

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

**DATE:** 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director Economy, Enterprise & Property

**PORTFOLIO:** Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community

**SUBJECT:** Liverpool City Region Local Improvement Skills Plan

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan for the Liverpool City Region.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) Members note the process and progress being made to develop a Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) for the Liverpool City Region;**
- ii) The Council works with Halton Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of the Research Questionnaire contained in appendix 1 of the report.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth White Paper introduces 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 to thrive and progress. LSIPs are a key part of achieving this aim.

3.2 Led by designated Employer Representative Bodies ERBs, LSIPs will set out 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.

3.3 An ERB is an eligible body that has been designated by the Secretary of State to lead the development and any subsequent review of a local skills improvement plan for a specified area. St

Helens Chamber is the ERB for the Liverpool City Region and is working with all other Liverpool City Region Chambers of Commerce.

- 3.4 The ERB is leading on the development of a report which not only sets out those key priorities, but importantly should outline the process to develop the report, i.e., bringing together employers and providers to understand skills needs and provision.

The guidance states that LSIPs will set 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 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.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The guidance states that

LSIPs need to go beyond simple statements about the need for more engineers or digital skills.

- This means understanding the actual skills employers need in the workplace but are struggling to find.
- It is this insight that is often missing but can be invaluable for providers in driving up labour market relevance and delivering better learner outcomes.
- Key findings and supporting evidence should be organised around the technical education occupational routes, pathways and levels developed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) in consultation with employers.
- Having a common framework that uses the same terms will make it easier for employers and providers to come together and identify where provision is well aligned and where it is not.
- It will also enable the key findings to be sufficiently clear, specific and actionable to inform future provision planning and investment decisions by FE Colleges and other relevant providers.

4.2 The deadline for the submission of the plan is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

## 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 It is understood that a Local Skills Improvement Fund is being developed to support the implementation of LSIPs.

## 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

6.21 LSIPs are focused on matching skills development with the needs of employers and enabling employers to shape and inform these plans.

### 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 No risks have been identified.

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 No Equality and Diversity implications arising from the report have been identified.

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.