

REPORT TO: Employment Learning and Skills and
Community Policy Performance Board

DATE: 18 February 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and
Resources

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Update on Liverpool City Region Activities

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update PPB Members on employment, learning and skills activities in the Liverpool City Region.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Members note the progress being made to deliver employment, learning and skills activities across the Liverpool City Region and recognise the role Halton Council and its partners play in supporting these activities.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Council contributes to a number of initiatives and actions that are taking place in the Liverpool City Region. It is hoped that this update will be of interest to this PPB.

3.2 **Local Industrial Strategy for the Liverpool City Region**

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has commissioned consultants SQW to facilitate the development of a Local Industrial Strategy, (LIS) for the Liverpool City Region. This is in response to the production of the National Industrial Strategy in 2017. The Industrial Strategy was originally reported to this PPB in January 2018.

The purpose of a Local Industrial Strategy is to ensure that all places are able to increase productivity and realise their potential. An LIS will set out the spatial impacts of national and local policy across cities, towns and rural areas.

LIS proposals will need to be based on a robust and open evidence base and aligned to the national industrial strategy, its grand challenges and foundations of productivity.

The LIS document will set out clearly defined specific, achievable and long term priorities, making the most of distinctive strengths and addressing local weaknesses. They will be used to coordinate policy at local level and ensure greater collaboration across boundaries.

The LCR CA LIS will need to outline how the document will align with LEPs and promote partnership working with both public and private stakeholders.

The LIS will provide a strategic overview which will inform the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (post Brexit funding) and the CA's approach to devolved funding.

It is proposed that the LCR LIS will become **THE** strategy for the LCR, replacing previous economic strategies; and all dependent strategies like the Spatial Development Strategy and our investment strategy refer upward to the LIS.

It is an important document because it will be used to help inform funding and investment decisions including the Comprehensive Spending Review.

It is anticipated that the LIS will link LCR priorities to investment opportunities to generate economic growth as well as environmental sustainability and community wellbeing.

It will harness the strong assets of the Liverpool City Region to create a place where the benefits of a booming local economy are shared.

It aims to attract more residents and businesses to live, work, study, and visit and invest in the City Region and will serve to demonstrate the positive contribution that the Liverpool City Region makes to the national economy.

To date SQW have produced a large data pack of data and analysis and they will be undertaking further work based on targeted questions

SQW will wish to access relevant non-public data from LAs, academics and businesses in the LCR

They will be consulting with Local Authorities but will also undertake in-depth interviews with academics, businesses and civil society leaders

A Larger scale public engagement exercise will be developed in the summer.

Discussions are currently taking place to consider governance arrangements, including the establishment of a Project Board and Advisory panel and consultative forum.

Apprenticeships Hub

A combined LCR Apprentice and Employer Ambassador Network was launched at the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool. 65 employers and their apprentices officially signed up to be apprentice ambassadors. Over time, the Ambassador network will grow to fully reflect the LCR sectors. Halton employers who have signed up to be Ambassadors are:

- Alstom
- Whitfords
- Halton Council
- Science Technology Facilities Council (STFC) at Sci-Tech

LCR Apprentice Graduation Ceremony

The ceremony has not taken place for a couple of years. Funding has been secured so that it can take place on the 7th March 2019 at St Georges Hall in Liverpool. The event will celebrate the achievements of apprentices from the 2017/18 academic year. Further details are provided in the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/liverpool-city-region-apprenticeship-graduation-2019-tickets-54844641800>

School Careers Hub

The launch of the Careers & Enterprise Company's School Careers Hub for Liverpool City Region took place on the 29th January at The Tate in Liverpool. Young people spoke about the positive experiences they have had with regards to positive careers advice whilst at school.

Devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB)

Members of this PPB have received regular reports on the AEB. AEB provides for funding to support Community Adult Learning.

The CA is meeting with all FE colleges (collectively) and all council adult learning services (collectively) to discuss grant funded AEB allocations. These meetings will be followed up by individual meetings with each FE College and Local Authority. In Halton, the Adult Learning Team and Riverside College will continue to work in partnership to ensure AEB is fully maximised in the borough.

Skills for Growth Action Plans and Careers Materials

Of the 14 Skills for Growth Action Plans commissioned by the

Apprenticeship Hub, there have been 7 published and disseminated at launch events across the City Region. Riverside College hosted the launch of the Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan in November.

Member may wish to view all published Action Plans, via the link below. <http://www.lcrskillsforgrowth.org.uk/our-work/skills-for-growth>.

The CA will be publishing associated careers materials for each Action Plan. To date, just the Health & Social Care materials have been produced. It is hoped that a number of others will be published in readiness for the various Skills Shows that the Apprenticeship Hub are running across the City Region during February and March 2019.

National Apprenticeship Week

This takes place 4-8th March 2019. A whole host of activities will be taking place during the week. This annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships will bring the whole apprenticeship community together to celebrate the impact of apprenticeships on individuals, employers and the economy.

National Apprenticeship Week 2019 – which also coincides with National Careers Week - will look to involve more individuals, employers, partners and providers in activities that highlight the benefits apprenticeships bring to employers and the opportunities apprenticeships present to individuals.

www.apprenticeshiphub.org.uk

Some key activities already planned to take place in NAW include:

- The LCR Apprenticeship Graduation
- Launch of the new Combined Authority 'Apprenticeship Portal'
- STFC (Sci Tech Daresbury) Apprenticeship Open Day

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no further policy implications arising from this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no further financial implications identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

A number of initiatives highlight support being provided to prepare young people for employment

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The report identifies projects and programmes which will make a positive contribution to delivering this key priority

6.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

6.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no risks identified in the report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no adverse Equality and Diversity issues arising from the report.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.