

GREATER MANCHESTER SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

1. MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The membership of the SEP is:

- The GM Portfolio Holder for Skills, Employment and Worklessness (Chair).
- Four GM elected members, nominated annually by the GMCA
- Two representatives from the GM Local Enterprise Partnership.
- A representative from GM Chamber of Commerce, GM Learning Providers Network, Job Centre Plus, Trades Unions, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, Skills Funding Agency, GM Housing Providers, GM Universities, Local Authority Children's Services and GM Colleges.

1.2 The GM Portfolio Holder for Skills, Employment and Worklessness is the Chair of the SEP. A vice chair is also appointed by the group from within this membership.

1.3 Advice and support to the SEP is provided by the lead Chief Executive for Skills, Employment and Worklessness, as well as the Chief Executives of New Economy and the GM Growth Company.

1.4 Democratic support is provided through the GM Integrated Support Team.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The Greater Manchester Skills and Employment Partnership (SEP) will provide strategic leadership and oversight, support the skills and employment landscape to contribute to the achievement of the GM Strategy.

2.2 The Partnership through the signing of the GM devolution agreement in November 2014 will take on new responsibilities across the employment and skills landscape. A core objective of these reforms will be to deliver greater alignment between different elements of employment and skills provision.

2.3 The Partnership will focus on the contribution that skills and employment policy and delivery can and will make to competitiveness and the performance of the Greater Manchester economy. At its heart will sit an intelligence-driven approach to economic strategy designed to stimulate and maximise growth and to connect GM residents to the opportunities that growth provides.

- 2.4 The Partnership will evaluate performance against this strategy, providing real-time intelligence, insight and analysis that best enables a competitive provider market to meet the opportunities and needs of the GM economy. Experience suggests that the market functions well in many areas with employer demand being well met by providers. The Partnership will identify where demand is not being met and use analysis to predict future labour market needs, allowing providers to understand and address market demand (and market failure where it occurs).
- 2.5 The Partnership will support the efficient and effective working of a demand-led education, training and employment market across Greater Manchester. The Partnership will seek to ensure the best use of public funds that will be vital if we, as a city region, are to secure our shared ambitions for growth and prosperity as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy.
- 2.6 The development of the Partnership recognises and responds to the continued development of GM responsibilities across the employment and skills landscape. The Partnership will provide specific oversight for the delivery of reforms contained in the GM devolution agreement.

3. ROLE

- 3.1 The Partnership will:
 - (i) Enable the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to discharge its statutory duties. Under the Education Act 1996, this is stated as a duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the area. Young people are those who are over compulsory school age but under 19, or are aged 19 to 25 and subject to a learning difficulty assessment. The GMCA also has a duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training for young people subject to youth detention. The GMCA will ensure that provision is adequate.
 - (ii) Support the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) to deliver economic growth and prosperity recognising the key contribution made by a highly skilled workforce. Working closely with Colleges and Training providers, the SEP will ensure that investment in skills is effectively linked to the economic opportunities across Greater Manchester, supporting key employers and growth sectors (e.g. advanced engineering, digital/media, low carbon) as well as high employment, high churn but not necessarily high GVA growth sectors, thus ensuring better life chances for individuals. The SEP will bring providers and learners together to improve the functionality of the market and maximize the level and impact of public and private sector investment in skills.
 - (iii) 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 Partnership will support the GMCA and partners to deliver a skills landscape that is able to respond to the needs of out of work residents, enabling them to develop the skills required by employers and supporting them to find sustainable employment.

- 3.2 The Partnership will achieve its ambition by working with providers in understanding and responding to present and future growth, employment and skill needs. The SEP will work in partnership with providers rather than through a commissioner /provider divide.
- 3.3 While the needs assessment, informed by an intelligence-based economic strategy, will be led by the Partnership, it is for providers – based on demand from learners and employers - to determine how these needs should be met. It will also provide opportunities for new ways of working in responding to known needs e.g. increase in specialization leading greater efficiency and quality of delivery.
- 3.4 Providers will be supported to participate more effectively in the Partnership. In turn, providers are increasingly looking to networks and federations to enable them to work more effectively together, including in support of the Partnership.
- 3.5 The responsibilities, priorities and ways of working set out in this paper 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.
- 3.6 While the Partnership will produce an agreed needs assessment it is for individual Colleges and Training Providers to determine their own plans and delivery based on demand intelligence.
- 3.7 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. This will offer a key offering a spatial focus to a national model of delivery, reflecting Government's desire to see spatial frameworks developed that support growth.

4. ACCOUNTABILITIES

- 4.1 The Partnership will have clear accountabilities primarily to the GMCA and GM LEP, building on the existing arrangements. Some changes in remit and membership will need to be made recognising the broader agenda and the need to invite partners to provide nominations:
 - (i) The SEP will have an Executive Board, Chaired by a member of the GMCA, reporting to the Combined Authority and GM LEP Board and to the Greater Manchester Colleges and Training Providers recognising the contribution of each of these as

providing leadership, funding and budgets which will be influenced by its work.

- (ii) Executive membership. The Executive Board will be appointed subject to discussion with all parties. It will be chaired by a CA representative and will have representation from health, housing, Education Funding Agency, Job Centre Plus & Skills Funding Agency along with representation from New Economy, the GM Public Service Reform Team, and the AGMA lead Chief Executive. It will be for the Partnership to decide on further representation from other partners as required.
- (iii) A performance impact panel, to be chaired by a member, will lead scrutiny of the implementation of reforms.
- (iv) Working groups to be determined and agreed by the Board as required.