

DORSET LEP SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL & BOARD
7 March 2022, 2 – 4pm

Virtual meeting via Teams
AGENDA

#		Item	Lead	Purpose	Annex
1		Welcome, introductions and apologies	Luke Rake Chair	Welcome, introduce attendees and note apologies	
2		Approval of minutes of last meeting – July 2021	Luke Chair	To agree minutes as read and action updates	1
4	Place	Local Skills Report review	Mira Koseva, Dorset LEP	Update on review of Local Skills Report and comms shared	
		DSTPN	Rod Davies	New resources share	
		Local Government update	BCP/DC	Skills Commission and more LGS skills & Education tool ; skills commission	
		College update	Phil Sayles	Ofsted, skills accelerator	
		Restart success	Rebecca	Rurality, Coastal, programme stats	
		ESFA funding	Rebecca Davies	programmes delivered.	
3	Recovery	March LMI	Mira Koseva	Webinar feedback and information	
		SAPB Action Plan		Highlight of Skills Wish List	
5	Future	Funding opportunities	Luke Rake / Rebecca Davies	UK SPF	
		Levelling up		Multiply AEB/Devolved skills budget	
		SAPB/LSIP/DfE		Future role of SAPB with LSIP	
6	AOB		All		

DORSET LEP SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL AND BOARD MEETING

Meeting Date	07-03-22	Item Number	2
Security Level:	Confidential <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/>	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paper Title	Dorset LEP Skills Advisory Panel and Board Update		
Recommendation			
Papers are provided for:	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE

This paper provides an update from the Dorset Skills Advisory Panel and Board (SAPB), together with operational updates from Dorset LEP skills team in Dorset between Jan 2022 and Mar 2022.

2. SUMMARY

Skills team update

Dorset LEP have been working to ensure Dorset residents have opportunities to participate in skills initiatives, as they become available. In addition to operational delivery, DorsetLEP have fed into the

- Department of Education Director of Strategy, regarding the future of strategic skills planning at a national level and how this translates to local planning and delivery;
 - the CIEAG Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into careers education, information, advice and guidance for children and young people
 - the National Audit office as they undertake a value for money examination on Developing workforce skills for a stronger recovery.
- **SAP Programme** – working with the SAPB we have published the updated Dorset Local Skills Report, data annexe and activities meeting the DfE deadline of 28 January 2022. Funding for the existing work with DfE ends 31/3/2022 and we await details of transition to future plans which will include a Local Skills Improvement Plan aligned to a strategic development fund (subject to budget availability).
- **Skills Boot Camps** – Wave 2 technical programmes continue to deliver although securing participants has been tricky. Dorset LEP have bid under the national framework for Wave 3 working in partnership with Somerset County Council. We are awaiting confirmation to proceed.
- **Restart Programme** – Seetec Plus are delivering for DWP with extended criteria due to the low number of qualifying unemployed participants. Those who have been unemployed for 9 months to 2 years are able to access the programme of wellbeing support, training and self-development to secure employment. The programme continues but has had early success with around 300 job starts.
- **Skills Commission** – BCP and Dorset Councils have approved funding for a year long Skills Commission to review the Dorset skills landscape in consideration of the Skills White paper, the levelling up agenda and produce a report that lays out a potential

skills journey with 10, 20 and 30 years trajectories. The tender is due to be published by 4th March.

- **LMI delivery** – DorsetLEP have delivered Labour Market Information sessions at Bournemouth and Poole College and Weymouth college FE colleges to help inform curriculum strategies. LMI delivery to schools, young people and parents is under development with the Dorset Careers Hub for roll out in the summer term.
- **Skills4Now – Navigating the Dorset labour market maze** – a webinar delivered by DorsetLEP in March to help businesses understand why its hard to recruit, and strategies to help attract and keep the talent they need.
- **Communications** – working with board members and other local leaders we have continue to publish a series of opinion pieces linking data analysis with business needs, growth and work that is happening across both council areas to support recovery. The latest was linked to International Women’s Day and celebrated the success of female business leaders across Dorset yet recognised the impact of Covid19 on the female workforce.
- **BCP Skills Strategy and Implementation** – commissioned by BCP council DorsetLEP will be drafting a BCP Skills strategy and implementation plan, ensuring the authority is ready to bid and deliver to the Levelling Up agenda.

3. The Labour Market Information update

The latest labour market update has been [published](#) including dashboards, [report](#) and [presentation](#). The indicators show that the economy is growing and is now close to its pre-coronavirus levels. Despite acute recruitment difficulties remaining in many sectors and rising costs being passed through to prices, business confidence in the UK economy is rising, suggesting more positive expectations for the economy in 2022.

In Dorset we look back at the 2021 jobs market which was tumultuous but strong. Overall recruitment not only recovered, but exceeded previous years. The aggregate vacancies advertised in 2021 exceeded 80,000 and were the highest on record. As businesses were trying to fill their increased demand, the moves back to work accelerated among those displaced by the pandemic, but the pace has slowed down in recent months and unemployment climbed up. The report's future careers section features apprenticeships highlighting the demand for apprenticeships has increased over the first months of 2022.

Key updates:

- Dorset’s Skills Advisory Panel and Board published its [Local Skills Report – new for 2022](#), which was covered by [local press](#) and press releases expected by BCP and Dorset councils
- The National Apprenticeship week was celebrated across [Dorset LEP areas](#) and widely covered by training providers and DSTPN are partnering with Dorset Chamber to launch the [Dorset Apprenticeship Awards 2022](#) – find out more [Future Career Corner: Apprenticeships](#)
- [The BCP Local Plan is open for consultation](#), the [BCP Economic Development Strategy](#) was approved by Cabinet
- [The Dorset and Somerset Training Providers Network](#) has published [Your Future Sorted](#) – a directory for school students, parents, teachers and stakeholders in Dorset and Somerset and [Skills Elevator](#) – pathways to different job roles and knowledge and behaviour requirements of potential jobs
- [Dorset's Careers and Apprenticeship Show](#) is coming on the 17th of March at the BIC
- The Government published its [Levelling up white paper](#) and started [consultations on proposed changes to HE funding](#)

4. Dorset LEP Careers Hub Update

Dorset LEP has contracted to deliver the CEC funded Effective Transitions Project working with Learning Centres and senior schools in key deprived areas to help young people make effective and positive transitions at the end of yr 11. The project is working with 10 learning providers across the county and will be live until the end of 2023.

Across the Dorset Hub significant analysis of our schools data has highlighted great achievements and trends, combined with weaknesses, which has enabled us to identify focus areas and where there is a need for specific intervention. Some highlights are:

- Middle Schools have emerged as an area where key support is needed and a plan has been put into place to overcome current low attainment of targets. We are specifically working to improve EA representation and work experience in the cohort, which equates to 15% of the schools in our network.
- Our SEND schools also need greater support, and we will focus on engaging the SLT at these institutions to get renewed buy-in and in turn increase opportunities for the students.
- We have reviewed and re-engaged with our Cornerstone Employer Group and Lead Schools and some changes have been made to the members to ensure the support from these key support networks is felt and impact is seen. More new employers will be brought on board to boost the Cornerstone Group.
- T-Levels at Ferndown Upper School were launched, and we are working with the schools' SLT to proactively support their campaign.
- We have recently bid for and been awarded funding for amplification of apprenticeships and technical qualifications which will see us run a research project, conference and a further initiative that aims to change perceptions of apprenticeships amongst key target groups.
- Networking and social media activity has increased significantly which means that more people are aware of our presence and work and wanting to contribute and support, importantly the number of offers of work experience and EA's.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Board are asked to note the strategic input and operational delivery of the Skills Advisory Panel and Board and DorsetLEP team.