**Essex Skills Plan 2022 – One Pager for engagement – DRAFT: CONFIDENTIAL**

**Vision Statement and Priorities**

**Vision**: To help deliver a flourishing and inclusive economy across Essex by equipping employers, adults and young people with the skills, conditions and aptitudes required for significant and clean growth today and tomorrow.

**Priorities**

* Increase apprenticeships and industry relevant qualifications for all ages, particularly in priority sectors and at all levels.
* Simplify the landscape for employers, stakeholders and individuals.
* Build a diverse and inclusive economy and reduce polarisation.
* Raise awareness of jobs and growth across Essex and national and international significance.
* Foster and support the spirit of pride, entrepreneurship innovation and enthusiasm across Essex to bring change.

**General Principles**

Partners have agreed to work to five general principles which apply to all aspects of the Skills Plan and its delivery:

1. We will enable inclusive growth which creates opportunities for all.
2. We will develop and maintain a partnership approach. This includes representatives from education; local authorities; employers; business representatives and sector bodies.
3. An employer-led approach will be at the forefront of our work, linking with other work e.g. the Strategic Development Fund.
4. We are committed to working together to address the findings of the Skills Plan.
5. We will provide a joined-up voice sharing the Essex perspective with central government, national bodies, funders and key stakeholders.

**Background**

We are in a time of significant change. Impacts of Covid-19 continue, there are labour market shortages in all sectors and the digital revolution is changing the world of work. Major Projects, e.g. Lower Thames Crossing, will also influence future needs and opportunities locally. The Department for Education (DfE) has trailblazed new Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) in eight areas of the country, which will soon be rolled out nationally. The Essex Skills Plan is intended to help deliver against change and help inform an Essex LSIP. It has been produced through a collaboration with employers, sector bodies, further and higher education, schools and local authorities and represents a consensus of priorities for skills locally

**Context**

We will work with national and local partners and initiatives to ensure maximum benefit for our local businesses and individuals through these opportunities.

**Next Steps**

The Essex Skills Plan has deliberately been produced as a light touch, interim document to provide a focus for skills during a time of significant change and opportunity and to articulate our vision and priorities to local and national audiences. It will be necessary to refresh and adapt the plan as required and in the context of the LSIP and related (college led) Strategic Development Fund work. This also enables us to align to other key areas of work such as the new Institute for Technology, major projects and developments and local strategies, including the Sector Development Strategy, to reduce duplication. It is also intended to ensure take up of funding and opportunities such as skills bootcamps and being clear on priorities as national skills reforms develop. The plan will be published and launched by October 2022 and shared with Essex MPs and relevant Ministers.

**Commitment to action**

As part of our commitment to delivering against the Skills Plan in short order, there are a number of areas of work which we will take forward immediately and with the support of all partners involved in the plan:

* Launch the Essex Skills Plan and key headlines / data locally to ensure awareness of skills needs and opportunities. Share with government and local MPs.
* Secure some commitment statements from local employers to the actions in the Essex Skills Plan.
* The production of a quarterly Essex careers magazine to showcase our sectors, future growth, existing support on offer, existing success and local training.
* The production of regular labour market information for our education sector (schools, FE and HE) and to include a key policy and funding overview.
* Work with the Sector Development Network to ensure the Essex Skills Plan is factored into Strategic development and resources are localised.