

Review of Post 16 Provision and FE College Institutions

It is essential that the business voice features largely in area review discussions and that there is full understanding of local employer demand.

It is also important that the FE Commissioner, leading the review process, understands Greater Lincolnshire's size and range of sectors and that this exercise results in change that is of benefit to the local economy.

Government see the LEP role as crucial within the process and wants to ensure that the focus of the review is clearly on the economic and educational needs of the area.

Greater Lincolnshire's area review has been timetabled to start in September 2016 and the jobs and skills analysis that the LEP will use to inform the area review will be undertaken between now and then.

Government expects that in the short to medium term LEPs may want to consider using their capital funding on non-site specific improvements, for example use of technology to improve on-line curriculum or shared services; and equipment which supports improved vocational education and training.

Once reviews are complete it is expected that LEPs will only fund institutions that have taken action to ensure that they provide a high quality offer to learners and employers.

Position Statement

- A LEP representative will sit on the area review steering group and ensure that the focus remains clearly on local economic benefit.
- Greater Lincolnshire is the preferred option for the geography of the area review.
- The LEP will ensure that national organisations, involved with the review, understand the coastal, rural and sparsity challenges to delivery as well as the range of sectors and skills needs that are not clustered in one geography.
- The Area review should result in increased levels and quality of engagement between Colleges and employers, and particularly a better response to employers in terms of specific delivery.
- The review should take into account that large training organisation can be impenetrable even to large employers.
- The LEP should challenge the view that one or two Institutes of Technology could deliver all technical and higher level training for the whole LEP area in an accessible way.
- The review should make recommendation for sixth form schools as well as FE Colleges

LEP Board members are asked to consider these points, and to discuss the role that it will take within the Area review.

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