

**LEP Conference
Employment and Skills
session**

10th November 2017



**heart of the
south west**

local enterprise partnership

**Stephen Criddle
Chair LEP People Group**

Background - The Heart of the South West LEP



A local platform for collaboration across public and private sectors, with a small core team supported by LA colleagues (LEP has no offices).

To achieve mutual economic aims we:

Identify common priorities
Attract resources & investment
Make a difference to prosperity.

Introduction to LEP People Group

The People Group is one of the LEP Board's sub-groups

It leads on all People-themed agendas, supporting the People (Employment, Skills and Social Inclusion) work for the Heart of the South West LEP

Objective:

- To develop and monitor the People theme of the Strategic Economic Plan and European Structural and Investment Fund
- To oversee the delivery of the People theme within the European Structural and Investment Fund
- To ensure private sector / employer priorities are represented throughout all plans and strategies
- Linking with relevant and appropriate stakeholders both in and out of region

Projects facilitated by LEP People Group over the last year

Growth Deal

- Successful in securing significant amount of Growth Deal capital funds for infrastructure in HotSW area
- Significant amount earmarked specifically for Skills Capital - different to some other regions. Almost £28m in Growth Deal funds secured with very significant additional money leveraged
- 12 projects in total across whole HotSW area – many complete, or close to completion and a small number undergoing due diligence
- Example: City College Plymouth's Regional Centre of Excellence for STEM - £13million state-of-the-art facility, which has also been shortlisted for the Best New Building at this year's Abercrombie Awards - recently opened



European Social Fund (ESF)

- Total ESF £39m+ allocation for HotSW area 2014-2020 (worth up to £70m with match funding)
- Transition (Devon, Plymouth and Torbay) has £27m & More Developed (Somerset) has almost £13m before match funding.
- Around £21m is committed and being spent to help people into employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities; move closer to the labour market; and provide training and skills for people in work – helping businesses
- Work currently underway on our approach to remaining funds
- Examples of a few projects



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**



European Union
European
Social Fund



Are you an SME in Devon & Somerset looking to boost your business?

A few other Projects

- National college for nuclear at Bridgwater – also part funded through Growth Deal – build underway
- Funding gained from National Apprenticeship Service to promote apprenticeships at FSB conference and in regional media
- Hinkley Point Training Agency – interface between supply chain companies and training -LEP revenue funding awarded for set-up and initial pump priming
- Enterprise Adviser Network in schools – Government funding awarded and matched locally



Projects planned for the next 12 months

European Social Fund

- Around £19m remaining to be committed in HotSW
- Most parts of UK in similar spend situation to HotSW
- National priorities and way forward emerging
- Consultants employed at HotSW level (by Devon County Council) to work on way forward to help commit remaining funds so we are in a position to move
- Range of options, emerging in consultation with national Government and local and regional partners
- Assessment of potential match funding; alignment of outputs and regional flavour (labour market and opportunities) all important



Hinkley Point C

- The first new nuclear power station in the UK for a generation – delivered by EDF
- Go ahead given by Government late 2016 – construction now well underway, with ramping up of activity in 2018
- Creating over 25,000 job opportunities – many well paid and highly skilled
- Significant effect on local and regional labour market, especially within 90 minute drive time (most of HotSW area)
- Opportunity to drive forward step-change in skills of local labour markets
- LEP fully supportive of transformative potential of Hinkley
- Major recruitment and upskilling drive underway by EDF; supply chain; Colleges and Training Providers

Hinkley Point C – construction underway



South West Skills Conference

- Major SW skills conference planned for January 2018 in Bridgwater sponsored by EDF
- Led by HotSW, but with involvement from other SW LEPs
- Strong focus on Nuclear, Advanced Manufacturing and a range of other key sectors, including construction
- Interesting and high profile speakers planned
- Topical issues to be discussed – especially apprenticeships; skills shortages; retaining talent and examples of good practise
- Pre-event day at various locations around the patch



Digital Skills

- Digital identified as a major cross-cutting opportunity in HotSW
- Transformational opportunity for people and businesses in terms of high skills, wages, aspirations and incomes
- Businesses continue to report significant digital skills gaps, including locally (plus Lloyds report)
- Dept. for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) - Simon Leeming new Head of Digital Partnerships reporting directly to the Minister
- Simon visited HotSW in August (hosted by Cosmic in Honiton) to learn about work being done in the SW and asked about the potential for an LEP-level partnership to be formed
- Pitch made to Government by the LEP to be a digital skills partnership pilot
- **As at last week we are now the first LEP Digital Skills Partnership in the country!**
- **If your business wants to get involved contact : Julie Hawker - julie@cosmic.org.uk**

Productivity Strategy

Summary of the draft Productivity Strategy

Q: What is the draft productivity strategy?

A: It's a first draft for consultation highlighting a shared strategic economic vision and way forward for partners across the 19 Local Authority Areas which make up the Heart of the South West. Consultation closes 30th November.

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/media/10207/heart-of-the-south-west-draft-productivity-strategy.pdf>

- Cut outs of the Working and Learning section relating of the draft Productivity Strategy, relating to employment and skills - on each table
- Throughout the rest of the draft strategy some relevant employment and skills elements (précised) - on each table
- Distilled points working and learning session

Summary of the draft Productivity Strategy

- Raising productivity is a national objective (emerging Industrial Strategy and sector deals)
- HotSW has high levels of employment, but generally low levels of productivity often resulting in low earnings
- Aims to drive forward business success and deliver greater prosperity across the region
- Need to support those businesses that wish to grow and compete
- Need to tailor responses and interventions to different localities

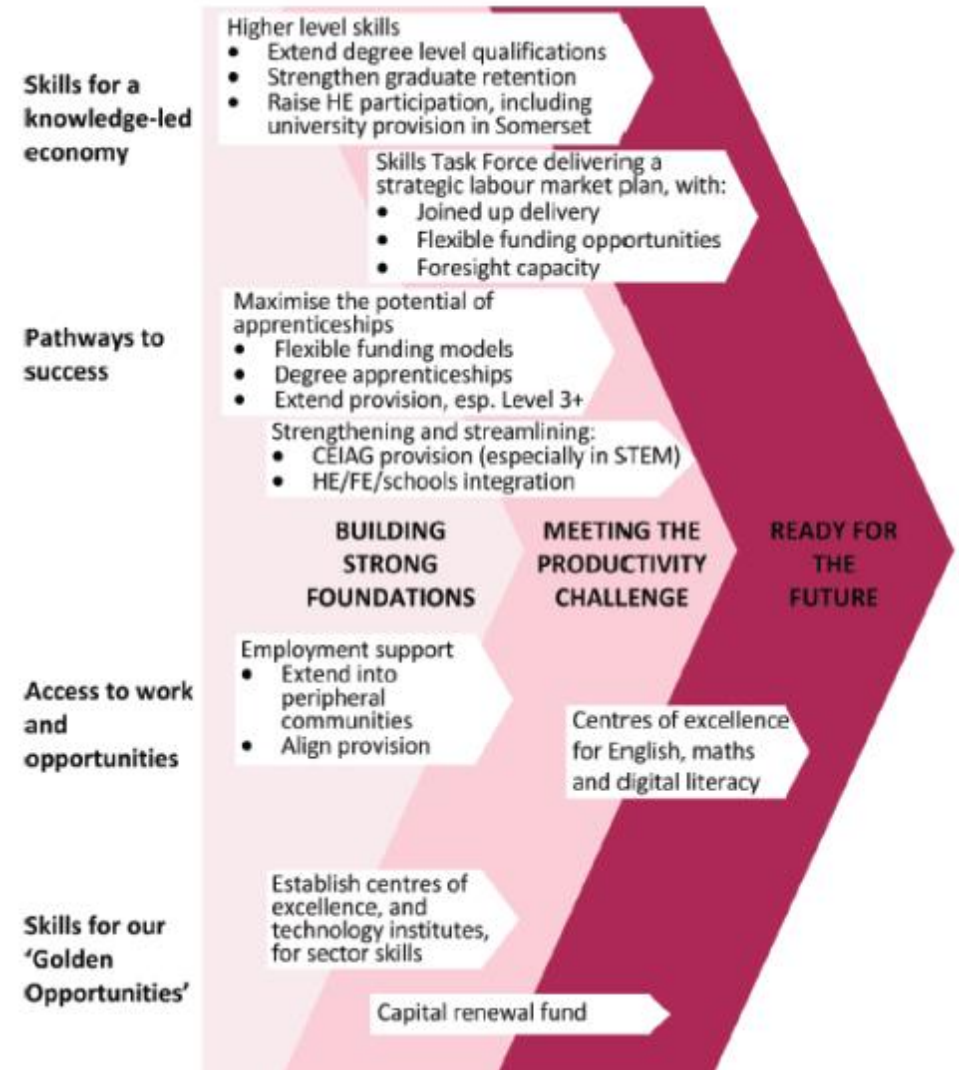
Three key strategic objectives towards driving /raising productivity:

1. Leadership and knowledge;
2. Connectivity and Infrastructure
3. **Working and Learning**

Summary of the draft Productivity Strategy

What we will do & High Level interventions

Aspiration productivity and prosperity for all	Meet the potential of every individual within the area to work and contribute to our shared prosperity
High-level Aim more productive businesses	Develop, attract and retain a highly skilled and adaptable workforce
Strategic Objective working and learning	Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills for a knowledge-led economy • Pathways to success • Access to work and opportunities • Skills for our 'golden opportunities'



Questions to the workshop

Thinking in particular about cross-cutting themes, inclusivity/prosperity for all, deliverability and the need to evidence our actions:

1. Is the diagnosis in the draft strategy correct - is anything missing?
2. What should be in a delivery plan?
3. **All of the points below are important, but do you have a preference for a focus?**
 - More people with higher level qualifications (degree or equivalent and above)
 - Support for in work training and career progression/retraining
 - Strengthen careers advice and guidance in schools (including information on career pathways)
 - Basic skills (English, Maths and basic digital literacy)

Thank You