

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills, and
Community Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 6th January 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Skills For Growth Priorities in the Liverpool City
Region

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the skills for growth priorities for the Liverpool City Region. It is suggested that a number of the priorities and actions will resonate with PPB Members.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Members consider how the skills for growth priorities are communicated to key stakeholders in Halton including businesses, schools and Riverside College.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A number of Skills for Growth documents have been produced, which aim to influence and inform curriculum planning, training provision and the design of employment and skills policies and programmes.

3.2 The documents provide an analysis on current and future skills and employment requirements in key growth sectors and flag up future potential strategic developments in the Liverpool City Region. The documents also provide an annual baseline review so that employment and skills trends can be tracked over time.

3.3 These documents have provided a solid base for the development of a skills for growth priorities list which identifies the skills needs of employers and then provides a framework for how partners in the Liverpool City Region can respond to these needs.

3.4 There are sector specific skills that have been identified in the Skills for Growth documents described above, for example, The priorities that have been identified ranging from advanced and higher

apprenticeships in engineering to digital and technology solutions professionals.

However, there are some '**generic priorities**' as follows:

- Customer service – particularly in light of visitor economy events in taking place in the Liverpool City Region in 2016;
- An increasing need for technicians, graduates and post graduates with general science and technology skills;
- Digital skills; particularly at Sci-Tech Daresbury;
- A shortage of project management, leadership and management skills across all sectors;
- Employability skills (previously discussed at this PPB) to enable residents to contribute in the workplace

It is argued that if the Liverpool City Region is to maximise and secure opportunities in its key growth sectors that lead to an improved economy, then the following '**headline challenges**' or issues will need to be addressed:

- Enhanced links between businesses and education providers;
- Improvement of careers, information advice and guidance;
- Making it easier for businesses to invest in workforce skills;
- Helping individuals to progress beyond entry level jobs;
- Tackling long-term worklessness.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 As previously reported to this PPB, there is a strong focus from Government on Productivity as set out in the recent 'Fixing the Foundations' publication. Consequently, the Skills for Priorities highlighted in this report should contribute to an overall improvement in productivity through the development of higher skills in our key growth sectors, notably in Halton, Pharmaceuticals, Science and Innovation.

4.2 An officer steering group comprising key partners has been established to oversee this process. The Council's Divisional Manager for Employment, Learning and Skills represents Halton on the group. Progress will be monitored at a City Region Level by the Employment and Skills Board. However, it is suggested that Halton PPB Members will also wish to receive reports on progress and performance against the key actions identified in Appendix 1 of this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Funding from the Skills Funding Agency has been devolved to the Liverpool City Region to deliver Skills for Growth Priorities as set out in the table below:

	£m	
Apprenticeship Hub	0.150	Allocated to Halton Council
World Host Training	0.100	Being procured by Merseytravel
Provider Coordinator	0.150	To be procured by Combined Authority
Growth Hub Capacity	0.100	To be allocated to Growth Hub
Skills for Growth fund	1.000	Grants to be payable to businesses
Administration	0.050	Allocated to Combined Authority
Total	1.550	

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None identified.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None identified.

9.0

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
<p>Life Science SfG agreement https://www.liverpoollep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/wpid-lcr-skills-for-growth-agreement-life-sciences-01-2015.pdf</p> <p>Low Carbon SfG Agreement https://www.liverpoollep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/wpid-lcr-skills-for-growth-low-carbon-07-2014.pdf</p> <p>AdMan SfG Agreement https://www.liverpoollep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/wpid-skills-for-growth-advanced_manufacturing2014.pdf</p> <p>Digital and Creative SfG Agreement https://www.liverpoollep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/LCR-Skills-for-Growth-Digital-and-Creative.pdf</p>		

APPENDIX 1 Liverpool City Region Skills for Growth Priorities 2015/16 Action Plan

Headline Challenge	Enhance links between business and education/training			
What	How	When	By whom	How measure
Ensure employers have a greater say in skills provision	Annual focused discussion on Skills for Growth implementation	Ongoing	Tbc with LEP sector panels	Discussion takes place
	Contact providers and businesses to collate and publish best practice examples	One each to be uploaded each quarter	Employment and Skills Board	Number of case studies received and published
Ensure local business presence is meaningfully represented on institutional Governing Bodies	Encourage institutions to include business representation by communicating clear benefits	Quarter 1 2016	LEP Strategic Board	Number of institutions with business representation on Governing Bodies (esurvey)
Work with Government to reshape local skills system to be more responsive to employer and economic growth priorities	Ensure any Area Based Review includes strong employer focus	Quarter 2 2016	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Government	Successful implementation of any Area Based Review recommendations
Ensure training premises and equipment respond to current and future employer needs	Deliver Skills Capital Investment Fund and related strategy	2016-17	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Employment and Skills Board	Successful deployment of Skills Capital Investment Fund and creation of sustainable

				learning facilities
Further engage learners in identified skills needs through practical application (i.e. STEM, English, Maths, Digital)	Deliver Skills Show 2016 for KS4 learners	2016-17	Employment and Skills Board	Events held
	Consider potential for Skills Festival aimed at KS2/3learners			