**STOKE ON TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

**COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**14 May 2020**

**Local Growth Deal and City Deal – Q4 2019/20 briefing note**

**Local Growth Deal**

**Jobs** Target by March 2021 - **5,000** jobs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jobs achieved by March 2020 | 2,354 |
| Jobs forecast by March 2020 | 3,223 |
| Jobs forecast by March 2021 | 6,057 |
| Jobs forecast by March 2025 | 13,323 |

* 73% of March 2020 target delivered
* Forecasts are revised annually by sponsors in Q1 of each year, to take account of slippage. (*Please see “Forecasting” sheet on dashboard).*

**Houses** Target by March 2021 – **1,000** homes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Houses achieved by March 2020 | 223 |
| Houses forecast by March 2020 | 310 |
| Houses forecast by March 2021 | 860 |
| Houses forecast by March 2025 | 5999 |

* 72% of March 2020 target delivered
* Although houses are not currently expected to meet target for March 2021, it is expected that the target will be met and far exceeded, by a slightly later date, as the larger developments pick up pace.

**Skills**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Outputs | Apprenticeships | Learners assisted to a qualification |
| Achieved by March 2020 | 1,367 | 2,031 |
| Forecast by March 2020 | 926 | 1,402 |
| Forecast by March 2021 (total to date + SEF Round 2) | 1,652 | 2,361 |

* Skills Equipment Fund Round 1exceeded expectations, delivering 171% of apprenticeship targets and 365% of the target for learners assisted to a qualification.

**Risks to delivery**

* + Impact of delays caused by Covid working restrictions and enforced hiatus. Some schemes are still able to meet conditions under government Standard Operating Procedures and continue working, but there is still some degree of delay e.g. sourcing alternative suppliers. Some schemes are paused.
  + Sponsors may be unwilling to sign up to contracts which are based on pre-Covid output, milestones & delivery by deadline and these schemes will not therefore proceed.
  + Skills – SEF Round 1 exceeded targets, but Round 2 projects are all college-based so are now in standstill; the impact on outputs is unknown.
  + LEPs have been lobbying for relaxation of March 2021 LGF spend deadline, to take into account the impact of Covid, but informal feedback indicates that deadlines will not move.
  + Slipping timescales and spend deadlines have become more significant as it has become clear that government is not prepared to be flexible and grant extensions.
  + SPMG meeting (early June – TBA) will scrutinise all updates outputs and spend forecasting and report to Board.

**City Deal**

* Both City Deal schemes are progressing well but are impacted by Covid-19**.**
  + Keele SEND is working closely with delivery partners to understand options for continuing Programme delivery and what this will entail in terms of delivery timescales, financial implications and technologies specifications. Recruitment of beneficiaries will remain a challenge, further complicated by staff furlough.
  + District Heat Network - commercial activities for customer connections have paused for the time being due to Covid-19.