



Agenda Item No: 3.3

Local Skills Improvement Plan

To: Business Board

Meeting Date: 14 November 2022

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Chair of the Business Board, Alex Plant

From: Interim Associate Director for Skills, Fliss Miller

Key decision: No

Recommendations: The Business Board is recommended to:

Note the ongoing development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Business Board on changes to the post-16 technical education and training governance, through the introduction of Local Skills Improvement Plans.

2. Background

- 2.1 Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) are derived from the Skills for Jobs white paper, which sets out a plan to put employers more firmly at the heart of the skills system, to help ensure businesses and people have the skills they need.
- 2.2 Led by designated Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs), LSIPs must set out a clear articulation of employers' skills needs and the priority changes required in a local area, to help ensure post-16 technical education and skills provision is more responsive and flexible in meeting local labour market skills needs. All LSIPs will produce a report setting out the key priorities needed to make technical education and skills provision more responsive to the changing needs of employers and the local economy by:
- Ensuring a better match between the supply of and demand for the skills that employers most need to thrive and boost productivity, as well as helping to drive greater collaboration between providers to realise the benefits of economies of scale and specialisation;
 - Making provision more accessible, and addressing barriers to progression, especially for the adult workforce, such as driving greater join-up between skills offers, including work programmes; and
 - Recognising that improving the supply of skills must be accompanied by demand-side measures that drive greater employer engagement and investment in skills and support potential learners through industry-relevant post-16 technical education that meets employers' needs and effective careers guidance.
- 2.3 LSIPs are based in statute in the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022. Providers now have a duty to co-operate with the designated ERB, and also have a duty to 'have regard' to the LSIP when considering their post-16 technical education or training provision.
- 2.4 Accountability will be evidenced through the following mechanisms:
- Accountability Agreements that certain providers will have with the department;
 - Ofsted inspections;
 - College annual reports;
 - Reviews of performance; and
 - The department's Performance Dashboard.

The published Annual Accountability Statements will set out how providers have engaged with employers and responded to LSIPs. They will set out the provider's key aims and priorities for the year ahead, and how these contribute to meeting skills needs, including those set out in the relevant LSIP.

- 2.5 LSIPs will not involve giving commissioning or funding powers to ERBs, nor will they remove any of the functions devolved to the Combined Authority.
- 2.6 The statutory guidance for the development of an LSIP outlines the important role that combined authorities, local enterprise partnerships and local authorities have in developing local economic priorities, especially combined authorities which have devolved commissioning responsibilities for the adult education budget.
- 2.7 The Act places a duty on the Secretary of State to be satisfied, when approving an LSIP, that in the development of the plan due consideration was given to the views of the combined authority, where the specified area covers any of its area. The combined authority is invited to provide a statement when the LSIP is submitted for approval. This should state whether it has been engaged in the development of the plan and had the opportunity to give its views on the skills needs of the area it covers.

3. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Skills Improvement Plan

- 3.1 The ERB that has been designated to lead the LSIP in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's area is Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- 3.2 The Chamber of Commerce has submitted its Project Initiation Document (PID) to the Department for Education, which was required by 3 October 2022. The PID outlines its plans for the initial development of the LSIP to be completed by the end of May 2023.
- 3.3 The scope of the LSIP is yet to defined, however a proposed governance structure has been developed to underpin the work going forward.
- 3.4 The Combined Authority has seconded a member of the Workforce Skills team to help ensure alignment between the LSIP and the work of the Combined Authority. The Chair of the Employment and Skills Board, Al Kingsley and the Interim Associate Director for Skills, Fliss Miller, are both members of the LSIP Advisory Group.
- 3.5 The LSIP is for a three year period, and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Significant Implications

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications at this stage

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications at this stage

6. Public Health implications

- 6.1 There are no public health implications.

7. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

7.1 There are no environmental and climate change implications.

8. Other Significant Implications

8.1 There are no significant implications.

9. Appendices

9.1 None

10. Background Papers

10.1 [Skills for Jobs white paper](#)

10.2 [Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022](#)

10.3 [Statutory Guidance for the Development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan](#)