

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

28 January 2021

NEDDC Employment and Skills Strategy 2021-2024

Report of Councillor C Renwick, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To request that Cabinet approve the Employment and Skills Strategy 2021 – 2024 and the action plan to take forward the work relating to employment and skills.
- To request that delegated authority given to the Director of Growth and Economic Development to make none substantive amendments to the documents in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Economic Development.

1 Report Details

- 1.2 This is the first Employment and Skills Strategy that has been developed for the district. The Strategy sets out NEDDC's plan to support businesses and residents, helping to upskill and retrain individuals, enabling employers to retain jobs and skills, especially through the economic downturn caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and over the next few years.
- 1.2 Whilst NEDDC does not have a statutory duty to provide employment and skills services however it has a critical role in ensuring that both businesses and residents access the wide ranging support that is available for them and in influencing the funding and provision that is available, ensuring it is what is needed rather than what is provided. This is through partnership working with the D2N2 LEP and other partners.
- 1.3 The sectors that are identified in the Strategy are focused on increasing the districts productivity levels which is even more important now due to the pandemic. Businesses are struggling to survive and we need to ensure that we encourage the right support is available so that they can do this and grow. Businesses are also now operating differently as a result of Covid 19 and remote working is increasing placing more importance on digital skills. All these sectors feature highly in the priority sectors of regional strategies and the development of this Strategy will strengthen the need of more support for these sectors going forward.
- 1.4 Unemployment is increasing rapidly and numbers are likely to continue to increase when the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ends. Again the need for the right support for our residents is now more important than ever. All the initiatives that are becoming available under the Government's Plan for Jobs need to be embedded into the district and fully accessible.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 NEDDC has a critical role in ensuring that both businesses and residents access the wide ranging support that is available for them and through partnership working, influencing the funding and provision that is available, ensuring it is what is needed rather than what is provided. This Strategy will demonstrate the Council's commitment in proactively working with partners to draw down funding for and to develop local support.
- 2.2 NEDDC can as part of the pandemic review the internal processes around the digital skills agenda complementing the existing NEDDC digital strategy. This can be done through reviewing the engagement with residents and businesses and creating a digital jobs fair platform. This can be completed through the Skills and engagement work and discussed at a future Cabinet meeting.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Consultation on the Strategy has taken place with Sheffield Hallam University, Derby University, Department of Work and Pensions, D2N2 LEP, Chesterfield College, CBE+ and Woodhead's Construction.
- 3.2 All initiatives will be promoted to both the business community and residents widely using a wide range of communications channels.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Do nothing. This is not an option as we need to proactively encourage the right support for both businesses and residents to be provided in the district, this is a Council priority.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 There are no legal implication including Data Protection.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 There are no HR implications.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Cabinet notes the content of this report.
- 6.2 That Cabinet approve the Employment and Skills Strategy 2021 – 2024 and the action plan to take forward the work relating to employment and skills.

- 6.3 That agrees to receive a future paper on NEDDC digital skills including but not limited to a NEDDC online Jobs fair platform or equivalent.
- 6.4 That delegated authority given to the Director of Growth and Economic Development to make none substantive amendments to the documents in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Economic Development.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies</p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In?(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	All
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Creating a business friendly District that develops skills and jobs

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	NEDDC Employment and Skills Strategy
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/the-uks-industrial-strategy https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-plan-for-jobs-documents/a-plan-for-jobs-2020 https://d2n2lep.org/d2n2-economic-recovery-report-september-2020/</p>	
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