

**Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP)**  
**Joint Scrutiny Committee**  
**Date of Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The last update from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnerships was from a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This virtual meeting was a continuation of a meeting in December 2020 that was curtailed due to technical problems.

The first report was on the Skills and Apprenticeship Hub that hoped to increase the number of Level 3 qualifications through the 10,000 Plus process and was being supported by the Kick Start scheme. It was clarified to Members that independent training operators were being used to generate these numbers. It was emphasised that this scheme was open to everyone with a midlife MOT being available.

The second report was on the Low Carbon and Environmental Technologies (LCET) Action Plan produced in 2020. It was difficult to extract the background information, but it was explained that the scheme was coordinating the small number of low carbon businesses and administering the Low Carbon Fund. It was commented that there was a low level of people with STEM qualifications and that GBSLEP was supporting all low carbon schemes across the whole area. When asked for details of who was being helped it was made clear that this related to the funding programme and until this was made public it was not appropriate to discuss at this stage.

Finally, the Route to Recovery was explained by the Deputy Director. It was reported that both Covid-19 and the exit from Europe had been major influences on the economy of the West Midlands, however the Euro Trade deal and the Covid-19 vaccine were having an impact. There was some concern about youth employment that was standing at 9.1% in December. It was hoped that there would be a significant amount of money available from the Government in future.

The next meeting was due to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and members were invited to provide items for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.