

4. WEST LOTHIAN SKILLS ASSESSMENT - PRESENTATION BY PHIL FORD, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

The Board were provided with a Skills Assessment overview from Phil Ford, Planning Lead for Skills Development Scotland.

The presentation covered a number of themes including jobs and skills in Scotland; forecasts and potential disruptions to the jobs market; and regional skills assessment data. The presentation would conclude with key messages.

The presentation commenced by advising that West Lothian, based on assessment of employment growth, productivity, earnings and unemployment was considered to have moderate performance and recovery; this was in comparison to the city authorities areas which tended to lean towards strong performance and recovery.

The next couple of slides provided information across the Scottish landscape in relation to low pay/in work poverty; the rise of non-standard work which included full time work, part time work, the self-employed and those in temporary employment and the hour glass market, which demonstrated the changes in employment by occupation between 2009 and 2015.

Moving forward it was expected that the skills required into the future would include resilience; entrepreneurialism; problem solving; social skills; creativity; manipulating technology; and managing complexity. Therefore work had begun on carrying out a Regional Skills Assessment across West Lothian to help provide a coherent evidence base on which to base future investment in skills which would support colleges and employers and assist wider public and private investment.

This assessment would look at a number of areas including current economic performance, profile of the existing workforce, people and skills. This in turn would provide the total occupation requirement from 2018 onwards and where expansion demand was likely to be required.

The presentation concluded with the keys messages including :-

- Regional GVA growth of 1.8% between 2018-28
- The largest employing sectors would be wholesale & retail; health & social care and manufacturing
- Construction would see 1,200 new jobs over the next decade
- Ageing population but not as pronounced as other areas

The Chair thanked Phil for the informative presentation and suggested that the Board hear the next presentation before opening the meeting to questions.

Decision

To note the contents of the presentation