

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SKILLS STRATEGY

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members with an overview and update on the Buckinghamshire Skills Strategy prepared by BTVLEP and the activity of the Bucks Skills Hub. Jackie Campbell, Skills Development Manager at BTVLEP will attend and introduce members to the Buckinghamshire Skills Strategy 2017-2022. Ian Barham, Partnership Manager at BTVLEP will also be in attendance. Members of this scrutiny committee were updated on the Strategic Economic Plan and Skills Plan launched on 8th November 2017 by SEMLEP and this item provides members with an overview update on BTVLEP activity in relation to skills particularly.

2 Recommendations

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| 2.1 | Note the report and update presented at the meeting. |
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3 Background information

- 3.1 Aylesbury Vale is currently covered by two different LEPS; South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) which also consists of the following councils; Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Cherwell, Corby, Daventry, Kettering, Luton, Milton Keynes, Northampton and South Northants, and Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) which consists of the following other Councils; Wycombe, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire and Bucks County Council.
- 3.2 The report of 31st October 2017 to members of this scrutiny committee explained that BTVLEP published a refreshed Strategic Economic Plan in November 2016 entitled 'Sustainable Economic Growth in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain' and covering the period 2016-2031. BTVLEP also published the Buckinghamshire Skills Strategy 2017-2022 and which has a purpose of providing a framework and focus for the joint commitment to skills development across the county.
- 3.3 The document sets out key themes based on the current evidence base for Buckinghamshire. These are:
- 1) Developing our future workforce – improve work preparedness of our young people and ensure they are able to make informed career choices
 - 2) Develop a robust supply of skilled ambitious talent for our priority growth sectors and enterprise zones – creative industries, digital industries, high performance engineering, life sciences, food and drink manufacture, space industries
 - 3) Address widening skills gaps by supporting lifelong learning
 - 4) Actively support skills development and recruitment in the health and social care, construction, tourism, service and public sector
- 3.4 The Strategy lists outcomes expected by 2020 which includes the development of our future workforce, growth in apprenticeships, a growth in life long learning and a reduced skills shortage. Monitoring of the impact of the Strategy will be through the Skills and Employability Board of BTVLEP and by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and facilitated through an annual Skills Summit for Buckinghamshire.

- 3.5 The Strategy sets out an Action Plan under the following headings:
- 1) Improve work preparedness of our young people and ensure they are able to make informed career choices
 - 2) Develop a robust supply of skilled ambitious talent for our priority growth sectors and enterprise zones
 - 3) Address widening skills gaps by supporting lifelong learning
 - 4) Actively support skills development and recruitment in the health and social care, construction, tourism and service sectors
- 3.6 The Strategy also states a number of delivery goals under each of the headings in the Action Plan and a number of these are delivered through the Bucks Skills Hub, which is based at BTVLEP. The Skills Hub aims to promote and optimise links between employers and educators, in order to enable young people to become more work ready through greater employer involvement and to ensure they gain the right skills for the local growth sectors.
- 3.7 The delivery of the Strategy will also be through activity such as the Bucks Skills Show held annually; supporting the reach of www.WANNABEBucks.org which is a new website which aims to connect local businesses and young people in work experience and apprenticeship opportunities, as well as full and part-time employment. An online hub, www.OppsinBucks.org has also been established to maximise the positive benefits of involving employers with educators in terms of commercial input, connecting education to the world of work and developing the 'soft' work skills in order to help students be more prepared. The online hub connects employers and educators in the same way that other sites connect buyers and sellers so employers register their willingness to offer resources, mentoring etc and educators can use this information or post specific requests for support.
- 3.7 Jackie Campbell and Ian Barham will attend the committee and provide further detail on the Buckinghamshire Skills Strategy and activity of the Bucks Skills Hub and an update on the action plan. A general update on activity by BTVLEP will also be provided. The full document of the Bucks Skills Strategy can be viewed at <https://www.buckstvlpe.co.uk/interesting-stuff/research-reports>.
- 4.0 Resource implications**
- 4.1 None arising from the report and the subscriptions to the LEPs are met from existing budgets.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Claire Britton – 01296 585471