RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2018
title: LANCASHIRE LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT
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1   PURPOSE

1.1   To provide an overview of the Lancashire Labour Market Intelligence Report.

1.2   Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – The Council recognises the importance of securing a diverse, sustainable economic base for the Borough.

- Community Objectives – The issues highlighted in this report relate to the objectives of a strong and sustainable economy.

- Corporate Priorities – Delivery of services to all.

- Other Considerations – None.

2   BACKGROUND

2.1   The Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub was created by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in 2013 to consider the skills and employment priorities within the LEP area (which covers Lancashire County, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool).

2.2   The Hub has commissioned a range of studies to create a comprehensive Lancashire wide evidence base, from which they have drawn together key priorities and objectives and identified common themes and issues.

2.3   In April of this year, a 2018 Lancashire Labour Market Information (LMI) Toolkit was produced comprising a Lancashire Report, 6 Travel to Work Area Reports and Factsheets, and Data Matrix (comprising 5 sections) that contains all of the underpinning data which has been analysed to inform the reports and the factsheets.

2.4   The LMI Report, Travel to Work Area Reports and Factsheets and Data Matrix can all be found at www.lancashireskillshub.co.uk/about-us/evidence-base. A printed copy of the report has been placed in the Members' Room on Level C.

3   INFORMATION

3.1   Labour Market Intelligence is the term used to describe the wide range of information that helps inform decisions about work and training, covering topics such as jobs, salaries and employers, as well as education and skills.

3.2   The Lancashire Labour Market Intelligence Report covers the four themes set out in the table below. Conclusions and key messages are also provided.

Theme	Data provided
Residents in Lancashire	This section provides data on the residents who live in Lancashire – their employment, occupations, skills and

Theme	Data provided
	earnings. It also provides information on unemployment and inactivity. It covers the overall resident base including those who work within and outside the travel to work area.
The Economy in Lancashire	This section provides data on the jobs available at employers located in Lancashire. This includes jobs that are filled by residents from within and outside the travel to work area.
Economic Forecasts for Lancashire to 2028	This section provides forecasts of the jobs expected to be available at businesses located in Lancashire in the 2018-2028 period. This includes jobs that could be filled by residents from within and outside the travel to work area.
The Skills and Education System in Lancashire	This section provides data on participation and attainment levels throughout the education system in Lancashire – from Key Stage 1 through to Higher Education.

3.3   The report highlights that Lancashire's economy has strengthened over the past 3 years, with an increase in the number of jobs and employment rate and a significant fall in unemployment.

3.4   The report recognises that Lancashire has a diverse economy with manufacturing remaining an important part of the overall economy compared to many other parts of the country. Lancashire has a growing financial and professional services sector and priority sectors include energy and environmental technology, the visitor economy and creative and digital industries.

3.5   While the population is expected to grow over the next ten years across Lancashire, the working age population in Lancashire is expected to fall, which could present a challenge to those seeking to grow the economy and employment in Lancashire.

3.6   The working age population in Lancashire remains on average slightly less qualified than the working age population across the North West and nationally. Over one quarter of the working age population do not hold qualifications at Level 2, and risk becoming stuck in low quality, insecure employment.

3.7   Employment is forecast to grow between 2018 and 2028, with the creation of over 18,500 new jobs in Lancashire. This is a slower rate of growth than is expected nationally. Despite this, employment opportunities will be created across all sectors and occupations.

3.8   The sectors expected to offer the most employment opportunities are wholesale and retail, human health and social work, accommodation and food services and administrative and support services.

3.9   Whilst the LMI report is insightful and useful for gaining labour market information at Lancashire level, it is difficult to extrapolate data for the Ribble Valley, with both the areas strengths and weaknesses being masked through a focus on the Lancashire average.

3.10   Of the six Travel to Work areas reported on, the Ribble Valley falls within the report which also covers Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Rossendale. Analysis of this data highlights the level of diversity within the selected area, rendering this specific report of limited use when trying to understand the situation in the Ribble Valley only. These matters, are however, drawn out in the Economic Baseline Report, which is part of this Committee meeting agenda.

3.11   The Data Matrix, which can also be accessed via the Lancashire Skills Hub website, contains all of the underpinning data which has been analysed to inform the LMI Report. The Matrix includes summary charts and tables at Local Authority level and is therefore very useful for obtaining data specific to the Ribble Valley.

3.12   The Data Matrix is split into five sections which cover the following:

Section	Data provided
Economy and business matrix	GVA, productivity, business base and business demography.
Employment forecasts and future demand for labour matrix	Employment forecasts, employment change and profile 2018-2028 and replacement and expansion demand.
Labour demand matrix	Industrial structure, jobs by sector and skills and vacancies.
Performance of the education, skills and employment system matrix	Schools, apprenticeships, higher education and graduates.
Residents matrix	Population, labour market information, occupations and qualifications.

3.13   The LMI Report, Travel to Work Area Reports and Factsheets and Data Matrix can all be found at www.lancashireskillshub.co.uk/about-us/evidence-base.

4   CONCLUSION

4.1   That Committee note the report.

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