

MINUTES

DORSET LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL AND BOARD

17 November 2020, 2 pm – 3.30 pm
Virtual meeting

Board Attendees:

- Emma Hunt, AUB, Chair (EH)
- Nicola Newman, Ansbury Guidance (NN)
- Rod Davis, Dorset and Somerset Training Providers (RD)
- David Matthews, Upton Beach Consulting (DM)
- Luke Rake, Kingston Maurward College (LR)
- Lesley Haig –Vice-Chancellor AECC (LH)
- Lesley Spain, Skills and Adult Community Education (LS)
- Diane Grannell, Bournemouth and Poole College (DG)
- Julia Howe, Weymouth College (JH)
- Adrian Trevett, BCP (AT)
- Nigel Evans, Weymouth College (NE)
- Jo Pickrell, Department for Work and Pensions (JP)
- Mark Blackman, Education and Learning, Dorset Council (MB)

Guests:

- Sandra Rothwell, (SR)

Also Present:

- Rebecca Davies, DLEP Head Of Enterprise, Skills And Industry (RDa)
- Mira Koseva, DLEP Skills Analyst (MK)
- Stephen Williams, DLEP Careers Hub Lead (SW)

Apologies:

- Jim Andrews, Bournemouth University (JA)
- David Walsh, Dorset Council (DW)
- Zannah Chisholm , Pavilion Dance South West (ZD)
- Hugh Joseph, Air Bearing Solutions (HJ)
- Amanda Buttle, Department for Work and Pensions (AB), represented by JP

Item	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Action
1	The Chair welcomed Rebecca Davies – the newly appointed Head Of Enterprise, Skills And Industry at Dorset LEP who would be leading the SAP & Board coordination going forwards and providing updates on key areas of work. The Chair reiterated the role of the SAPB to oversee the delivery of work programmes and provide strategic steer to the skills agenda across Dorset. The agenda has been constructed around the three main themes of this strategic work: recovery, place and future.	
2	Minutes, Actions and Matters Arising	
	The 15 September meeting minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the proceedings. There were no matters arising.	MK: Minutes to be published

3	Recovery	
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Current Skills Activities Update RDa noted a paper on skills activities has been distributed with the meeting papers. The Chair invited comments and brief updates on the key initiatives included in the paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers Hub <p>LR commended the Dorset's Careers Hub expansion with the securing of further funds and noted steering group progress with strategic planning across workstreams. SW agreed work is on track to redesign the expanded Careers Hub and implement the work programme despite current challenges in securing employer encounters and workplace experiences. Key focus areas are creating virtual solutions and disseminating LMI into the schools careers strategy and provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Market Information (LMI) <p>MK noted latest Dorset LMI insights and key industry dashboards have been produced and published on the Dorset Skills Research page. These aim to support strategic decision-making and facilitate career pathways within Dorset's key industries and have been widely disseminated across partners including DWP, Careers Hub, Careers Leaders and Cornerstone employers and a dedicated LMI CPD session has been designed and delivered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP update <p>JP gave update on the DWP role in delivering the Chancellor's Plan for Jobs which includes a number of schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kickstart scheme - Dedicated youth support – youth hub, structured 13 week programme, dedicated youth employability coaches - Sector-based work academy programme (SWAP) – currently running one for the civil service - DWP are currently recruiting new work coaches and growing within Dorset and nationally - JETS (Job Entry Targeted Support) is coming in and flexible support fund and vocational training packages are available through DWP <p><u>Comments</u> ESF/ Shared prosperity fund AT commented there was a disjoint and some duplication between the European Social Fund programme of activities and the DWP/Jobcentre work and wondered whether future funding to replace ESF would have a more integrated structure and mechanisms.</p> <p>Youth hub and other collaborations DG asked for an update on youth hubs in Dorset and all colleges declared interest to collaborating with DWP on that. LS also felt closer collaboration with Adult Skills & Learning should be established to help DWP deliver those programmes. JP agreed to organise a follow up discussion directly with FE colleges.</p>	<p>RD to check the future of ESF/SPF funding streams/mechanisms</p> <p>JP to contact the colleges/training providers with an update</p>

4	Place	
4.1	<p>Dorset Skills Action Plan & Activities 2020-2022</p> <p>The SAP&B has gone live with the publication of the Dorset Skills Action Plan – featuring key local skills related challenges and strengths and priority areas [link] and a delivery programme of current activities [link].</p> <p>The Chair reiterated this work covers strategic skills planning for Dorset and not just Dorset LEP projects and thanked all SAPB members and DLEP officers contributing to this work.</p> <p>RDa added that these documents will feed into the development of the new Local Skills Report which is to be produced by the SAPB before the end of March 2021. This will be a single consistent report across all SAPs nationally and provide a one-stop shop for the skills work in the county to engage local partners and feed intelligence into central government and follow up on delivery. MK will be in touch to members individually for photos, short profiles, case studies and other updates. The SAPB will continue monitoring the delivery through DLEP updates.</p>	MK: To get in touch for details for the Local Skills Report
4.2	<p><u>Comments</u></p> <p>Post 16 progression</p> <p>LR raised and RD echoed the issue of post 16 progression lagging across providers due to short term planning with Covid-related restrictions and digital deprivation. Significant activity anticipated post Easter.</p> <p>Post-qualification admissions</p> <p>EH also noted changes to admission patterns expected in 2023 with post qualification admissions reform should be factored in future skills planning.</p>	RD: Capturing policy changes into future plans
5	Future	
5.1	<p>Big Ideas - Investment Prospectus Update</p> <p>SR gave an update on the progress with the Investment prospectus and the big ideas submitted around skills:</p> <p>The investment prospectus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 year period; Vision "Dorset: Living Better". - Focus on LIS, Skills Plan priorities and COVID-19 recovery - Idea submissions currently in review - Edition #1 on track to be ready by January 2021 <p>Overview of skills idea submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40 good quality ideas submitted (public and private-led) - Fit within the key skills priorities / <i>Prospectus programmes</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery - pan-Dorset with a lead for economic recovery, upskilling and retraining / <i>Role modelling recovery</i> • Place - regeneration, scale and focus / <i>Lifestyle & recovery</i> • Future - Growth talent and attraction including innovation and enterprise / <i>Business & inspired thinking</i> - Grouping proposed under themes and mechanisms for discussion 	

<p>5.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will benefit from SAPB shaping: skills plan evidence base alignment/ collaboration and economies of scale/ linking supply and demand <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of November - LEP board presented with recommended ideas - Early December - SAPB to convene a 'task & finish group' to review the ideas prioritised by the LEP Board and agree on ideas to be included in the first iteration of the prospectus in January - 2021+ - SAPB to take strategic leadership for development of Investment Prospectus Skills Portfolio (Frame new programmes (e.g. Shared Prosperity Fund), commission activity, ensure collaboration) 	
<p>5.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration with investment sponsors (demand-led) – short, medium, long term - align with evidence, themes and mechanisms <p>Future Skills Ideas Roundtable</p> <p>The Chair opened the roundtable discussion outlining the convening of a task and finish group as an immediate priority. The group was to assess the ideas in their merit and priority, map them under the priority areas and report to the SAPB.</p> <p><u>Comments</u></p> <p>Clarifying proposal specifics</p> <p>SW asked for more specifics around the ideas submitted. SR cautioned some details were commercially sensitive, but the majority of ideas were building new capacity and initial assessment of scale was around £200-250 million over 3-5 year period, with 20-30% match from sponsors. There was a mix of capital (skills infrastructure, novel delivery) and revenue and provided a good cover of the localities.</p> <p>AT asked about the total size and scale of the investment proposals and whether there are exciting ideas, offering clear RoI.</p> <p>SR said some of the ideas were exciting and innovative but it was the work of the skills board to assess whether investment in these ideas is what they would stand behind and are they what would make the biggest difference to the Dorset economy over the next 10 years.</p> <p>SR also mentioned that while difficult to identify direct financial RoI, there were indications on business growth and jobs created, enabling supply chain developments, increasing innovation and opportunities through skills and unlocking future growth. Overall proposals estimated at £12 billion.</p> <p>Clarifying the role of the task and finish group</p> <p>LH asked whether there is a set of assessment criteria. The Chair noted that priority, scale, pace and likelihood of delivery were among the key criteria. SR said the ideas will be provided to the task and finish group with their baseline assessment on key criteria including strategic and evidence fit to facilitate that.</p> <p>DG raised caution that assessment criteria language would imply that stakeholders have pitched bids for assessment. However, at this idea generation stage, the role of the task and finish group would be to identify synergies and collaborations, align with priorities and other projects within</p>	

5.4	<p>the county and beyond and shape these ideas further, rather than assess them per se. SR agreed this is not a bidding process, but a strategic piece of work on assessing the big ideas' potential to transform the future of Dorset. SD pointed to RDa's role of joining up this work with the business and enterprise workstream.</p> <p>Future proofing LH noted that latest disruptions have illustrated that priorities might change rapidly and DW pointed out virtual working and learning have also changed the narrative around localities and enabled working beyond the boundaries of the LEP. The Chair agreed that future foresight of skills developments should be at the forefront of this work.</p> <p>Ongoing work NE shared a concern that a narrow focus on certain subject areas such as digital, engineering and manufacturing in future planning might create barriers to developing viable opportunities in other subject areas, such as hair, beauty and sports, humanities and arts etc. The Chair agreed the effect of the ideas across all these areas, particularly those most affected by the crisis should form part of the recovery piece. SR responded that the investment opportunities should not be seen as replacing all ongoing skills work and these areas should continue and be captured, but the investment prospectus is focused on transformation and how investing in skills could transform the productivity across the board (e.g. digital skills in health and beauty).</p> <p>Funding and stakeholder alignment NN made a point that having a clear idea of these aspirational projects and direction of travel could provide a clear steer for both governmental and charitable funding, which is currently dispersed. RDa also reiterated the importance of having key partners from the councils around the table to ensure alignment.</p> <p><u>Closing and next steps</u> The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation and SR's contribution. She advised that as per next steps outlined in section 5.2, the task and finish group is to convene in early December and RDa will be in touch to recruit volunteers to complete this work.</p>	RD: Invite interest for the task and finish group
6	AOB	
	None raised	
7	Date of Next Meeting	
	18 January 2021 2-4 pm	