

Employment and Skills

Background

A key component of the work of the LEP in driving economic growth is in creating high value jobs and investing in improving skills in the area.

The principal body overseeing the strategy in this area is the [Employment and Skills Board](#) (ESB), which is a sub group of the LEP.

The LEP's position on the issue of employment and skills is formalised in the [Employment and Skills Strategy 2016 to 2030](#). This forms part of the LEP's overall Economic Growth Strategy, referred to earlier. The ESB is a critical body in shaping the skills strategy for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and in influencing policies with funding bodies (e.g. BEIS, Skills Funding Agency, DWP and Department for Education).

Governance and decision making

The ESB meets on a quarterly basis and its role is outlined in a Terms of Reference set by the LEP Board and contained in Appendix 6.1 which will be updated during Q1 of 2017

Membership is made up of a balance of public sector and private sector. The former largely reflects the funding and training providers, with the latter focused on employers and sector representatives. In addition, the voluntary sector is represented and additional members can be co-opted.

Accountability

The ESB is accountable to the LEP, by whom its Terms of Reference are set. The LEP Board receives reports and updates from the ESB. The LEP Board meets every 2 months and a report is submitted each time. In addition, CC officers are usually present in their capacity as secretariat of the ESB to answer queries.

It also has a critical role in engaging with businesses to understand the skills needs of employers from micro businesses through to large companies. This is done through the private sector led LEP and direct engagement with employers; often working alongside the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and Jobcentre Plus (JCP).

Mechanisms for regular consultation and communication with the business community are seen as essential in order to meet the above objectives and meaningfully engage with the private sector.

Formal agendas and minutes are compiled and recorded respectively. CC acts as the Secretariat to the ESB and minutes are posted on-line.

It is important to note that the ESB does not directly award any funding and does not oversee a budget. It is responsible to the LEP and is the key strategic body providing leadership and engagement in the area of employment and skills.