MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GM SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP, HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2016 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Cllr Sean Anstee  GM Combined Authority
Cllr Ian Roberts  GM Combined Authority
Cllr Michael Young  GM Combined Authority
Theresa Grant  Chief Executive Lead
Simon Nokes  New Economy
Clive Memmott  GM Chamber
Mark Currie  GM Learner Provider Network
Marie Gilluley  GM Colleges Group
Julie Price  Job Centre Plus
Alison Burnett  GM DCS
Paul Rowlett  Salford University
Linda Magrath  Cheadle Hulme High School

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gemma Marsh  New Economy
Matt Ainsworth  New Economy
Paul Harris  GMIST

SEP15/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from City Mayor Ian Stewart, Cllr Bernard Priest, Mike Blackburn, Maggie Pearson, Karen Lee, Alex Whinnom, Andrew Lightfoot, Mark Hughes, Cathy Starbuck, John Myers and Vicky Beer.

SEP15/16 CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business reported

SEP15/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

SEP15/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Skills and Employment Partnership, held on 10 November 2015 were submitted.

Resolved/-
To approve the minutes of the Skills and Employment Partnership, held on 10 November 2016, as a correct record.

**SEP15/19 GREATER MANCHESTER WORK AND SKILLS UPDATE**

A report was presented which provided an update to Members on GM Work and Skills activities, particularly in relation to devolution. Members noted that ongoing discussion was taking place with DWP regarding work programme co-commissioning. The update also covered Job Centre plus co-location, Working Well expansion and pilot, the progress update on the Area Based review and next steps and European Social Fund matters. The following matters were highlighted:-

a) Discussions were continuing with DWP regarding co-commissioning and a joint design team has been established. GM has identified 3 key areas where GM and DWP collaboration would be beneficial, namely; place based integration, co-commissioning specialist support and data sharing.

b) With regard to Over 50’s - Ageing Hub, it was noted that work was taking place with the Centre for Aging Better to develop a proposal to increase the economic activity rates of over 50’s in Greater Manchester.

c) It was noted that the redistribution of job seeker support back to Job Centre Plus (JCP) coupled with estate rationalisation provides an opportunity to create a new integrated support offer with JCP building up on Universal Support Delivered Locality pilots with a GM footprint.

d) In relation to the Working Well Pilot, Members noted that there have been 4,517 referrals to the programme which have resulted in 4,106 successful attachments.

e) It was noted that with regard to the Area Based Review, deep-dive research had been undertaken to identify the future needs for Greater Manchester. KPMG was assisting with a financial analysis regarding this. A workshop with colleges was held on 1 February which presented detailed actual and forecasted financial analysis for each individual college up to 2020.

In response to an enquiry from a Member, it was noted that work was taking place with KPMG around data sharing, particularly in relation to Working Well and troubled families.

With regard to the Area Based Review a Member noted the complexities of the process and highlighted that this Review was only concentrating on Colleges. Sixth form and Independent providers were not included. Colleges would need to provide services that would balance the skills requirements for both local and Greater Manchester post 16 provision.

Work was taking place with the SFA to ensure Greater Manchester’s specific design needs were supported. Co-funding arrangements for Greater Manchester were explained.

**Resolved/-**
To note the update on Greater Manchester Work and Skills.

SEP15/20  GM WORK AND SKILLS STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES 2016-2019

Members received a report which provided an update on the Greater Manchester Work and Skills Strategy and Priorities for 2016-2019. Information regarding the Greater Manchester Apprenticeship Strategy was also set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

It was noted that Greater Manchester Leaders have agreed the following broad objectives for the future Work and Skills system in Greater Manchester (GM).

a) GM employers will be able to grow, have access to, and invest in the skills they require from their workforce both now and in the future utilising the skills of their employees to increase productivity.

b) GM residents will have the right support to make the best choices about their employment and skills option; and once they are in-work have career and wage progression opportunities.

c) GM schools will ensure all individuals are prepared for the labour market, including higher levels of education attainment and first class CEIAG.

d) FE Providers will progress more individuals to Level 3+ qualifications in a vocational or technical area closely linked to GM’s economy’s core and growth sectors.

e) Our GM employment and skills initiatives will be developed and commissioned at a local level, providing unemployed residents and those furthest from the labour market, the right integrated support required to move them closer to work.

f) Initiatives will integrate health commissioning and help realise a health system which understands that ‘good work, is good for your health’.

Members noted that an Action Plan was to be developed for each of the priorities and will detail short, medium and long-term actions. Key actions of this include:-

• Undertake the Area Based Review and ensure conclusions are implemented – to restructure Post 19 provision analysing: current curriculum, future skills demands of the economy, population trends and the financial position of providers.

• The development of an outcomes framework - influencing commissioning of the 16/17 Adult Skills Budget leading to potential budget responsibility in 17/18. This framework can also be used to shape the new Work & Health programme.

• The expansion of Working Well up to 2017.

• The re-commissioning of the Work & Health programme from 2017 to include the ongoing expansion of Working Well.
• The development of a GM approach to the Apprenticeship Levy – including a public sector ‘ring-fencing’ to ensure GM develops the skills it needs to drive growth and reform.
• Work with JCP to review and rationalise their estate linked to One Public Estate and the development of integrated local ‘early help hubs’.
• The work to commission £130m+ of ESF funding to ensure GM achieves the work and skills outcomes that it requires.

Members sought clarification on the funding processes in relation to apprenticeship/traineeship placements at Colleges. In response, officers undertook to explore this matter and respond.

Following a comment from a Member, the Chair highlighted that the GMIST Communications Team would develop a communication plan once tangible outcomes of the Review can be articulated.

Resolved/-

2) To note that a report on this matter was to be considered at the upcoming GMCA meeting in February 2016.

SEP15/21 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved/-

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed separately.