

## **Growth & Prosperity Scrutiny Panel**

Held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 6pm - 7:45pm, in The Salford Suite, Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton.

### **Present:**

Councillor Sharpe (in the chair)  
Councillors Brabiner, Brooks, Garrido (R), Nelson, Pevitt, Shama and Ward.

### **Officers:**

Matt Ainsworth – Assistant Director Skills, Work & Inclusive Economy  
Peter Openshaw - Assistant Director Environment & Community safety  
Jim Wensley – Assistant Director Regeneration  
Liz Wright – Democratic Services

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Stuart Dickman, Kate Lewis, Sophia Linden and Mishal Saeed.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Mike Pevitt declared that he was an employee at Salford College.

### **3. Skills, Work and Inclusive Economy**

The Assistant Director Skills, Work & Inclusive Economy (Matt Ainsworth) gave a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Background to skills, work and inclusive economy.
- Skills & Work strategy, delivery & investment plan
- Key data summary
- Skills & work priorities
  - Priority 1: Reduce long term unemployment and economic inactivity
  - Priority 2: Improve the attainment of Young People
  - Priority 3: help more residents to enter well paid work.
  - Priority 4: reduce local skills shortage vacancies
  - Priority 5: Improve adult skills
  - Priority 6: Grow self-employment
- Prioritisation for non-financed recommendations
- Prioritisation for non-financed actions
- Action prioritisation: Non-financial
- Draft business case for investment
- Implementation
- Next steps
- Data & analysis appendices

The Chair invited questions and comments from members and the following discussion was held.

- There was a concern and disappointment expressed that the report dealt with setting the scene but provide less in terms of practical actions. It was commented that there was not a lot of new information in the presentation and that members had hoped to see details of the priorities and the practical actions that had taken place or were proposed, for example how Maths and English attainment and skills would be improved and how young people would be helped to access careers advice and jobs and training opportunities.
- There was concern that there had been significant money spent on this area in the last few years and it was difficult to see the impact. It was explained that the presentation outlined the investment plan and that the three year delivery plan (containing the detail members were seeking) would follow.
- It was reported that currently the national career's service was not adequately funded. Careers advice was provided in all schools and the quality of provision was varied. The influence of the council on this provision was limited especially in academies.
- The requirement for a focus on school provision was highlighted for young people to be able to acquire L3 qualifications for access to well paid jobs. The importance of having more of a focus on vocational qualifications/apprenticeships was highlighted as a route to enable more young people in Salford to access education and training at L3. It was confirmed that there would be a separate plan around school provision and this strategy focused on adults.
- Concern was expressed that young people from Salford were not benefiting from the jobs and opportunities available in Salford and in areas such as The Quays and that there was a risk of the city becoming polarised in terms of the access to opportunities, with the poorer communities/wards, with most need, most likely to miss out. It was highlighted that community reach and engagement would be integral to the learning and guidance support.
- The demographics from the 2021 census and the impact on the strategy was discussed. Concern was expressed about the lack of detail around inclusivity and that vulnerable groups and BAME groups were not specifically mentioned. It was confirmed that this area would be strengthened in the final version of the strategy. It was proposed that the final report would come back to the scrutiny panel in November.
- It was asked what lessons had been learnt from what the council had previously done and also how would this project be monitored and evaluated. It was reported that there had been learning from what had been done in by the council and the example of community learning was highlighted. The decrease in available funding locally and the need now to influence commissioning at a national level via the DfE was highlighted. In terms of monitoring and evaluating scheme, this was being developed.
- Long term unemployment was highlighted as a significant issue and it was confirmed that this would be addressed in the strategy via both support for mental health and careers and jobs advice and guidance.
- There was concern expressed and a discussion about the use of consultants for developing the strategy and the cost of using them.

- A question was asked about how the council was performing in terms of recruitment in the local area and helping residents access job opportunities. It was explained that the council was refreshing its recruitment policy to address this and to reflect initiatives in other councils, such as Manchester, where for example jobs up to certain levels were only advertised in Manchester.
- There was a concern expressed that the strategy was not transformational. It was explained that the consultants had worked impartially with stakeholders and held open and honest conversations that were cross referenced with the data and that the strategy was developed from this.
- It was requested that the following issues be included and/or made more prominent in the strategy before it was presented to Cabinet for approval:
  - co-production with stakeholders to be used (it was recognised that this could be used for the delivery of the strategy);
  - links with housing and education to be made more explicit in the final strategy;
  - entrepreneurialism to be included/have more emphasis
  - mentoring
  - employer engagement in career advice services.

#### 4. Work programme

- It was agreed to hold an extra meeting in December to be able to address all items on the work programme.
- The agenda items for the November and December meetings were agreed as follows:

28 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	1. Attendance by National Highways 2. Highways Investment Programme 3. Budget Monitoring Report
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	1. Update on Zero Carbon and Climate Change Programme Overview 2. Cycling and E-Scooters – roll out to the west of the city 3. Update on Flooding in Worsley and Irlam

- Members were asked to send their questions for National Highways representative to the clerk Claire Edwards in advance of the November meeting.

#### Resolved: That:

- An extra meeting of the Growth & Prosperity Scrutiny Panel be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm;
- The work programme be amended as shown above;
- Members provide any questions for the National Highways representative in advance of the November meeting to the clerk.

## **5. Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Resolved: That,** the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be approved.

## **6. Any other business**

There were no items of any other business.

## **7. Date and Time of the next meeting**

**Resolved: That,**

- the next meeting of the growth & Prosperity Scrutiny Panel would be held in the Salford Suite on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm;
- an extra meeting would be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6pm.