

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

42	LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH GRANT REVIEW
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which updated Members on the delivery of the £15 million Liverpool City Region (LCR) Business Growth Grant Programme.

The Board had previously considered a report that described the proposed roll-out of the LCR Business Growth Grant in Halton in November 2014.

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LCRLEP) had secured £10 million from Round 3 of the Government's Regional Growth Fund (RGF) programme and a further £5 million from RGF Round 4 to establish a pan-Merseyside scheme to provide grant support of between £50,000 and £1,000,000 to eligible businesses across the City Region. The LCR Business Growth Grant supported business planning to invest in capital or equipment that directly created or safeguarded jobs and to increase business output. This was designed to unlock private sector investment, which would be at least 5:1 - every £5 invested by a business could potentially lead to £1 of support from the LCR Business Growth Grant.

The Board noted the final RGF3 and the current RGF 4 spend position. To date, 90.95 % of contracted grant (RGF3 and RGF4) had been paid to businesses. A total of £3,239,554.03 of private sector leverage had been invested in the Borough as a consequence of the award of grant against total project expenditure of £3,916,416.64. The Programme had created 26 jobs, and safeguarded a further 23 jobs to date. Grant recipients had until 2017 to meet the jobs created and safeguarded targets associated with the award of grant. It was anticipated that the Programme would create 102 jobs and safeguard 72.

RESOLVED: That the positive performance of the Liverpool City Growth Grant Programme in Halton be recognised in respect of the number of companies supported; the level of grant contracted and paid; private sector leverage generated as a consequence of the receipt of grant; and the anticipated number of jobs created and safeguarded as a result of the receipt of grant.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2015

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UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS INITIATIVE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided an update on the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Employment and Skills Initiatives in Halton.

The Board noted that the Employment and Skills Board was the LCR lead strategic voice for improving the employment, skills and productivity of the LCR's residents and workforce. The report set out details of the four programmes within the Youth Employment Gateway, where Halton benefitted and had taken a lead role on implementing those initiatives. These included:

- Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Hub;
- Skills for Growth Capital Fund;
- Calls for European Funding; and
- Access to Employment.

It was reported that in future, it was likely that Government would transfer the allocation of resources to the City Region level and that the current Growth Plan concept would be extended, so that the Combined Authority and the Employment and Skills Board would have more influence over the allocation of resources within the LCR.

RESOLVED: That the positive progress being made to deliver Liverpool City Region initiatives in Halton be supported.