

GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership

Board Paper – 4th October 2016

1. Agenda Item 7

2. What is this item for:

- a. To confirm to the Board that an Employment & Skills Board (ESB) will be formed with the aim of being operational by the end of January 2017 and that it will report to both the LEP Board and the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC).
- b. To provide the LEP Board with the opportunity to give feedback on the draft Terms of Reference of the Employment & Skills Board.
- c. To ask the LEP Board to approve the draft Terms of Reference of the Employment & Skills Board so that it can be used by GCC, GFirst LEP and AMEO consultants to initiate discussions with replace the existing version for the Framework as soon as possible.
- d. To ask members of the LEP Board for any recommendations they may have for the Chair of the Employment & Skills Board.

3. Background:

Board members will recall that at the August meeting, Peter Holmes presented a draft Skills Policy for Gloucestershire to the LEP Board and feedback was provided and taken into account. The Skills Policy was subsequently approved by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) at its meeting on 7th September.

The next step presented to both the LEP Board and GEGJC was 'to establish an Employment & Skills Board tasked with developing a detailed skills strategy in line with the final policy'.

With this in mind, Gloucestershire County Council, working closely with GFirst LEP commissioned consultants (AMEO) to undertake preparatory work in getting the structure and membership of the Employment & Skills Board underway in order to meet the end of January 2017 timescales for getting the ESB operational. In addition to this, Peter Holmes and Pete Carr have prepared the accompanying draft Terms of Reference for the Employment & Skills Board, based on examples from other LEPs and what they think is needed in Gloucestershire.

GCC and GFirst LEP now need LEP Board input into the items 2b, c and d above in order to progress to a fully operational Employment and Skills Board.

4. Risks / Issues:

Lack of LEP Board input into the direction of travel and working arrangements of the Employment & Skills Board could result in the ESB working ineffectively and/or not providing the strategic leadership for skills in the County that is required to support and grow the local economy.

5. Recommendations:

The Board is asked to:

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1. Give feedback on the draft Terms of Reference of the Employment & Skills Board
2. Approve the draft Terms of Reference of the Employment & Skills Board so that it can be used by GCC, GFirst LEP and AMEO consultants to initiate discussions with replace the existing version for the Framework as soon as possible
3. Provide any recommendations they may have for the Chair of the Employment & Skills Board.

6. **Further information:**

For further information about the Employment & Skills Board or points raised in this Board paper, please contact Pete Carr peter.carr@gfirstlep.com