

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths /
Skills

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 5 March 2019

Cabinet Member: Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation)

CMT Member: Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services)

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Ref: JAH.EC (CAB)

Key Decision: None

Part: I

Purpose of the report:

This report is to note the progress made since the development of the Plan for Employment and Skills (2014-2020) and the proposal to begin a refresh of this in 2019.

The Plan for Employment and Skills (The Plan) has been the Local Authority's blueprint for implementing changes and activity in the skills system that will bring real benefit to the citizens of Plymouth in terms of employability, jobs and careers and the growth of the city's economic footprint. Much has been achieved to date and highlights of this can be seen in the Appendix attached to this report. The Plan has signalled the priorities based on the evidence gained from an analysis of skills and sectors. As priority activities have been implemented it has become clear that there is greater potential to cross reference programmes in order to avoid duplication of activity. As new initiatives have been introduced it is also necessary to refresh the Plan and reset the priorities. In particular the Plan will set out how we will contribute to and participate in the proposed Skills Advisory Panel. Our STEM strategy, for example, has a mantra of "Grow, Keep and Attract" STEM talent; this is similar to the aims of other workstreams such as Careers, Education, Advice and Guidance. The Plan also has increasing links with the Plan for Education as we roll out the Plymouth Challenge.

A revised Plan for Skills is likely to focus on STEM, Careers Education and ensuring training and education meet current and future skills needs. In order for the Plan to be effective in achieving tangible outcomes with regard to education and skills across the Plymouth area it should focus on key themes which will have the biggest impact for improving educational outcomes and developing the skills which are needed to support local businesses and public sector organisations

Corporate Plan:

A Growing City:

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- Quality jobs with valuable skills and knowledge
- Economic growth that benefits as many people as possible

A Caring Council:

- Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes

Plymouth Plan:

- Helps to support the need for local provision for skills and employability
- Help develop our talent with the skills required to access jobs and careers locally
- Providing a skilled workforce to attract inward investment
- Helps to support a growing city

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Including finance, human, IT and land

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report: this is a revision of the existing plan and reprioritisation of workstreams and will be delivered within existing budget allocations

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

Greater economic resilience supports a reduction in child poverty

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?

This is not necessary as the report is a summary of progress against the Plan.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the progress with the Plan for Employment and Skills and the proposal to refresh the Plan for Employment and Skills: this will bring synergy with the refreshed Plan for Education. The two agendas are complementary with STEM and skills and employability activity contributing to the priorities within the Plan for Education.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- **Keep the priorities within the existing Plan**

This was rejected as it is appropriate to review progress at this stage and refresh given the Industrial Strategy development, the Joint Local Plan and a changing landscape in the city.

Published work / information:

N/A

Background papers:

- **The Plan for Employment and Skills**
- **Plymouth STEM Strategy**
- **Plan for Education**

Exempt Information:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member: Judith Harwood													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													