PURPOSE

The Greater Manchester Skills and Employment Partnership (SEP) provides strategic direction and oversight of the skills and employment landscape to ensure that policy and delivery changes are aligned to the GM Work and Skills Strategy & Priorities for 2016-2019.

The main purpose of the Partnership is to act as a ‘critical friend’ to the employment and skills governance structure, working closely with the GM Employment and Skills Executive and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with a focus on the contribution that skills and employment policy and delivery can make to the competitiveness and performance of GM’s economy.

The Partnership will provide the opportunity for discussion by bringing together experienced and knowledgeable stakeholders. Members will take into consideration the ongoing and future areas of work, and support the efficient and effective working of a demand-led education, training and employment market across GM.

The changes to the remit of the Partnership recognise and respond to the continued development of GM responsibilities across the employment and skills landscape. The Partnership will continue to provide specific oversight for the delivery of reforms contained in the GM devolution agreement.

ROLE

The Partnership will:

- Act as a consultative group for which the GM Employment and Skills Executive will discuss ongoing and future work in relation to the Work and Skills Priorities, and the employment and skills landscape as a whole.

- Provide challenge and encourage debate so that the GM Employment and Skills Executive can take forward recommendations, papers, presentations and other relevant documents, through the governance structure i.e. to the Wider Leadership Team, Political W&S Group and to the GM Combined Authority for sign off / final decision.

- Support the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) & the GMCA to deliver economic growth and prosperity recognising the key contribution made by a
highly skilled workforce. The Partnership will discuss key developments, ensuring that these are effectively linked to the economic opportunities across the region and provide recommendations for the GM Skills and Employment teams to take through the governance structure.

- Support the development of an integrated employment and skills framework across GM, which supports increasing numbers of out of work residents to address their barriers to employment through integrated, appropriately sequenced and intensive packages of support.

The GMCA will achieve its ambition by working with providers and stakeholders in understanding and responding to present and future growth, employment and skill needs. The SEP will work in partnership rather than through a commissioner/provider divide.

The responsibilities, priorities and ways of working set out in this Terms of Reference is based on the belief that this is the best way of enabling Greater Manchester to fulfill its economic potential. It will enable businesses and learners to maximize their own individual contribution to growth, prosperity and well-being.

The Partnership will not be a centralist mechanism exercising control over providers. It will be a focus for ensuring that the functioning of key Greater Manchester labour markets is taken into account by providers.

MEMBERSHIP

The list below describes those roles relevant for membership of the Skills and Employment Partnership:

- GMCA Portfolio Holder for Skills and Employment (Chair)
- GMCA Portfolio Holder Deputy x3
- Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership Chair
- Business representative
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- GM Learning Providers Network
- Job Centre Plus
- Trade Unions
- GMCVO
- GM Housing Providers
- GM Universities
- Local Authority Children’s Services
- GM Colleges
- Department for Education

OPERATING PRINCIPLES
The Partnership will meet on a quarterly basis and meeting dates will be set a year in advance.

Papers will be issued five working days before the meeting. Meetings will be held in public and papers will be published on the GMCA website in advance.

The Partnership will be accountable to AGMA and GMCA. The Partnership will not make decisions, but will refer and make recommendations to AGMA and GMCA as appropriate.