



Report of	Meeting	Date
Jonathan Noad	Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee	30 January 2018

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - NATIONAL SKILLS ACADEMY FOR CONSTRUCTION CLIENT BASED APPROACH

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek the support of the Joint Advisory Committee for a submission to the Construction Industry Training Board of an application for the approval of Client Based Approach Status.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The Joint Advisory Committee is recommended to approve the submission to the Construction Industry Training Board of an application for the approval of Client Based Approach Status

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. This report sets out details of how the adoption of a Client Based Approach across the use and operation of the Central Lancashire Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document will assist significantly in the delivery, reporting and monitoring of outputs specific to the construction sector. The Construction Sector has been identified by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership as a priority sector for Lancashire and the ability to support the Sector through skills development and local a local employment programme will have wider economic benefit to the local area.
4. The intention is to submit an application to the Construction Industry Training Board for Client Based Approach status and subject to approval, this would provide a simple and effective nationally recognised framework for the use of key performance indicators linked to a reporting and monitoring structure.
5. The adoption of the CITB Client Based Approach would not be prescriptive and applicants working on sites which trigger the SPD Employment and Skills requirements may choose not to adopt the approach and to implement, monitor and report through their own processes. What the CITB approach does do is provide a simple, nationally agreed and recognised approach.

6. In addition to the support available through CITB, once Client Based status has been granted, additional administrative and technical resource is being provided locally through Callico who are a partner organisation to CITB in the area. On this basis a simple referral mechanism can be established where applications trigger the SPD requirement.
7. Should an application for Client based approach be granted CITB will provide initial training on the operation of the framework and also provide wider insight into the work of the organisation. Primarily CITB work locally and nationally in addressing the training needs of the Construction Sector which is so critical in delivering local and national growth ambition.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

8. To demonstrate cross boundary support for the submission of an application to CITB for a Client Based Approach to construction skills development across central Lancashire.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. The alternative to a non Client Based approach is to rely on the ability of each applicant to understand local construction training need and to respond individually to that requirement to the local authority with no strategic reference or ability to achieve a co-ordinated and well managed response.

BACKGROUND

10. The Central Lancashire Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document 2017 sets out to achieve the aspiration of Chorley, Preston and South Ribble in securing wider social value from housing and other developments in each of the three authorities and indeed across the whole of the Central Lancashire geography. In this way also, the expectation is that the outcomes will contribute to the Lancashire Employment and Skills Strategic Framework addressing wider employment and skills needs across Lancashire.
11. Having now been adopted, the Central Lancashire Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document is to be afforded significant weight as a material consideration in determining applications. The objectives of the SPD are clearly set out and provide the opportunity for each authority to consider the extent to which any submission might meet those objectives.
12. Specifically in so far as these objectives might relate to construction skills development, there has been further dialogue locally with the national body with responsibility for supporting the development of construction skills the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). This alongside additional work carried out locally by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership in relation to construction skills as an identified priority sector for Lancashire.
13. These discussions have identified an opportunity to develop a more co-ordinated approach to construction skills development based on the ongoing and future implementation of the Central Lancashire Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document. This both in terms of the local geography and also across all partners engaged in supporting construction skills locally and nationally.

14. CITB have a model of delivery which establish a framework for integrating construction projects and programmes with skills development. In this way providing for a structured approach adopting set performance measures against which the process can be delivered and managed.
15. Operationally this means that in preparing and submitting Employment and Skills plans to meet the requirements of the SPD, in so far as this might relate to the construction elements of any plan, the applicant has the opportunity to adopt a simple set of performance measures based on a set of nationally identified and accepted benchmarks. Furthermore, in agreeing a Client Based Approach with the CITB and with the support locally of Callico (CITB partners locally in delivery of the Shared Apprentice Programme), applicants will be guided through the available options in meeting the required level of delivery. This support will extend as far as also recording and reporting performance on construction skills delivery to meet any local authority planning monitoring and reporting requirements.
16. In adopting this approach the applicant will always have the option of not engaging with the process and meeting any construction skills requirements through alternative means.
17. As part of the suggested approach in Central Lancashire in response to the SPD, CITB have offered to provide training to development management staff engaged in this work providing an overview and insight into construction skills requirements and how the Client Based Approach will operate day to day.
18. Lancaster Council recently became the first Lancashire local authority to adopt the CITB Client Based Approach and this is now providing a basis for implementation of their own SPD on Employment and Skills.

CONCLUSIONS

19. For the reasons set out above, the submission of an application to the Construction Industry Training Board for a Client Base approach across Central Lancashire presents a unique opportunity. Adopting a client based approach in connection with the operational management and delivery of the Central Lancashire Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document will provide for the most effective system of supporting the delivery of the outcomes outlined in the SPD (specifically as they relate to the construction phases of development), to the benefit of the local area, its residents and businesses.

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