

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SELECT COMMITTEES**SCRUTINY OF:**

- A Skills Plan for Surrey

Date Considered: 6 October 2022**Select Committee: Communities, Environment and Highways**

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A Skills Plan for Surrey

As part of regular scrutiny, policy development and monitoring process, Community, Environment and Highways Select Committee received a report on the 'Skills Plan for Surrey.'

The report focussed on the role that skills development has in securing economic and inclusion outcomes, aligned particularly with the County Council's strategic focus on 'Growing a sustainable economy from which everyone can benefit' and underlying principle of 'no-one left behind.' This Skills Plan for Surrey builds on the following substantive pieces of research.

- COVID-19 Economic Impact Assessment (June 2020)
- University of Surrey Cluster Research (November 2020)
- Surrey Economic Commission Findings (September 2020)
- Surrey's Economic Future to 2030 (December 2020)
- Surrey's demand for jobs research (Shared Intelligence 2021 and Metro Dynamics 2022)
- Surrey's provision mapping (Metrodynamics 2022)
- Surrey County Council's (SCC) No One Left behind Employment and
- Skills Research (2022 ongoing)

The Select Committee noted that the Skills Plan for Surrey is ambitious in scope and purpose and represents a step change in the role that the Council has in driving skills improvements linked to economic and inclusion outcomes. Nonetheless the Council cannot deliver on the objectives of the Plan alone and will

need to take an out-ward facing, enabling and catalytic role to achieve best outcomes for the county.

After deliberation and responses to its key lines of enquiry, the Select Committee agreed its recommendations which are set out below for Cabinet to consider.

RESOLVED

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The Select Committee:

1. Agrees that private sector employers (large, medium and small) should take the lead in improving skills with important roles for public sector organisations (Universities, Schools, NHS, Surrey County Council, Districts and Boroughs etc.) but these need robust definition and clarity of their input.
2. Accepts the ambitions of the Plan and the eventual Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) but needs assurance that a robust performance measurement system will be put in place to monitor progress and to adjust the strategy if evidence so requires.
3. Appreciates the inevitably limited role that Surrey County Council will play in the plan but argues that its practical role as one of the key procurers and deliverers of services, as well as of strategic leadership be better defined.
4. Requests that the final version of this report to Cabinet on 25 October 2022 addresses the aforementioned points.

John O'Reilly

**Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select Committee
Surrey County Council**