

D2 JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Update on D2 Employment and Skills Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity (D2JC) with an overview of the presentation to be shared at the meeting regarding key employment and skills services supported by the Committee.

2.0 Discussion/Decision Required by the Derbyshire Joint Economic Prosperity Committee (D2JC)

2.1 The Joint Committee is requested to:

- a) Consider the information presented at the meeting and discuss the relative merits of the projects in driving economic growth across the D2 area, and particularly consider the relevance of such projects within the context of the proposed East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA).

3.0 Information and Assessment.

- 3.1 The D2JC will receive presentations on the following areas of work that are in place to support the employment and skills agenda. It should be noted that work around this agenda is not limited to these areas of work and there are other key initiatives such as Chesterfield's Apprenticeship Town and work sponsored through the SPF, that provide key contributions.

- 3.2 Updates on the following three key areas of provision will be shared at the meeting, alongside a more general overview, including opportunities provided through the proposed EMCCA:

- **Adult Careers Service:** This service provides residents with impartial information, advice and guidance about career opportunities, learning and employment.
- **Youth Hub – YES (Youth Employment Support):** The county is currently hosting two physical youth hubs, working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions. The popularity and demand for the services of the Youth Hubs is increasing and there is scope to roll out provision further, subject to funding.

- **Apprenticeship Levy Transfer:** Local authorities are able to transfer some of the apprenticeship levy to Derbyshire businesses to create apprenticeship opportunities. Derbyshire County Council will present an overview of its approach and current levels of achievement

3.3 The Committee should note that the proposed EMCCA will be in receipt of £53m devolved Adult Education Budget (to be spent on adult education provision) and circa £3m Free Courses for Jobs provision. Whilst this funding will be ring-fenced to these areas, there is scope within the devolved landscape to work with DWP on designing more targeted routes to employment that meet the economic challenges of the D2 area. A discussion around the wider skills and employment needs will be brokered at the meeting to help shape future work packages within the EMCCA.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 That the D2JC Leaders:

- a) Note the content of the presentations and acknowledge their achievement to date**
- b) Note, specifically, the role the retained business rates fund has played in contributing to the delivery of the Youth Hubs and the value of access to non-ringfenced investment funding.**
- c) Considers and advises on the skills and employment programmes which would be worthy of taking into the wider EMCCA discussions and pipeline for investment.**