee:

- a) Consider the background information set out in this report and additional information presented in the meeting**
- b) Agree the priorities as presented – and any additional issues emerging through discussion**
- c) Discuss how local authorities can take an active role in LSIP in the Steering Group**
- d) Flag or share key reports that will help shape LSIP preparation.**
- e) Indicate if your authority would be interested in participating in future focus groups, events, online surveys and consultations.**
- f) Indicate if your authority can help expand our employer reach**