



VALE OF GLAMORGAN IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES BOARD MEETING

21st July 2016

Present:

Marcus Goldsworthy (Chair) (MG) – Vale of Glamorgan Council
 Helen Moses (HM) - Vale of Glamorgan Council
 Paul Kift (PK) – Cardiff and Vale College
 Jayne Tilley (JT) – Careers Wales
 David George (DG) – Welsh Government

Andrew Bevan (AB) - Deloitte
 Nicola Campbell (NC) – Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership
 James Scorey (JS) – Cardiff and Vale College
 Colin Davies (CD) – Vale of Glamorgan Council
 Paul Warren (PW) – Glamorgan Voluntary Services

Apologies:

Kay Martin – Cardiff and Vale College
 Rachel Connor – Glamorgan Voluntary Services
 Andrew Whitcombe - Cardiff and Vale College

Ben Hughes – Cardiff Metropolitan University
 Paula Ham – Vale of Glamorgan Council

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and introduction</u></p> <p>Members of the board were introduced.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>As above.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes from last meeting and matters arising</u></p> <p>The minutes were agreed as accurate.</p> <p>HM advised that although BH was unable to attend the meeting he had emailed that he had spoken to the University team regarding talks with schools and expectations regarding employment and employer priorities. He is also planning a wider discussion with all Welsh universities to ensure a consistent approach. To provide a further update.</p>	BH

<p>PK advised that EC from Conduit was still due to visit the college.</p> <p>PK also advised that the college is working closely with Aston Martin and KM will provide a detailed update at the next IOB meeting.</p>	<p>KM</p>
<p>4. <u>St Athan Enterprise Zone</u></p> <p>DG was welcomed to the meeting and circulated a paper regarding Cardiff Airport and the St Athan Enterprise Zone. He provided some background to the site and an overview of the layout. His aim is to increase employment opportunities from the commercial world and to also work with the military to get the best out of the site. DG works closely with the airport team to ensure the best use of the site.</p> <p>There is an external advisory board for the Enterprise Zone to advise the Minister, Ken Skates regarding direction of travel.</p> <p>There are four distinct elements to the Enterprise Zone; St Athan Aerospace Business Park, Cardiff and Vale ICAT, Cardiff airport and the Airport City Gateway Concept.</p> <p>Aberthaw Power Station is also in the Enterprise Zone and is a major employment centre and will be part of the discussions going forward.</p> <p>There is a growing commercial presence on the site with a recent focus on new starts. The military are still a big feature and it is important to ensure everyone can co-exist. To assist with this a tidy up of the site is being proposed to ensure everything is in the right location on the site and has the necessary supporting infrastructure e.g. a new road and entrance.</p> <p>It is a growth site and requires a comprehensive masterplan which sets out the potential and benefits of investment. This would include a military enclave and the MOD is being very co-operative regarding the future development of the site and needs of other occupants.</p> <p>Investment from Aston Martin in the site and other companies locating to the business park e.g. Bristow SAR and Training is helping to raise the profile of the site.</p> <p>DG is hopeful that over the next 10 years over 1500 jobs will be created on the site in addition to the opportunities with Aston Martin.</p>	



PK highlighted the potential for the IOB to play a role to help support recruitment and upskilling and to promote opportunities to local people. DG confirmed that labour supply and skills is critical to attracting investment.

MG commented that Welsh Government's approach to the Enterprise Zone seemed to be working, having started with smaller investors and now with the significant investment from Aston Martin and others showing interest in the site.

The links to the college are a massive selling point and PK suggested that there are opportunities to be considered in terms of working with the sub-contractors on the site.

5. Deloitte LLP, Apprenticeship Programme and Growth Plans

AB attended the meeting to discuss the apprenticeship scheme that Deloitte had developed in conjunction with Cardiff and Vale college.

Deloitte is a professional services firm with offices across the UK providing tax, audit and other financial services. Staff employed in these services are traditionally graduates from Russell Group universities who end up with a managerial role. There is a centralised team that provide back office functions and it is for this team that an apprenticeship scheme was developed.

This was a new approach for Deloitte but AB highlighted that Cardiff and Vale college had been excellent partners throughout the development and implementation of the programme. Last year 10 apprentices were taken on aged between 17-22 years old, they went through a vigorous assessment and recruitment process but the 10 employed are still with the firm and the scheme has been deemed a success and is being run again. This year there has been even more interest and the approach has also helped shape wider recruitment practices to be more strength based.

AB commented that the firm have now employed people with the necessary skills and talents who they would not have taken on before. The apprentices have benefitted from the support and qualifications that may not have been available to them elsewhere.

The Board discussed the need to promote opportunities for apprenticeships with schools and parents. .

PK was complimentary about the approach and mentoring provided



<p>by Deloitte and advised that Admiral are also interested in running an apprenticeship scheme.</p> <p>AB concluded by saying that the scheme had been very successful and exceeded expectations and that it had been great to see people grow in terms of confidence and ability.</p>	
<p>6. <u>ESF Project Update</u></p> <p>JS provided an update on two European funded programmes which the college are involved in.</p> <p>Upskilling@Work is an ESF backed programme and part of a pan Wales operation, the target groups are those in work who have no or low level qualifications (Specific Objective 1) and those who have medium/higher level qualifications (Specific Objective 2). The programme was formally approved in March and the agreement is that each FE college will cover its own 'patch', working with the local authority and employers based in the area. The value of the project to Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan is approx. £5million and it should have a significant economic impact.</p> <p>It can be difficult to engage with employers but it has the potential to assist them with retention of staff. To date the focus has been mainly on larger employers. There is also a role to educate employers regarding the benefits and to promote the scheme to SMEs.</p> <p>Staff employed in the public sector are also eligible if their role aligns to the stated objectives for the funding.</p> <p>CD suggested that JS contacts Beryl at JobCentrePlus who has an extensive knowledge and network of employers in the Vale.</p> <p>All partners were asked to promote the scheme and already around 500 people have expressed an interest.</p> <p>Inspire2Achieve is also an ESF backed project, this is a collaboration across the region and is led by Newport City Council. The aim is to reduce those most at risk of becoming NEET . The eligible target group are those aged 11-24, with local authorities focusing activities with 11-16 year olds and colleges focusing on the 16-24 year olds (mainly 16 - 19). The project started in April and will go live with the college in September. The aim is for over 300 participants in 3 years.</p>	<p>All</p>



<p>The current understanding is that projects that have already received European funding will continue to receive that funding for the agreed duration of the project.</p> <p>In addition to the two ESF projects JS provided information regarding the Skills Priorities Programme which is funded by Welsh Government. This is a £4.5million pan Wales programme for further education. This project is in response to the need for a higher level skills provision. The regional pot for Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Cardiff and the Vale is £900k. Cardiff and Vale College are hoping to obtain £550k of the funding.</p> <p>The group agreed that although there are many benefits and opportunities to be gained through the three programmes it is a complex area for employers to navigate due to the number of different schemes.</p> <p>Partners were asked to help raise awareness of the different opportunities.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>7. Communities First and the Communities 4 Work Programme</u></p> <p>CD gave a very brief overview and it was agreed that he would be invited to the next meeting to provide more details about the work being undertaken as part of the Communities First programme.</p> <p>CD advised that it is a Welsh Government funded programme and works closely with other programmes to tackle poverty. There is significant poverty in the Vale, in particular in Barry but also in St Athan and Llantwit Major.</p> <p>There are three streams to the programme, prosperous communities, healthy communities and learning communities.</p> <p>Prosperous communities is about helping people into work and many activities are undertaken with Jobcentre Plus, the college and Careers Wales. This can include one to one support, mentoring, job fairs and job clubs, support, equipment and training.</p> <p>Work is also undertaken when new employers move into the area e.g. ASDA.</p> <p>Communities4work is an ESF programme which will run up until 2018. This is aimed at supporting over 16s into work. Another project is PACE which is aimed at 16-24 year old parents.</p>	<p>HM/CD</p>

<p>The team work closely with Adult Community Learning to develop appropriate courses to meet identified needs.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Public Services Board/Well-being Assessment Update</u></p> <p>HM advised that the new Public Services Board (PSB) has now met and more information including terms of reference are available on the website. http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Public-services-board/Public-Services-Board.aspx</p> <p>Councillor Moore will be the chair of the PSB which replaces the LSB but many of the partners are still the same. One of the first tasks for the PSB is to complete a well-being assessment by May 2017 and a wellbeing plan by May 2018. In light of these requirements the PSB has agreed to adopt the former LSB plans and structures in the interim. Therefore the IOB will continue and the PSB will still focus on tackling poverty.</p> <p>HM suggested that at the next meeting the board will need to update progress on its actions in the Community Strategy Delivery Plan and may wish to consider if any of the actions need to be amended.</p> <p>HM also asked partners to advise of any data and information that could be included in the well-being assessment and circulated the common data set which had been produced by the Local Government Data Unit.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>All</p>
<p>9. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>JT advised that Careers Wales have a small amount of funding for improving opportunities and that this could be used to raise awareness with schools and parents about some of the issues discussed by the board e.g. apprenticeships. JT asked partners to consider options and for this to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p>HM</p>
<p>10. <u>Date of Next Meeting.</u></p> <p>13th October 2016 2pm, venue to be confirmed</p>	