



NOTES

Construction & Engineering Construction Working Group

Thursday 13th November, 9am – 10am
Via Zoom

PRESENT

Rod Chambers	Hull & East Yorkshire LSIP
Hannah Crookes	Hull & East Yorkshire LSIP
Mark Boothby	Sewell Group
Keith Sanderson	ECA
Sam Hind	Humber Training Group
Nigel Dyer	Wienerberger
Fiona Gamwell	Hudsons
Julie Deeley	EN:Able Futures
Paul Wall	Wilberforce Sixth Form College
Nick Marshall	Hull College

OVERVIEW

The meeting discussed the development of LSIP 2.0, with a submission deadline of 31st March 2026. Key sectors identified by the Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) included agri-food, life sciences/biomedical, energy, manufacturing and marine, ports, & logistics. Concerns were raised about the absence of construction and health and social care, however noting that the Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce (as the designated employer representative body) was able to challenge the priority sectors with sufficient evidence. The LSIP Team provided an update on their planned engagement activities to support the development of LSIP 2.0, including survey work that would be launched at the next Forum on 17th November at the University of Hull, and roundtable activity to gather feedback. The survey aimed to gather data on current and future skills gaps, digital and net zero impacts, as well as employer relationships with training providers. Feedback from the September Forum, focusing on construction, would also be utilised. The group emphasised the importance of employer engagement, particularly for smaller businesses, and the need for better communication and support from the Combined Authority.

LSIP 2.0

Hannah Crookes provided an update on the current position of ownership of the LSIP model, where the legal responsibility still lied with the Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce (as the designated employer representative body) but there was a requirement to work towards joint ownership with HEYCA. The primary role of HEYCA currently would be to confirm the priority sectors which they wanted the LSIP to focus on, with supporting data. The Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce would be responsible for gathering employer feedback, developing the LSIP and ensuring submission of a substantive draft by 31st March 2026 with support of HEYCA.

It was noted that HEYCA had not included construction or engineering construction as a priority sector for LSIP 2.0. Hannah Crookes commented on the ability to challenge this with sufficient evidence, and work was underway to ensure this was possible. In addition, as both sectors appeared in the current LSIP there was a need to report back on those sectors within LSIP 2.0.

Questions were received with regard to what research was conducted by HEYCA to determine the priority sectors. Hannah Crookes commented on the report produced by Metro Dynamics, which HEYCA had commissioned to support the development of their Local Growth Plan and highlight the key sectors for potential growth and which could maximise inward investment. However, it was noted that there was confusion within the contents within the report as it was not clear as to why construction in particular had been excluded. It was agreed to share the research with those that requested it. Rod Chambers added that he was expecting this report to be discussed in more detail at HEYCA's Policy Sprint on Monday 17th November.

It was further questioned as to what the implications were on sectors not included as priorities within HEYCA's plans. Hannah Crookes highlighted that HEYCA had provided assurance that just because a sector was not listed as a priority would not mean no investment, however the focus would be on the priority sectors.

In terms of engagement activity, a survey would be launched for all sectors at the next HEY LSIP Forum, taking place on Monday 17th November 2025 at the University of Hull. Members were asked to provide support in distributing the survey to maximise employer feedback. It was suggested to utilise trade merchants to support survey dissemination as well. Feedback from this would guide the in-person roundtable discussions for January 2026, which all working group members would be invited to noting that it would replace the normal bi-monthly zoom call. The HEY LSIP team would also be utilising external events to gain feedback, as well as 1-2-1 meetings. Any sector representative data or research would also be welcomed to support the development of LSIP 2.0.

A discussion took place regarding how construction in particular could be put to the forefront of activity:

- Increasing the volume of voices from the sector within the sector working group.
- Showcasing the success of events like Foundations Live and the potential for more engagement.

Members then discussed current skills and recruitment challenges across the sectors including:

- Number of apprenticeships available was slowing down.
- The challenges of recruiting apprentices and the importance of creating opportunities for young people were discussed.
- There was a need for inspiration to raise aspirations.
- The over-subscription of construction courses and the need for better employer engagement were noted.
- The frustration with the complexity of accessing funding for placements and the lack of time for smaller employers was expressed.
- It was felt employers, particularly SMEs, did not have the time to take on apprenticeship or work experience placements.
- More honesty was required between training providers and employers on specific challenges being experienced, and collaboration to identify solutions.
- Too much red tape was still apparent.
- Utilisation of existing resources, such as GoConstruct and the STEM Portal were noted.
- Particular recruitment challenges were noted within joinery and carpentry.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Employers questioned on progress of getting the Employability Skills Passport approved, noting approval from East Riding of Yorkshire Council was still pending. It was agreed to follow-up with Chris Howell at the Hull & East Yorkshire Business, Growth & Skills Hub.
- Contact details to be provided to Julie Deeley for Fiona Headridge to support engagement with all schools across Hull & East Yorkshire.
- Nick Marshall mentioned a session being hosted by Hull College for people interested in teaching, particularly in the engineering sector. The potential of the format being expanded out to other sectors was noted.
- Julie Deeley suggested for the HEY LSIP team to contact the Yorkshire & Humber Ambassador Network. Hannah Crookes highlighted she was still waiting for a reply to her last email.
- The implications of the Post 16 White Paper were being identified by local providers and colleges, with concerns being expressed that there was a disconnect between what is actually happening in comparison to what we want to happen.
- Changes to end-point assessments and the potential impact on apprenticeship quality were noted.
- Keith Sanderson updated on the ECA's bids to influence local policies and the potential launch of an Electro technical Careers & Training Alliance within Hull & East Yorkshire was being explored.
- The group emphasised the importance of employer engagement, particularly for smaller businesses, and the need for better communication and support from the Combined Authority.