

West London Economic Prosperity Board

21 February 2018

Title	West London Skills, Employment & Productivity Strategy
Report of	Dan Gascoyne
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Enclosures	APPENDIX 1: West London Skills, Employment & Productivity Strategy APPENDIX 2: Skills Strategy draft action plan
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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

The Board is asked:

- 1. To note the final Skills, Employment and Productivity strategy, in anticipation of the expected devolution of London Adult Education Budget (AEB) from 2019/20.**
- 2. To make any comments on the draft action plan as necessary to help inform the work of the West London Skills and Employment Board.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 WLA boroughs, working with London Councils and the three other London sub-regions have helped to shape the draft London skills and adult education strategy, working with the Greater London Authority (GLA) to convene consultation events and submitting responses to the strategy.
- 1.2 Governance arrangements have been agreed for the devolved AEB with GLA. Councillor Curran, as Lead member for skills and Chair of the West London Skills and Employment Board has been nominated to the London Adult Education Programme Board (AEPB) giving the opportunity to influence on decisions that will be made by the Mayor.

- 1.3 All sub-regions are developing sub-regional skills strategies/priorities and most have established a sub-regional Skills and Employment Board. These are needed to inform the GLA's skills work at a pan-London level and ensure there is sub-regional representation on the the AEPB.
- 1.4 In West London the Skills and Employment Board was established in April 2017 and the final Skills Strategy is attached to this paper, together with a draft action plan developed by the West London Skills and Employment Board in conjunction with representatives from all WLA boroughs and other partners.
- 1.5 The GLA will publish a Skills and Employment Framework (the AEB commissioning framework) alongside the final London skills strategy in May 2018
- 1.6 Approximately £120m of ESF funding is likely to be matched to the AEB in London
- 1.7 The West London Skills and Employment Strategy identifies the key priorities for west London as:
 - A truly joined-up system
 - Supporting inclusion
 - Working with employers from all sectors
 - Getting the basics right

Under each priority, a series of objectives and activities are outlined that have informed the development of the draft action plan.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The West London Economic Prosperity Board is asked to formally note the strategy and draft action plan in order for WLA boroughs to demonstrate clear priorities for west London as part of the wider London skills system.
- 2.2 These shared priorities will be used to help inform engagement with the GLA (and AEPB) and the London Skills and Employment Framework, including priorities for funding AEB and ESF and the approach to commissioning.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

Failing to agree a shared set of priorities and action plan for the skills system in west London would dramatically reduce our collective ability to influence commissioning decisions being taken about this at London level.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

Further development and refinement of the action plan to be led by the West London Skills and Employment Board.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

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

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

Resources have been committed from all WLA boroughs to support the recommendations from the ACL review paper in March 2017, any additional resources required for the development of the draft West London Skills Strategy will be met from within existing budgets or through external sources of funding.

5.3 Social Value

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 References

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

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 sub regions.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

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

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. The action plan contained within Appendix 2 of this report has been developed following consultation with a wide range of partners, including:

- Further education
- Higher education
- NHS
- GLA
- Business sectors including the hospitality and care sectors
- London Councils

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None