

AGENDA FOR EMPLOYERS' SKILLS AND EDUCATION BOARD MEETING ON 15 DECEMBER 2021

The main purpose of the meeting is for Members to:

- Review key developments since their last meeting on 17 November and respond to any issues raised during meetings of key groups held since last Board meeting
- Receive insights from Bentley and Astra Zeneca on how digitalisation is transforming their businesses
- Review the latest update of the Skills Action Plan
- Review progress on the update of the labour market assessment and the contributions received to date on the refresh of the Skills Report and provide a steer on next steps.
- Receive an update and comment on the recent rebranding of the Jobs Portal
- Receive an update on the planned pilot work with Jobcentre Plus to support more long-term unemployed people in Ellesmere Port, Crewe and North Warrington into work

Note the key meetings that have taken place since 17 November

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| 17 Nov | LEP Board meeting |
| 17 Nov | Pledge meeting with all school career leads |
| 23 Nov | Cheshire West and Chester Inclusive Economy Conference |
| 23 Nov | Digital Skills Partnership Board meeting |
| 25 Nov | Digital Connectivity Board meeting |
| 25 Nov | Jobs Portal User Group meeting |
| 29 Nov | Pledge Assurance, Delivery, Risk Officer meeting |
| 29 Nov | Digital Poverty Alliance and LEP Network meeting – to inform research |
| 30 Nov and 14 Dec | Workforce Recovery Group meetings |
| 30 Nov | Pledge Social Mobility presentation to Westminster Foundation |
| 1 Dec | Pat Jackson meeting with Alice Choi, Chair of Growth Board |
| 6 Dec | Into Work Board meeting |
| 7 Dec | Philip Cox meeting with CEO of Careers Enterprise Company |
| 8 Dec | Pledge Board meeting |
| 13 Dec | Pledge Careers Hub lead – first day of work! |
| 14 Dec | Data and Labour Market Steering Group |
| 15 Dec | Restart – local engagement meeting |

AGENDA

13.30 hrs **Welcome, declarations of interest, introductions with members sharing information on any key developments since the last meeting on 17 November**

- Welcome to Ben Longworth from BAE Systems – Ben has recently replaced Paul Kelly at BAE Systems and is a potential new member of the Employers' Skills and Education Board.
- Also welcome to Tom Russell from Bentley and Jo Baker from Astra Zeneca
- We also expect Grace Garner to join us briefly. Grace is the recently appointed lead for the Pledge's Career Hub
- List of attendees and apologies (Annex A)
- To note any additional declarations of interest.

13.35 hrs **Note of last meeting and outstanding actions**

- To approve note of last meeting (Annex B) and review updated action list (Annex C)

- 13.45 hrs** **Feedback from key meetings/activities since last Employers' Skills and Education Board**
- Members to note the list of meetings that have taken place since the last Employers' Skills and Education Board meeting – this is an opportunity to raise any queries about the meetings
 - **LEP Board** (Kath Mackay and Nicola Dunbar) 4 minutes - Members were sent the Chief Executive's report to the November LEP Board meeting
 - **Digital Skills Partnership Board** meeting (Nicola Dunbar) 4 minutes
 - **Digital Connectivity Board** – (Nicola Dunbar) 4 minutes
 - **Pledge Board** meeting - (Paul Colman) 4 minutes
 - **Accelerate** (Kurt Allman and Phil Atkinson) 4 minutes
 - **Institute of Technology and Skills Accelerator** (Dhesi) 4 minutes
- 14.15 hrs** **An Insight Into How Digitalisation is Transforming Business Processes in Bentley and Astra Zeneca**
- Tom Russell and Jo Baker to provide some insight into the way digitalisation is transforming their business processes (30 minutes)
 - Members may remember that Bentley provided an insight into their digitalisation work about 2 years ago and that informed our subsequent investment of Local Growth Funds. A copy of the slide that Bentley shared with us then is attached for information (Annex D).
- 14.45 hrs** **Refresh of Skills Report and Underpinning Labour Market Assessment**
- David Brennan will provide an update on progress to date in the refresh of the Labour Market Assessment
 - Pat Jackson will provide an overview of the 'light touch' refresh of the Skills Report. A copy of the working slides that provide some background to our current refresh and some of the comments received to date from partners is attached at Annex E. In slide 24 we have started to identify some cross-cutting themes
 - Members to note and comment on the latest update of the Skills Action Plan (Annex F).
- 15.15 hrs** **Any Other Business and Date of Next Meetings**
- An update and opportunity to comment on the **recent rebranding of the Jobs Portal** (Sarah Williams)
 - An update on the **planned pilot work with Jobcentre Plus to support more long-term unemployed people in Ellesmere Port, Crewe and North Warrington** into work (Pat Jackson)
 - **Date of next meetings** 19 January 2022 via teams and 16 Feb 2022 at Alderley Park - to include an opportunity to see some of the Local Growth Fund investments. Alice Choi the Chair of the LEP's Growth Board is also expected to join this meeting.

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

- *Kath Mackay - Chair
- *Nicola Dunbar (Deputy Chair)
- Kurt Allman (University of Chester)
- *Eleanor Blackburn (Warrington Borough Council)
- *Bill Carr (Carpe Diem)
- Tom Russell representing Nicola Johnson (Bentley Motors)
- Paul Colman (South Cheshire Chamber)
- Dhesi (Cheshire College South and West – representing the training providers)
- *Phil Atkinson (Daresbury)
- *Clare Latham (Cheshire West and Chester)
- *Lucy Liang (AUE Ltd)
- Maggie Chen
- Jo Baker representing Kim Harman (Astra Zeneca)
- Kevin Hutchinson (SISK)
- Cllr James Nicholas (Cheshire East)
- Kevin Hutchinson (SISK)
- Pat Jackson (LEP)

*With voting rights

Apologies

- Sarah Hopkinson (Engie)
- Nicola Johnson (Bentley Motors)
- Kim Hardman (Astra Zeneca)

Also attending

- Ben Longworth (BAE Systems)
- Sarah Williams, David Brennan and Trevor Langston for specific agenda items

Papers copied to:

- Trevor Brocklebank (Deputy Chair of LEP)
- Martin Wood (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)
- Jamie Zucker (DfE)
- Clare Cassidy (DfE)
- Mike McLouglin (DfE)
- Peter Skates (Cheshire East Council)
- Kirstie Simpson (University of Chester)
- Nicola Said (LEP)
- Joe Manning (LEP)
- Andy Devaney (LEP)
- Sarah Williams (LEP) and Trevor Langston (LEP)
- Andrew Bridge and Dave Rowlands (CITB)