



Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission

Date of Commission Meeting: 4 December 2019

Employment and Skills Plan

Report of the Director of Tourism, Culture and Investment

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report updates on work in progress relating to departmental work on inclusive economic development, and the development of a Leicester Employment and Skills Plan

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report and comment as appropriate.

3. Supporting information

Background

- 3.1 The manifesto includes a specific commitment to “develop job creation, skills and investment plans for parts of Leicester which are economically excluded, including opportunities for local businesses and for young people to engage in positive activities”.
- 3.2 Work is underway to develop a Leicester Employment and Skills Plan, which will
- Develop an outcome-based document including a skills needs analysis, an overarching city profile/ activities and the development of more detailed action plans for key neighbourhoods.
 - Link with and support wider city council strategies such as the Anti-Poverty Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, and align with other initiatives such as the Living Wage and Social Value
 - Have clear reportable targets measured and monitored at least annually.

Data to support policy development

- 3.3 Officers in the Tourism Culture and Investment (TCI) Division have started to engage with Scrutiny officers around the sharing of data and information, to develop a common understanding of the context around the inclusive growth agenda. This has included providing details and map of the top 200 business in Leicester, and a list of providers and intermediary organisations that might usefully inform the scrutiny’s review of this area of work. Further relevant data and contacts can be provided as the work develops.
- 3.4 A wide range of data has recently been collated from various services by the NES division to create individual ward profiles which will inform and provide

Councillors and ward members with an overview of the key demographics and significant facilities/assets within each ward. The profiles provide an overview of health and deprivation, significant building assets and facilities, amongst some key performance information and investment data. This provides an overview of the ward health and the challenges/different circumstances which people face within their local area. The profiles also include the new 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation data which have recently been released. Work to develop an Anti-poverty strategy has also recently seen the collation of relevant data.

- 3.5 Officers in Economic Regeneration and Adult Skills and Learning have provided input into these areas of work to provide information relevant to employment and skills. It is anticipated that this work will continue to develop to produce a useful source of data to inform policy.

Partnerships/ building on existing activities

- 3.6 A broad range of services that support the inclusive growth agenda are being delivered by the Council, partners, intermediaries and third sector organisations. The fragmented and dynamic nature of funding for this area means that it is difficult to have a complete and comprehensive picture of provision at any one time.
- 3.7 The Economic Regeneration service has a long standing collaborative approach to work in this area, working with a range of Council services and external organisations. Building on this collaborative approach, a task group of key officers and external providers is being formed to guide the development of a Leicester Employment and Skills Plan. This task group will steer the development of job creation, skills and investment plans for parts of Leicester which are economically excluded, in line with the manifesto commitment.
- 3.8 A specific snapshot of the work of the Council in relation to employment and skills was completed in March 2019. This 'Celebration of Leicester to Work' showcased the diverse work of the Council across a range of services, and how this supports those most in need to enter the labour market, gaining the relevant skills and addressing the needs of business.
- 3.9 Specific initiatives currently being delivered include the Employment Hub and work to engage with businesses, work to support specific priority groups across the city, and initiatives to drive the take up of apprenticeships or that help develop learning, skills and wellbeing. These various initiatives will continue to deliver across the city for the benefit of local residents and businesses. It is hoped that through developing an evidence based framework through this process, that this will inform the targeting and approach to delivery of these and other initiatives.
- 3.10 The following work is currently being progressed to build on this:
- To gather information from this broad range of Council initiatives around reach and impact at the ward level, where this is available, to both map existing work programmes and identify any gaps in provision
 - To identify what key funders are commissioning to update and build a picture of the current external provider landscape

3.11 It is proposed to provide updates to the EDTT Scrutiny Commission at key milestones as this work develops.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.

5.4 Equalities Implications

Not applicable at this stage. An Equalities Impact Assessment is in development to guide the work.

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

Not applicable.

6. Background information and other papers:

None

7. Summary of appendices:

None

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