

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17/12/2021

Officers presented a report outlining the progress on both supporting young people and green growth. As an example, a sum of £2.7M has generated 18 proposals of which 9 have been short listed. The Skills and Apprenticeship Hub secured £2.85M for the project. The board appointed a Net Zero champion who has already raised the profile with several activities. A £2.7M Growing Places Capital fund was launched at the GBSLEP annual conference to help Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to develop. Work is ongoing with The Princes Trust, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), colleges and various events and festivals to support young people.

The committee has asked for more detail on the figures presented on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Particularly on the 15,000 jobs created, 4,763 houses built and 4,761 learners assisted on to courses leading to NVQ 3. It was detailed that the number of learners was down because one major project did not take place, however, the committee asked for further information about the location of the housing, jobs and the learners. There was some suggested that there has been an imbalance in the allocation of support.

There was some disappointment in that the area had dropped from 1st to 7th in the league table for 'life satisfaction' based on Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Measuring National Well-Being (MNW) statistics. It is not surprising that one cause was covid but there were other factors considered. The scores for Redditch on life satisfaction are available.

NVQ" level 3 is the highest attainment that the LEP works towards and Redditch has the lowest number of level 3 qualifications but the highest number with lower qualifications. The committee felt that more needs doing with the high schools and although the LEP was trying, they had still recommended this to the board.

In a confidential session the LEP review and the Levelling up white paper were discussed.

In general, it was felt to be a positive meeting with the comment that wherever possible going forward, there is a need to keep involving local companies.