

**Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support****Report to Scrutiny Board (Inclusive Growth, Culture and Sport)****Date: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017****Subject: Employment and Skills – key challenges and opportunities**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. At the beginning of the municipal year, the Scrutiny Board expressed an interest in undertaking a piece of work aimed at achieving inclusive growth by addressing local employment and skills gaps. However, it was agreed that the Board would firstly consider the Council's wider draft Inclusive Growth Strategy as part of the formal consultation process. This was undertaken during the Board's September meeting.
2. Since then, the Council has also launched its draft Leeds Talent and Skills Plan for wider consultation. This Plan covers the period 2017 – 2023, which is the same period as the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy. The Plan is also closely aligned to the Strategy, reflecting the critical importance of skills to economic growth, and similarly has been developed through collaboration between the Council, employers, residents, and education and skills providers. The people of Leeds are also at the heart of the Plan, from equipping local young people with the right skills and careers advice, to enabling in-work progression, retraining and lifelong learning in our ever changing labour market.
3. Many of the Scrutiny Board's main interest areas around employment and skills are reflected within the draft Leeds Talent and Skills Plan and therefore this has been appended as a key reference document (see appendix 1).
4. However, the Board also expressed a specific interest in exploring how young people who have offended are also supported into the labour market. A separate briefing paper has therefore been provided by the Leeds Youth Offending Service (YOS) outlining some of the challenges that these young people face in terms of accessing

opportunities as well as briefly outlining some of the initiatives that have been developed to address these challenges (see appendices 2 and 2a).

5. During the meeting, the Board will also receive a brief presentation on the following:
  - An overview of the changing labour market and the consequential skills issues across the different sectors within the city; and
  - A general explanation about the Council's city leadership and enabling role and how this is reflected in the current draft Leeds Talent and Skills Plan.
6. Both the Chief Officer for Employment and Skills and the Head of Service at Leeds YOS will be attending today's meeting to respond to questions raised by the Scrutiny Board and also assist the Board in determining appropriate next steps.

### **Recommendation**

7. Members are asked to consider the attached appendices and information presented during the meeting and determine its next steps in terms of undertaking further Scrutiny work.

### **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

8. None used

---

<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.