

Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

Date: 3 March 2020

Title: Employment and Skills

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Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report presents evidence to inform and support members in examining the action taken by the Council and its partners in relation to employment and skills.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The sub-committee is responsible for examining the delivery of services and influencing decision makers in the formulation of their future plans, strategies and their decision making by making evidence-based recommendations to them on how services can be improved in relation to the following areas:

- Economic Development
- Planning
- Business and Enterprise
- Transport Network
- Highways and Road Safety
- Town Centres
- Inward Investment
- Tourism

- 2.2 In determining its work programme, members agreed to devote a meeting to examining the action taken by the Council and its partners in relation to employment and skills. The sub-committee may wish to pursue the following lines for enquiry which were raised during formulation of the work programme:

- a) the link between the economy and employment with education and skills and the need to raise educational attainment and aspirations;
- b) to examine the extent to which there has been an uplift in the employability of people living in the borough;
- c) to identify skills shortages and to examine the action to be taken to address any gaps;
- d) the extent to which the Council's plans and strategies are likely to deliver inclusive growth, identifying cold spots and ensuring people from these areas are included in economic growth; and

- e) to consider the Council's approach to delivering a green industrial revolution and ensure people have the right skills for the future green jobs.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Local Enterprise Partnership's ambition in its [Strategic Economic Plan](#) is that demand for skills and the quality of jobs continue to improve, leading to higher productivity. To deliver this, the North East must be a place where:
- Individuals, regardless of age or employment status, have a good understanding of the employment opportunities available in the North East and the pathways to access them
 - Employers have strong links with education and training providers leading to responsive provision that meets local needs
 - All partners understand the importance of skills in improving productivity and living standards, with commitment to delivering good working environments for residents.
- 3.2 The [North of Tyne Combined Authority's Economic Vision](#) seeks to give everyone the opportunity to thrive – to attain a fair wage, and access good jobs with continued training and skills development available once in work. It will work with business and civil society to change working practices, working with employers committed to providing pay and conditions which enable people to take up local jobs and progress.
- 3.3 [Our North Tyneside Plan](#) states that “Our economy will... be business friendly, ensuring the right skills and conditions are in place to support investment” and “Our people willbe ready for work and life.”
- 3.4 The Cabinet are expected to update the Council's Employment and Skills Strategy in 2020 to bring it, and the Ambition for North Tyneside programme, into a single view of an Inclusive Economic Strategy and to align it with the work of the Combined Authority.

4. Meeting

- 4.1 Mark Barrett, the Council's Senior Manager, Employment and Skills, and Mo Dixon, Principal of Tyne Met College, have agreed to attend this evenings meeting to
- a) present an overview of the key issues in relation to employment and skills;
 - b) describe the current strategic landscape in relation to the North East LEP, North of Tyne Combined Authority and the Council's approach to identifying and addressing skills gaps; and
 - c) describe how Tyne Met College delivers a range of programmes to help businesses to grow and maximise the skills and effectiveness of their workforce.
- 4.2 As the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee is responsible for scrutinising adult education, work based learning and 14-19 skills, members of that sub-committee have also been invited to attend the visit and meeting.

5. Construction Centre

- 5.1 Prior to tonight's meeting Sub-Committee members have been invited to visit Tyne Metropolitan College's Construction Centre.
- 5.2 The Centre was opened in 2019. The £2.6m construction training centre provides classrooms, learning hubs and demonstration areas, all fully fitted with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Trades covered include bricklaying, plastering, dry-lining, painting and decorating, plumbing, joinery, and electrical engineering. Programmes of study, including apprenticeships, are available to school-leavers, with flexible adult and part time courses for adults looking to re-train, upskill or begin a career. Overall, it specialises in delivering the hands-on skills that equip learners for work in construction and building services across the region. The centre replaced the former TMC training facility which was highly regarded for delivering one of the North East's widest packages of construction-based training. Lecturers are delivering a phased expansion of its curriculum, allowing them to offer additional higher-level courses, higher education and skills training.

6. Background Information

- 6.1 The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the report author:
- Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee Work Programme 2019/20
 - Minutes of the Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee 25 June 2019
 - The Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan
 - North of Tyne Combined Authority's Economic Vision
 - Our North Tyneside Plan
 - <https://www.tynemet.ac.uk/>