

# Further Education Taskforce Working Group

## Terms of Reference

### 1 Background

The West Lindsey Corporate Plan 2019-2023, sets out the long-term vision for West Lindsey to become “a great place to be where people, businesses and communities can thrive and reach their potential.”

One of the key strategic aims is to facilitate the creation of a highly educated and skilled workforce, that meets the present and future needs of the local economy.

The Corporate Plan sets out some strategic objectives to achieve this:

- Understand the skills needs of local employers.
- Support local schools to improve attainment levels and employment prospects for young people.
- Improve access to training and employment for residents.

The state of the district report 2022 sets out a summary position and the main findings through the Corporate Plan themes of People and Place, based on the latest available data. The report has revealed that the number of people holding at least a level 2 qualification (equivalent to 5 GCSE's) has fallen to 64.5% (35,900 people) down from 76.2% the previous year. Level 3 qualifications (equivalent to A Levels) have also fallen – down from 53.4% in 2020 to 51.2% (28,500 people) in 2021.

Lincolnshire County Council commissioned a Post 16 Further Education and Skills analysis in 2020 - the report highlights that across West Lindsey physical access to further education is poor compared to the county average (78%) with only 69% of the resident population of relevant age within 30 minutes of a post-16 further education establishment (including sixth forms)

### **Further Education Taskforce Working Group**

The driver for this taskforce has been the decision from Lincoln College Group to relocate all remaining Post-16 provision from the Gainsborough Campus to Newark or Lincoln. This will include the flagship Made In Gainsborough Engineering Apprenticeship Programme, Construction and Automotive courses. The Gainsborough campus will be fully leased to Castles Futures, providing Alternative Provision to 11-16 year olds.

Both the Manufacturing and Construction sector provide more than 20% of total employment within the district. Employers have told us that they struggle to recruit locally and have voiced their concerns about losing provision and learners at a crucial time for the economy.

A Further Education Taskforce will bring together key stakeholders from across the district to consider and plan a way forward for further education in Gainsborough and West Lindsey.

The wider context of education and skills will also be considered by this taskforce where there is an impact and relationship with the provision of further education.

## **2 Purpose of the Working Group**

The overarching purpose of the Further Education Taskforce would be to act as the designated, time-limited body responsible for the delivery of a respective Further Education Action Plan, and its associated objectives.

The Further Education Taskforce will meet quarterly and set out tasks, responsibilities, costs and timeframes for delivery along with anticipated outcomes. The Taskforce will be expected to report back to Prosperous Communities Committee at 6 monthly intervals and the taskforce will be reviewed after one year.

The process of forging new relations through this taskforce and working together to seek beneficial outcomes across the district, is intended to lead to new learning, insight and joint initiatives, and provide a useful platform and legacy for future action in its own right.

## **3 Membership of the Group, Chairmanship and Appointments**

- 3.1 The Further Education Taskforce shall be comprised of elected members, local authority, education and business representatives.
- 3.2 Elected members shall be appointed by Prosperous Communities Committee but do not need to serve on that committee.
- 3.3 Membership will comprise of:
  - Leader of the Council
  - 1 x Ward Member for Gainsborough
  - 1 other member sought from nominations
  - Lincolnshire County Council
  - Secondary School Representatives
  - Greater Lincolnshire LEP
  - Higher Education Representatives
  - Further Education Representatives
  - Business Representatives
- 3.4 The taskforce shall elect a Chairman at its first meeting.
- 3.5 For continuity purposes the membership of the taskforce shall remain in place until the task is completed.

- 3.6 The taskforce will be disbanded following submission of closure report to its parent committee.
- 3.7 Other elected Members may attend the Further Education Taskforce, but their level of contribution will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

## **4 Frequency of Meetings and Quorum**

- 4.1 The quorum for a meeting shall be 5 Members.
- 4.2 The Further Education Taskforce shall meet every quarter.
- 4.3 Meetings will be called with at least 10 days' notice.

## **5 Reporting Lines, Accountability and Milestones**

- 5.1 The Further Education Taskforce is directly responsible to the Prosperous Communities Committee
- 5.2 The Further Education Taskforce has no direct decision making powers and will make recommendations to the Prosperous Communities Committee if required.
- 5.3 The Further Education Taskforce will report to the Prosperous Communities Committee:
- Every 6 months

## **6 Resources**

- 6.1 The Further Education Taskforce does not have a supporting budget.
- 6.2 If a budget or additional budgets are required they will be identified on recommendations made to the relevant Policy Committee.
- 6.2 Officers from the following Teams will support the Further Education Taskforce and provide advice, information, guidance and logistical support: -
- Communities Team
  - Growth Team
- 6.3 Administrative support will be provided by the Communities Team. Agendas will be set for each meeting and notes from each meeting will be retained.

## **7 Review**

- 7.1 Following approval these Terms of Reference will be reviewed as minimum every two years if the Further Education Taskforce is still operating.

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