

West London Economic Prosperity Board

20th September 2017

Title	West London Skills strategy and London Skills Devolution
Report of	Cllr Steve Curran
Wards	All
Status	Update for Information
Urgent	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1: Devolved Skills System: Principles for joint working between the GLA, Sub regional Partnerships and London Boroughs Appendix 2: Draft West London Skills, Employment & Productivity Strategy
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Summary

This paper provides an opportunity to comment on a draft West London Skills Strategy and further information on shaping the development of the London Skills Strategy.

Recommendations

1. That the Board notes the shared principles for developing the London Skills Strategy (Appendix 1)
2. That the Board comments on the draft West London Skills Strategy (appendix 2)
3. That the West London Skills and Employment Board is requested to engage more widely in the development of the strategy with key stakeholders on behalf of the WLEPB
4. That the draft strategy is used as a basis for influencing the draft London Skills Strategy

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 As discussed at the Board's June meeting, the Mayor of London has agreed a plan and principle (Appendix 1) for developing the London Skills Strategy in collaboration with sub regional groupings of boroughs.
- 1.2 In June the WLEPB agreed to consider a draft sub regional skills strategy (Appendix 2) in order to articulate the vision and priorities for the skills system in West London and to effectively influence the emerging London Skills strategy.
- 1.3 This report seeks the views of the WLEPB to inform the ongoing development and consultation on these strategies to ensure widespread ownership of the strategy and ensure adequate local distinctiveness aligned with London and the other sub regions.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 At the end of June the GLA and London Councils agreed a series of principles (appendix 1) for joint working within the London skills system that demonstrate a clear commitment on behalf of the Mayor of London, sub regional partnership and London Boroughs to work together in order to prepare for and deliver skills devolution.
- 2.2 Cllr Curran, as lead member for Skills in west London, has regular meetings with the Deputy Mayor for Skills (Jules Pipe) as part of a shared commitment to joint governance, and in June the WLEPB agreed that Cllr Curran would represent all west London boroughs in these discussions
- 2.3 The WLEPB is asked to note the joint principles document.
- 2.4 The principles describe the important of early strategic input and the draft west London Skills Strategy provides a mechanism to articulate this for west London to assist with the development of the London Skills Strategy.
- 2.5 The draft strategy (Appendix 2) attached to this paper sets out a summary of the key issues and challenges facing the West London Skills system, and proposes a series of priorities and themes under which a range of activities are proposed:
 - a. Strategic shaping of the labour force at scale
 - b. Supporting inclusion
 - c. Businesses and employers playing their part
 - d. Getting the basics right
- 2.6 The WLEPB is invited to comment on the draft strategy and suggest any changes for consideration before sharing this more widely for consultation.
- 2.7 It is essential that the draft West London skills strategy is developed in partnership with the full range of stakeholders involved in the skills system. Alongside consultation in the Autumn on the London Skills Strategy, and the strategy will need to be developed with key stakeholders to inform a final strategy for publication in the new year.

2.8 It is recommended that the West London Skills and Employment Board (chaired by Cllr Curran) is requested to lead on engaging more widely in the development of the strategy with key stakeholders (including GLA) on behalf of the WLEPB

2.9 To ensure early strategic input to the London skills strategy it is recommended that the draft attached as Appendix 2 is also shared with GLA officers and used as a basis for the next round of discussions with the deputy mayor.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

N/A

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

WLA officers will oversee implementation of the recommendations in this report, working with the WLESB

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 This paper directly supports the West London Vision for Growth action plan objectives on productivity and skills.

5.2.2

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Resources have been committed from all WLA boroughs to support the recommendations from the ACL review paper in March, any additional resources required for the development of the draft West London Skills Strategy will be met from within existing budgets.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 This activity will support the objective in the West London Vision for Growth to support low-paid people in work and those without work to find it.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional Reference

5.4.1 The skills commissioning work falls within the following functions of the West London Economic Prosperity Board as set out in the Board's Functions and Procedure Rules:

- Representing the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations with regional bodies, national bodies and central government on matters relating to economic prosperity for the benefit of the local government areas of the participating authorities.
- Representing the participating authorities in connection with the Greater

London Authority, London Councils and the London Enterprise Panel, for the benefit of the local government areas of the participating authorities, in matters relating to the economic prosperity agenda

- Representing the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations in relation to pan-London matters relating to economic prosperity.
- Agreeing and approving any additional governance structures as related to the Joint Committee, or any sub-committees formed by the Joint Committee.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 WLA officials are working closely with the GLA to ensure governance and supporting mechanisms developed at regional and sub-regional level to support delivery of the devolved skills budget work well together and maximise leverage of the subregions.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 A locally-led skills commissioning process provides the opportunity to review the best available evidence and work with all partners in the public and private sectors locally to ensure the needs of all residents and businesses are given full consideration in skills delivery in West London. The strategy will seek to be inclusive and address specific priorities of the sub-region including and specific issues identified for particular groups accessing skills training. Full equality impact assessments will be undertaken as the strategy develops.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The Post-16 Area Review process has provided a forum for consultation and engagement with local colleges on future skills provision and our proposed approach for skills commissioning. WLA borough officials have also been in consultation with the Greater London Authority and representatives from other subregions to ensure structures developed here align with those being developed in other sub-regions and at the London level, including Skills for Londoners activity. It will continue to be important to engage with other skills providers, learners and employers as the skills strategy is further developed, in line with the recommendations in this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 *Skills Commissioning in West London* (Paper considered by the WLEPB joint committee at its meeting on 21st September 2016).
- 6.2 *Adult Community Learning* (Paper considered by the WLEPB joint committee at its meeting on 21st March 2017).
- 6.3 *Previous reports to the board can be found at:*
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=765>
- 6.4 *Skills Commissioning in West London* (Paper considered by the WLEPB joint committee at its meeting in June 2017)