



Essex LSIP Board Meeting

Thursday 18th May

2pm – 3.30pm via Teams

Attendees

Denise Rossiter – Essex Chambers of Commerce
Andy Sparks – Essex Chambers of Commerce
Lisa Collins – Essex Chambers of Commerce
Elaine Oddie – NSO Associates LLP
Paula Hornett - EPN
Claire Wright – Rose Builders
Cllr Tony Ball – Essex County Council
Louise Aitken – Essex County Council
Karen Spencer – Harlow College
Lucy Spencer-Lawrence – Southend City Council
Hyla Grimwade – Greater Essex Careers Hub
Jayne Sheehan – South Essex College of Further and Higher Education
Tom Broome – Constellation Marketing
Justine Addison – Ground Control

Welcome and Introductions – DR

- Welcomed attendees and thanked everyone for attending today.
- Thank you to Louise Aitken for all the work you have put into the report.

Apologies for absence - DR

Janis Gibson, Marcella MRaberty, Karris Rowbotham, Kate Kozlova-Boran, Gerard McCleave, Ann Scott, Dave Cope, Denise Brown (Jayne Sheehan attended in place).

Declarations of interests – AS

- Nothing to report.

Minutes of previous meeting 29/03/2023 - AS

- All board members are happy with minutes from the previous meeting.

Actions arising from previous meeting – AS



- At the previous meeting there was a concern around the lack of school engagement throughout the project. One school event has taken place since the last meeting which Andy attended; he will be attending another Friday.
- Wider London opportunities. AS has spoken to the organisation who are overseeing the London LSIP about their priorities and what they are doing.
- Priorities were sent out to the colleges by 31st May.

Progress update – Draft LSIP Report – LA

- Louise talks through presentation.
- What's led us to the content of the report has been a lot of data and intelligence gathering which is still underway.
- There will be a data pack that supports the submission of the LSIP.
- There has been a really good level of engagement through the roundtables, survey, and Essex Chambers.
- The contents of the report must follow DfE guidance. They have broad guidance on what they see in the report, and it cannot be longer than 30 pages.
- There has been a strong collaborative approach in Essex.
- The employer led approach is the most important thing and we will be guided by the employer's voice.
- Some of the detailed information in the report may be moved to the annex reports as we have limited space within the report.

Discussion

- AS shared the report with Rachel Dawson who is a DfE representative for her feedback. Rachel will be part of the accreditation process for the report. Her feedback - we need to do more work in linking the major projects into the skills we have identified - move the engagement details from the report to Annex B - articulate more details in digital, green and soft skills - improve the amount of detail in the roadmap.
- The college network are pleased with the flexibility of the report and said it has been well received.
- The word STEM has been banned, should we replace STEM with STEAM.
- EO thanked all that had been a part of putting the report together.
- There is a confusing landscape for employers as they are dealing with multiple competing organisations who offer training. This needs to be highlighted.
- The apprenticeship levy doesn't work very well for employers. It's inflexible and restrictive.
- Tutor shortages have been highlighted throughout, effectively using tutors by amalgamating some of the courses could be added as a proposal.
- The skills planning system needs a full employer representation around Essex which needs to be a higher priority in the next steps.



- We need to add something around positively moving forward when the LEPS have been removed next year.
- Future planning will need funding and any devolution deal will have an influence on funding.
- It's important we don't lose the legacy of the knowledge programme that was funded through the SDF. It's a way of investing in our future workforce in terms of tutors.
- We can learn from the IOT in collaborative teaching as a possible solution for teacher shortages.
- Purfleet Creative and Cultural area could be added as one of the major projects.
- There is a lack of connection between employer, providers and the skills that are required for growth.
- We still need to solve the issues around practical discipline.
- We need Government to recognise the fundamental issues with the National Curriculum. This needs to be a theme throughout the project.
- We should elaborate on inclusive employment within the report. It appears to be a failure across every County and could be something we elaborate on within Essex to make a difference.

Progress update – Draft LSIP Annexes – LA

- LA talks through the progress update presentation.
- We can add as many annexes as we like. We will add to them as and when we need too.
- Annex A sets out the local context and includes further information on:
 1. Summary of the local strategic context and priorities
 2. Priorities for change
 3. Supporting information and reports
 4. Devolution in Essex
- Annex B provides further information on the process and methodologies used to inform the LSIP and contents include:
 1. Introduction
 2. Stakeholder and employer engagement events
 3. LSIP Board and membership
 4. Evidence of LSIP Board approval of LSIP Report (minutes from today)
 5. Engagement and work underway with other ERBs
- LSIP Data and Intelligence Pack
 - The data and intelligence pack includes key data and information on areas such as skills levels, vacancies, and the economy.
 - Part of the ongoing commitment through the LSIP will be to produce regular and accessible labour market information to support the actions



- The business survey results have also been included in this pack
- This is work in progress, with the final version to be produced for the DfE by 31st May
- Further annex reports can be added if required
- Next steps and submitting the report and annexes
 - Deadline for feedback from LSIP Board - 22nd May
 - Submission of report to DfE - 31st May
 - Feedback on LSIP Report from the DfE – mid June 2023
 - Resubmission of the LSIP Report and Annexes (if required) – 23rd June 2023
 - Application for stag 2 LSIP Funding – June 2023
 - Notification of Approval of LSIP – July 2023
 - Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) launch – TBC
 - Final LSIP Uploaded to Chambers website – 28th July 2023
 - Stage 2 of the LSIP begins – August 2023
 - Roadmap for change – to March 2025
- DfE have just put in place a new local dashboard which could be worth a mention in the data pack.
- There will be an annual review and refresh of the report if necessary.
- We will send out any final drafts to the Board that goes to the DfE.

Project Finance update – EO

- The approved budget comes in 2 stages, with stage 2 still to come. Stage 1 goes through to July.
- The approved budget was £221,000.
- Spending and claiming will total around £200,00, 10% below the budget.
- We will be putting together the claims for stage 2 over the next few weeks.
- Stage 2 will be very different to what we have been doing as it will be about monitoring and implementing.
- In theory we could be claiming over £300,00 but we have not yet put the budget together.

LSIP Phase 2 Guidance published

- We have received guidance for phase 2.
- AS has been advised by the DfE that as our current contract finishes at the end of July and we have to get the next bid in by the end of June, if our LSIP hasn't been approved by the end of June, the DfE will work with us to get the report approved so we still get stage 2.
- The kinds of activities in stage 2 we can bid for are:
 - Reviewing articulating employer needs
 - Promoting employer engagement in the skills system



- Providers response to the LSIP
 - Engaging other stakeholders who are relevant to the skills system
 - Data analysis
 - Project management
- It's a 3 year contract but funding is only guaranteed for 18 months, therefore we will review the project in 2 halves.

Local Skills Improvement Fund

- The LSIF guidance has appeared but there's no money attached yet.
- The Federation of Essex Colleges have nominated and agreed that Harlow will run the LSIF bid and coordinate the activities across the County that will involve the colleges and independent training providers.
- Several areas that have been initially identified by Harlow and FEDEC have been from a revenue perspective to look at teacher recruitment and retention, soft skills, and employer engagement and development of bespoke courses for employers. From a capital perspective there are 3 key areas, net zero renewables, carbon reduction strand, digital strand, and a health strand.
- The Chamber will continue to work through the LSIF project with FEDEC and Harlow to get the LSIF bid in.
- Essex County Council are looking at how they can commit match funding to some of the LSIF priorities.

Next steps & AOB - AS

- We will send out drafts of the report before they go to the DfE.
- A big thank you from AS for everyone's contribution and time throughout the project.