

## Minutes of the Greater Lincolnshire Employment and Skills Advisory Panel

9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Via MS Teams

Attending:		Actions
Panel members Simon Telfer Chair (ST); Andy Harsley (AH); Rachel Linstead (RL); Jason Parnell (JP); Cllr Craig Leyland (CL); Mandy Watson (MW); Cllr P Bradwell (PB); Janet Meenaghan (JM); Melanie Weatherley (MW); Ian Dickinson (ID); Oliver Tasker (OT);		
Specialist invitees: Amanda Bouttell (AB) Bev Moxon (BM) Graham Metcalfe (GM)		
Guests Roy Harper – SkillsReach; Kevin Fenning – Metro Dynamics , Liz Hopkins – Metro Dynamics James Baty and Raju Kadir (LEP Team)		
LEP Executive Clare Hughes (CH) Ruth Carver (RC) Laura Spittles (Note Taker)		
Apologies: Debbie Barnes, James Pinchbeck, Jo Woodhouse		
<u>1.0 – Welcome</u>		
The Chair welcomed the Board to the meeting and also welcomed Oliver Tasker as a new Board Member.		
2.0 - Minutes of the last meeting		
Panel members asked to think about what an Online Skills Conference might look like. JP		

volunteered and this may need picking up again now. A possible discussion is needed about this over the next few months.

Update: For 2021, if a LEP Conference takes place the ESAP will get involved in the skills element rather than hold a separate event. Provisional date: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

At the intermediary meeting it was discussed that the white paper would be easier to digest if it was broken down. This is still an outstanding action.

CH

## 3.0 - Apprenticeship Strategy

Roy Harper from SkillsReach Ltd provided the Board with an update on the Local Apprenticeship Strategy. A working group consisting of the following organisations have been working together to check the pre-Covid Apprenticeship Strategy and discuss an action plan. Covid-19 has had a big impact on Apprenticeship numbers.

The working group will meet again on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Working Group:

Orsted; DFDS; Anglian Water; World Wide Fruit; Siemens Energy; Lincolnshire County Council; Micronclean; Gelders; ESFA, Pilgrim Foods.

## 4.0 - Chancellors Budget - Employment and Skills

James Baty provided the Board with some highlights from the recent Budget announcement. The budget confirms £1 billion of investment for a further 45 Town Deals across England including:

- Newark (£25m)
- Skegness (£24.5m)
- Mablethorpe (£23.9m)
- Boston (£21.9m)
- Scunthorpe (£20.9m)
- Grimsby (£20.9m)
- Lincoln (19m)

The town deals include a number of skills capital projects which are:

- Skegness Learning Campus (£26m project)
- Campus for Future Living, Mablethorpe (£7.5m)
- Leisure and Learning Centre, Mablethorpe (£13.3m)
- Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics, Boston (£2m)
- Hospitality Events & Tourism Institute, Lincoln (£2.5m)

The recent Humber Freeport bid has been successful. The Freeport should begin in operation from late 2021. The Freeport site can offer lower tax and customs incentives such as favourable tariffs, lower VAT or duties. The Humber Freeport bid is projected to bring 7,000 jobs to sites located on both banks of the Humber.

The upcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund is due to be launched in 2022. Up to £14 million will be released later in the year to support the preparation for this.

A new online service will help to match Apprenticeship Levy payers with local businesses that share priorities. This is aimed to be introduced in August 2021. The Government will also

increase and extend payments to employers who hire new apprentices. 5.0 - Greater Lincolnshire's Economic Revival Plan James Baty presented the Board with the latest draft version of Greater Lincolnshire's Economic Revival Plan. The plan sets out commitments and actions from various local authority, private sector, third sector and education organisations to outline the activities needed to put in place to appropriately respond to the risks posed by COVID-19. This strategic plan, which is currently in development, will link strongly to our Local Industrial Strategy objectives and identify our priorities to drive recovery across the area. 6.0 – Interim Skills Statement, Local Skills Report and Milestones The Local Skills Report is currently on track to be produced at the end of March and again in November. It pulls together various aspects including Skills Strategy, Skills Action Plan and various case studies. A team from Metro Dynamics have been working with Clare Hughes to get this report produced. The plan is to produce an Interim Skills Statement ahead of a full Skills Strategy Refresh in the summer. The Local Skills Report will be published in November 2021 and annually thereafter. A discussion was held on the content of the Interim Skills Statement. 8.0 - A.O.BThe Skills Conference was planned for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 but had to be postponed due to Covid-19. There were over 300 people who had already registered to attend with lots of activity due to happen. A question was posed as to whether this should go ahead via an online platform event or wait until we could hold this physically. The general thought from the Board was to hold a physical event with a possible steer with an online event using the current Online Jobs Fair that is being held monthly. Remaining actions from shorter monthly meetings in April and May: arrange a presentation from the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub to understand their role in advising businesses on CH **Apprenticeships** Next Quarterly meeting - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021