

GLOUCESTERSHIRE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD

Meeting at 09:00 on Monday 14th October 2019 in Room 7A and 7B, 1st Floor at the Growth Hub, Oxstalls Campus, Oxstalls Lane, Gloucester GL2 9HW

1) Welcome and introductions:

Boyd Hatwood of ESFA/DfE introduced himself to the GESB members. Boyd is working on T-levels and apprenticeships and will be working with the GESB as our DfE/ESFA 'link' person.

Attendees:

Boyd Hatwood, Clare Marchant, Dan Boon, David Peake, Diane Haines, Ian Mean, Jason Dunsford, John Mayell, Kathryn Wagstaff, Linsey Temple, Matthew Burgess, Pete Carr, Rebekka Bishop, Rob Jenkins, Roxy Varnham, Rob Loveday, Russell Marchant, Sara-Jane Watkins, Simon Spooner and Vicky Lukins.

Apologies: Andrew Kirk, Anne Stokes, Councillor Lynden Stow, Councillor Steve Lydon, Matthew Galley, Michael Carter, Nikki Williams, CLLR Molyneux

2) Declarations of interest:

Nothing declared on 14/10/2019

3) Minutes of last meeting:

No comments or amendments to be made on 14/10/2019. The Minutes of 23/05/2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising: The Gloucestershire Employment and Skills Board would like to meet in different locations across Gloucestershire.

Action: Roxy Varnham will contact Gloucestershire College to enquire about the possibility of hosting the December meeting in their Cheltenham Campus.

Outstanding actions: Rob Jenkins will circulate information about all Gloucestershire schools who took part in the Young Entrepreneur competition last academic year 18/19 and a 'shopping list' of GFirst Education and Skills activities on offer.

4) Employment and skills aspects of the GFirst LEP Local Industrial Strategy (LIS):

Pete advised the consultation period for the LIS was due to end on Thursday 31st October and advised individuals/organisations to respond to this consultation online.

It was advised Katie Jenkins the Director of LIS would lead on this and has been completing 'Roadshow' visits to various groups of individuals around the county to collate further opinion.

Those who took part in the sub-group on August 1st were thanked for their time and input.

It was advised their views were fed back into discussions with Katie Jenkins and those supporting the LIS and PC also incorporated them into a re-draft of the 'people' and 'cyber' chapters of the LIS ahead of the draft LIS going out for consultation.

In addition, the Youth Survey was mentioned with the results of this being published on the GFirst LEP website in the coming weeks.

Key topics discussed and identified by the GESB to be reflected in the LIS:

- How we retain 18-24-year olds in apprenticeships.
- Supporting SME's with their apprenticeship offer and developing a range of case studies showcasing best practice Flexible working, to include how we will retain and support an aging work force
- Inclusivity and the up-skilling of individuals within the county
- Engaging everyone in the Education and Training agenda (careers advice for all)
- Participation blackspots
- The development of level two apprenticeships within the county
- Priority neighbourhoods and communities

Further comments were made about:

- Access to reliable transport within the county
- Skills pipeline and skills shortage

A subgroup was formed to include Clare, Diane, Jason and Ian.

This sub-group was formed to look at three key priority areas for the GESB emerging from the LIS to include the retention and attraction of young people, flexibility for all and priority neighbourhoods.

Action: Pete and Rob to review feedback from external organisations on the LIS and Pete to liaise with Clare and other sub-group volunteers to enable the key points raised above to be incorporated into the final LIS, if appropriate. Clare will contact all sub-group members to meet virtually before 12/12/2019.

Gloucestershire Apprenticeship Data Check

Pete and John Mayell demonstrated an annual comparison of total Apprenticeships in Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Technologies. It was noted that the data used and in discussion at the Gloucestershire Employment and Skills board was incomplete for 18/19 because only the first two quarters for the year are available via the ESFA data cube.

Furthermore, it was demonstrated through this data Engineering Apprenticeships have grown marginally year by year.

The **Regional** comparison was then discussed and information was provided about the ESFA 'Data Cube' as a tool. It was noted, the purpose of using the Data Cube was to provide information about training in Gloucestershire and other areas funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (and predecessor organisations).

An **apprenticeship levy** update was provided verbally by Dan Boon who explained the initiative is there to encourage employers to invest in apprenticeship program and raise additional funds to improve the quality and availability of apprenticeship training. It was mentioned that employers need to understand the transferability and how they can support other providers.

This discussion will need to be revisited by the GESB in order to build the relevant work into the apprenticeship workstream of the LIS/county skills strategy.

There was discussion held around the current challenges for apprenticeship providers with reference to economic uncertainty, lack of confidence to manage the apprenticeships and feeling prepared with the compliance rules/regulations.

Action: It was thought data could be accessed via the Data Cube to confirm which providers within Gloucestershire are offering apprenticeships. John Mayell will explore this and inform the board of his outcome. Vicky Lukins will help provide further information about which providers offer/deliver which apprenticeships, based on the previous work she has done with GWP.

- 5) A verbal update was provided by Pete Carr about the progress towards **Skills Advisory Panel** status. Pete will be required to submit a further update on progress to the DfE SAP team in order to demonstrate our progress regarding governance, spend on the project, preparation and analysis of data and impact of GESB decisions/influence. Pete highlighted that the aspect he thought the GESB could demonstrate the least was the impact of decisions/influence. This was simply because the GESB has not had a budget or control of particular funding streams so being able to demonstrate influence rather than specific decisions and funding allocations for skills projects/investments was harder to do. He explained that he had already raised this with the DfE SAP team. It was advised, a decision would be made by Government at the end of October 2019.

The SAP would enable the LEP to understand the current and future skills needs and labour market challenges within Gloucestershire further. Additionally, it will work to strengthen links between public and private sector employers, local authorities, colleges and universities.

- 6) Clare provided information about **UCAS's proposal to support apprenticeships** as part of their 'hub' offer. It was noted, UCAS would like to provide apprenticeship information and guidance in conjunction with their HE provisions online. This would also enable them to provide and offer resources/services to individuals and employers.

AOB:

- Rebecca Bishop provided an update from the Gloucestershire STEM Network and advised she will now be departing her position with the STEM Network and the GESB. Rebecca advised the network no longer receives funding and the position of the network would need reconsideration. She asked for help from GESB members with regards to this and in terms

of making sure that the STEM agenda in the county did not get moved down the priority list.

- There was a request from Sarah Scott the Director of Public Health to present her report findings to the wider Gloucestershire Employment and Skills Board at the next meeting.

Action: Pete to liaise with Sarah Scott at GCC in order to circulate a copy of her report to GESB members in advance of the next meeting in December.