

STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

14th December 2017

Industrial Strategy White Paper

Introduction

The Industrial Strategy White Paper was published at the end of November. The document can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-industrial-strategy-to-boost-productivity-and-earning-power-of-people-across-the-uk>

In response the LEP Network has produced a short overview of the key messages for LEPs (appendix 1) and LEP Chairs have collectively written to Jake Berry – Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, Margot James – Minister for Small Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Andrew Jones – Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (appendix 2)

In anticipation of the Industrial strategy and new funding mechanisms the LEP Network commissioned Shared Intelligence to collate views and set out thinking on future funding and the evolution of LEPs

Subsequently there have been a number of announcements including the launch on the 4th December, of the Careers Strategy. This lays out plans for £4m to be invested in dedicated careers leader in schools and colleges by the start of the new school year. The government plan to invest a further £5m to create 20 careers hubs across the country (in areas of need) linking schools, colleges, local universities and employers. The Strategy refers to an expanded role for the Careers and Enterprise Company, and references the £500m for the new T levels. References of note to LEPs include:

- a. The CEC will work with LEPs to help Enterprise Coordinators in those areas with lowest uptake of STEM qualifications to make sure that STEM encounters are built into careers and enterprise plans. (pg 17)
- b. Each careers hub will work with the CEC's network structure within the LEP and, if located within a Combined Authority, will work closely with the local Combined Authority. Hub activities will be focused on groups of young people and areas most in need of targeted support, to help deliver improvements in social mobility. (pg 22)
- c. Local Industrial Strategies, supported by Skills Advisory Panel analysis, will bring together local partnerships and relationships with businesses,

Mayoral Combined Authorities and LEPs to help make sure that careers advice is well-positioned to support local economic growth. (pg 27-28)

- d. Government is investing £40 million in Career Learning Pilots to test effective engagement with adults. The first of these pilots – the Flexible Learning Fund - was launched on 31 October. The second pilot is being delivered across up to five LEP areas to test how best to reach low-skilled adults who are in work and if reduced cost of courses is an incentive. (pg 28-29)
- e. Establishing Skills Advisory Panels, in partnership with Mayoral Combined Authorities and LEPs, to produce rigorous analysis of current and future local skills needs. (pg 34)

Executive Group Members will need to consider how SSLEP can maximise the opportunities available and how the LEP will need to develop.

Appendices

- 1 Letter from LEP Chairs to Ministers
- 2 Key Messages for LEPs
- 3 Shared Intelligence Report – The Future of Local Enterprise Partnerships