

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 February 2020

Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group - Overview



Joint Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources and Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership.

Executive summary

- 2 The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2018/19 raised questions in relation to skill development regionally and locally and skill requirements in County Durham. When considering the committee's future work programme, it was agreed by members that the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) would be invited to a future meeting of the committee to explain the role of the Skills Advisory Panel and activity undertaken. In addition, it was also agreed that the committee would receive an overview of the various activities undertaken by the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership particularly in relation to skills.
- 3 Arrangements have been made for Sue Parkinson, Chair of the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership to attend the meeting on the 21 February 2020 and deliver a presentation highlighting the work of the group.

Recommendations

- 4 Members are asked to note and comment upon the information provided within the report and presentation.

Background

- 5 The County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) Board has responsibility for setting the overall strategy for economic development and regeneration activity in County Durham. It is the main conduit between the County Durham Economic Partnership and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 6 The Business Enterprise and Skills (BES) group is a subgroup of the County Durham Economic Partnership which is charged with improving the business stock in County Durham, the growth of business and the associated yield of jobs, and the improvement of the infrastructure for business. The BES has a related role in helping to ensure that educational establishments deliver courses and opportunities that provide the right skilled people for our labour market.
- 7 The presentation will highlight the role of the CDEP Board, and the work carried out by the BES Working Group over the last year, specifically focusing on the following areas:
 - CDEP Board remit
 - Role of Members
 - Role of Sue Parkinson
 - The links between skills and business growth
 - Adult participation in learning
 - Government priorities
 - CDEP approach to resources
 - Skills support for the workforce
 - Skills support for the unemployed
 - Town centres
 - Challenges
 - Opportunities
 - County Durham Care Academy

Conclusion

- 8 The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be aware of the activities undertaken by the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group particularly in relation to skills development and identifying skill requirements in the county.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable