



Learning and Skills for Economic Recovery

Decision to be taken by: Economic Development,
Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission

Decision to be taken on: 26th January 2023
Lead director: Mike Dalzell

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Kerry Gray
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- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database:

Suggested content

1. Purpose of report

Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission members previously requested discussion of a paper, '**Learning and skills for economic recovery, social cohesion and a more equal Britain**' created by The Labour Party's Council of Skills Advisors. The paper is attached with some summary from officers to guide a discussion.

2. Summary

The Labour Party Council of Skills Advisors was formed in Autumn 2021, chaired by Lord David Blunkett, with the ambition to 'reach out to the network of those involved in the development of skills and lifelong learning- in business, the trade unions, public service and academia – in order to put together an ambitious but practical set of proposals which would provide coherence across a range of policy areas and meet both the short-term skills gap and the longer-term challenges of major innovative change in the workplace.'

3. Recommendations

Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission (EDTCE) are invited to:

- Consider and comment on the policy paper.

4. Report/Supporting information including options considered:

The Labour Party Council of Skills Advisors was formed in Autumn 2021, chaired by Lord David Blunkett, with the ambition to 'reach out to the network of those involved in the development of skills and lifelong learning- in business, the trade unions, public service and academia – in order to put together an ambitious but practical set of proposals which would provide coherence across a range of policy areas and meet both the short-term skills gap and the longer-term challenges of major innovative change in the workplace.'

The paper identifies three key challenges:

1. Rapidly restore a sustainable upward trajectory in growth and productivity.
2. Deliver quality jobs and provide the incentive and necessary skills to fill largescale vacancies in order to accelerate growth without long-term inflationary pressures
3. Prepare for the ongoing impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the transition towards net-zero and the rapidly changing profile of the workplace.

There are 21 key recommendations which include:

- Establish a National Skills Taskforce
- Decision making and spending should be decentralised and devolved to regional and sub regional level wherever possible.
- Restoration of the Sure Start programme
- A National Curriculum Authority free from Party Political interference.
- Raise the standards of digital skills teaching
- A complete shake up of the careers service from school through to adult careers guidance.
- An enhanced role for further education
- Re-introduction of the Educational Maintenance Allowance
- Development of Individual Learning Accounts for Adult Learning
- Apprenticeship and Learning Levy
- Right to Retrain – free courses for adults to progress to higher level skills.
- Disability passport scheme to streamline Education, Health and care Plans, Disabled Students Allowance and Access to Work.
- National Occupational Health programme

The paper concludes with a series of case studies illustrating existing good practice.

The meeting on the 23rd January offers an opportunity for members to consider these issues further and to suggest how and if the council should respond to this policy paper.

As this is primarily a discussion paper we have not engaged other officer comment around equalities, finance and legal implications etc as the combined subject areas are too broad and there isn't a Leicester specific proposition against which we could make such assessments.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

No implications

5.2 Legal implications

No implications

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

No implications

5.4 Equalities Implications

No implications

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

No implications

6. Background information and other papers:

[WR-16813 22-Labour-Skills-Council-report-Edit-19-10-22.pdf](#)

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1 : 'Learning and Skills for economic recovery, social cohesions and a more equal Britain' . The Labour Party Skills Council, October 2022

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason

In determining whether it is a key decision you will need consider if it is likely:

- to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working *in two or more wards in the City*.

Expenditure or savings will be regarded as significant if:

- (a) In the case of additional recurrent revenue expenditure, it is not included in the approved revenue budget, and would cost in excess of £0.5m p.a.;
- (b) In the case of reductions in recurrent revenue expenditure, the provision is not included in the approved revenue budget, and savings of over £0.5m p.a. would be achieved;
- (c) In the case of one off or capital expenditure, spending of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.

In deciding whether a decision is significant you need to take into account:

- Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic or environmental risk.
- The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the City.
- The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest
- The existence of significant communities of interest that cannot be defined spatially.