

## CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON - EMPLOYERS SKILLS AND EDUCATION BOARD MEETING ON 17 MARCH

Meeting to be held via Microsoft Team - details on calendar invite.

### The main purpose of the meeting is:

- Members to review key developments since the 17th February – in particular the Chancellor’s budget speech and what this means for Cheshire and Warrington skills and education agenda
- Members to receive feedback from meetings/activities of key groups held since last meeting
- To review comments received on the draft of the Skills Report and the latest report on the impact of Covid on the labour market
- To review progress of the Local Growth Fund projects and the proposed more refined output definitions and share feedback from project sponsors
- Update Members on the development of the Jobs Portal and plans for the North West online jobs fair

### Meetings/Key Events that have taken place since the last Employers’ Skills and Education Board meeting:

- LEP Board meeting on 17 February
- Budget on 3 March
- Into Work Board meeting on 22 February
- Submission of draft Skills Report to the Department for Education on 24 February
- Meeting of Data and Labour Market Steering Group on 24 February
- NorthWestWorks4U online jobs fair planning meeting with employers on 3 March
- Four Workforce Recovery Group meetings held since 17 February
- Deadline for submission of bids for European Social Funds
- Launch of review of Digital Skills Partnerships
- Submission of expression of interest for a Careers Hub on 24 February, sharing labour market information with secondary school career leads on 25 February, self-employment insights days on 24<sup>th</sup> February and 3 March, ‘Spring into Careers’ online event on 2 March, Warrington apprenticeship and jobs fair on 3 March and Warrington Pledge Management Board on 9 March

## AGENDA

- 13.30 hrs      **Welcome, and declarations of interest** - list of attendees and apologies (**Annex A**).  
Welcome Paul Kelly from BAE Systems who is attending the Board meeting with a view to becoming a Member.
- 13.35 hrs      **Members to share information on key developments since the last meeting** on 17 February – particular focus on the Chancellor’s budget speech and what this means for Cheshire and Warrington skills and education plans
- 13.55 hrs      **Feedback from key meetings/activities since last Employers’ Skills and Education Board:**
- **LEP Board meetings** (Clare Hayward) 5 minutes
  - **Pledge** (James Richards) – 5 minutes
  - **Digital Skills Partnership (DSP) Board** (Nicola Dunbar) and review of local DSPs – 5 minutes
  - **Institute of Technology** (Dhesi) – 5 minutes
  - **Chambers meetings** – including Warrington Chamber update (Paul Colman) – 5 minutes
  - **Accelerate Board and Current Review** (Phil Atkinson) – 10 minutes

- 14.30 hrs**      **Skills Report and the latest report on the impact of Covid on the labour market** (Pat Jackson and David Brennan)  
For the Board to:
- review comments received on the draft of the Skills Report
  - consider proposed action plan – in particular the need to address the Level 3+ gaps
  - receive a brief overview of the latest ‘Impact of Covid on the Labour Market’ report
- 14.55 hrs**      **Local Growth Fund update (spend and outputs), any feedback from project sponsors and proposed showcase event in May** - Sarah Williams and then Board Members
- 15.05 hrs**      **Jobs Opportunities Portal and Plans for online jobs fair ‘NorthWESTWorks4U’** (Pat Jackson)
- 15.10 hrs**      **Note of last meeting on 20 January 2021 and Action list** (5 minutes)
- 15.20 hrs**      **Any Other Business** – Clare Hayward
- **Items for future meetings and date of next meeting** (21 April 2021)
  - Bid to fund development of Institute of Technology business case – to note progress

The following members of the Employers' Skills and Education Board are expected to attend the meeting:

- \*Clare Hayward - Chair
  - \*Nicola Dunbar (Deputy Chair)
  - Sarah Hopkinson (Engie)
  - Kurt Allman (University of Chester)
  - \*Eleanor Blackburn (Warrington Borough Council)
  - \*Bill Carr (Carpe Diem)
  - Paul Colman (South Cheshire Chamber)
  - Kim Hardman (Astra Zeneca)
  - Maggie Chen
  - Dhesi (Cheshire College South and West – representing the training providers)
  - Louise Higgins (United Utilities James Richards (Network Rail))
  - \*Clare Latham (Cheshire West and Chester)
  - James Richards (Network Rail)
  - Nicola Johnson (Bentley Motors)
  - Paul Kelly (BAE Systems)
  - Pat Jackson (LEP)
- \*With voting rights

**Not yet responded**

- \*Phil Atkinson (Daresbury)
- Nicola Merriman (National Skills Academy Nuclear)
- \*Cllr James Nicholas (Cheshire East Council)
- Kath Mackay (Alderley Park)
- Martin Wood (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) – observer

**Apologies**

- Philip Cox (LEP)

**Also attending**

- David Brennan and Sarah Williams for specific agenda items

**Papers copied to:**

- Trevor Brocklebank (Deputy Chair of LEP)
- Jamie Zucker (DfE)
- Clare Cassidy (DfE)
- Mike McLouglin (DfE)
- Peter Skates (Cheshire East Council)
- Maud Duthie (University of Chester)
- Chris Koral (University of Chester)
- Nicola Said (LEP)

- Joe Manning (LEP)
- Andy Devaney (LEP)
- Sarah Williams (LEP)
- Trevor Langston (LEP)