



Subject: Oxfordshire Skills Board update	
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Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership: Jericho Building, City of Oxford College, Oxford, OX1 1SA	

1. This report provides an update on the recent priorities of the Oxfordshire Skills Board.
2. Operational update

1. Recruitment - to strengthen OSB capacity the board undertook an external recruitment exercise over the summer. The following have now formally joined OSB.

Professor Ewart Keep

Director of what was formerly an Economic and Social Research Council-funded research centre (SKOPE - the Centre on Skills, Knowledge & Organisational Performance) based at the Department of Education, Oxford University. SKOPE exists to probe the complex linkages and feedback mechanisms between skills, the labour market and economic and social performance at a range of levels (individual, firm, sector, locality, occupation, and nation state)

Much of his career has been spent working with governments and public bodies on issues to do with skills, the labour market, economic development and employment. This activity has included the UK government (NAO, Cabinet Office, HMT and DBIS, DfE and their many predecessors), the National Skills Task Force, the Sector Skills Development Agency, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council (where he was a member of the Scottish Funding Council/Skills Development Scotland Joint Skills Committee for nearly a decade), the Welsh Government, the governments of New Zealand and Australia, and the OECD's Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Project.

His engagement with these bodies has covered a wide range of topics. For example, advising on skill ecosystem pilots in Queensland and New South

Wales, reviewing the three Welsh Regional Skills Partnerships' first set of labour market plans for the Welsh Government, and advising the OECD LEED project on skills utilisation.

Kate Berman

Kate is co-founder of Olamalu – a Witney based web technology company. She's an experienced IT leader with a wealth of business experience from her time with General Electric, working as a finance manager, consultant and lead process management expert (in the company's Six Sigma programmes). She has a strong commitment to supporting the local community and works actively with young people on work experience opportunities, careers advice and apprenticeships.

Kate is a CEC Enterprise Advisor assisting Burford school develop its enterprise curriculum

She also dedicates time to a number of voluntary causes, with a particular interest in education, skills and careers.

Iain Littlejohn

Iain is an experienced Organisation Design (OD) and Change Management Consultant with a strong consultancy background. His particular specialisms include Business Transformation, OD, Operating Models, Change Management, Strategic Planning, Problem Solving, Major Process Reengineering, Communications and Board Level Facilitation. He has undertaken assignments across most industry sectors and functional areas, and on multi-national programmes.

Iain currently has a number of NED roles including;

2017-Current: Director: Vale Academy Trust. The trust currently comprises 8 schools in Oxfordshire, educating approximately 5000 children and employing about 400 staff. The trust will open a new free school shortly and has ambitious growth plans. His role is to help them effectively manage their growing pains.

2010-Current: Chair of Governors: Larkmead School. Iain has served as a governor of his local state secondary school since 2010 having been vice-chair for most of this time and taking the chair in 2015. During this time the school has overturned a deficit budget, moved from being rated as 'requiring improvement' to good (with outstanding elements) for the first time in its existence and achieved its best ever GCSE and A level results.

2013-Current: Director: ATOM!/Oxfordshire Science Festival. Founded a science festival in Abingdon which attracted over 5000 visitors. He continues to work with the festival to grow and develop in Abingdon, and has also worked with it's sister festival in Oxford

David Clarke

David is the new Deputy Director for Education at the County Council with responsibility for Access to Learning, SEND, Learner Engagement and Learning and School Improvement.

Each bring a wealth of skills, enthusiasm and experience to OSB and join existing members below;

Name	Organisation
Adrian Lockwood - Chair	Managing Director, Integration Technology
Sean Wellington – Deputy Chair	Associate Dean, Oxford Brookes University
Sally Dicketts	CEO, Activate Learning
Simon Farrall	Head of Adult and Apprentice Training, BMW Mini
Bob Price	Independent
Jon Wood	Partnership Manager DWP
David Martin	Chief Operating Officer - UKAEA
Matt Peachey	EDM Oxford City Council on behalf of Oxon EDO's
Richard Byard	Director of Business Development, OxLEP

ii. Local Industrial Strategy – OSB are fully engaged in the development of the LIS, with a single agenda item meeting held in early September. It is likely the [skills strategy](#) will be refreshed to reflect the LIS and in readiness for the emerging UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

iii. Construction Skills Fund - OxLEP led a collaborative £500k bid to the Construction Skills Fund that aims to promote and train new entrants to the sector. Partners include the National Housebuilders Federation, Dorchester Group, Ace Training, Activate Learning and The Apprenticeship & Training Company Ltd. Should we be successful the project will run from later this year to March 2020 and support more than 300 new entrants into construction – many from hard to reach communities.

iv. Housing & Growth Deal - discussions are ongoing with the DfE aligned to priorities identified in our Housing & Growth Deal.

- In summary we are well positioned to join the next wave of Skills Advisory Panel pilots that should provide the framework within which we can explore our skills ambitions and challenges
- Developing a greater understanding of local skills needs are key – with SAPs likely to be required to undertake detailed skills analysis across their areas
- Skills analysis will underpin forward plans and work across HE/FE to deliver more aligned provision potentially linked to incentives & funding across providers
- SAPs may provide an opportunity to take forward dialogue on how we might better utilise locally generated apprenticeship levy underspend

Following a positive meeting in late June we are working with DfE to develop plans to deliver our ambitions

- v. *Careers & Enterprise Company*** – we have signed our year 4 contract which provides co-financing of up to 2.5 FTE Skills & Enterprise Co-ordinator roles to support schools to develop their enterprise curriculum.
Funding outcomes are;
40 x Enterprise Advisors recruited and matched to support schools/colleges by Aug 19
- vi. *Ruskin College*** – following the recommendations of the Further Education Commissioner (FEC) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fe-commissioner-intervention-ruskin-college> - College governors, along with the FEC team undertook a structure and prospects appraisal (SPA) to explore the potential of developing a strategic partnership (up to and including merger) with like-minded organisations.
OxLEP supported the College and FEC in interviewing and appraising three organisations that were interested in partnering/merging with Ruskin which alongside the status quo is a decision governors will make in due course.
- vii. *ESF Skills Hub*** bid – following submission in May for £550k Skills Hub to support employers identify their skills needs and to work with them across a range of partners to address them we finally received feedback from the managing authority (DWP) last week. The team are reviewing comments with a view to moving this project forward.
- viii. *Events*** – the team have secured dates and venues for Careers Fest (22 January 2019) at BMW Mini Plant and the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards (4 April @ Jurys Inn). Careers Fest is supported by c50 employers who want to engage and enthuse young people to enter employment in their companies and sector – and attracts c2000 young people from a range of schools
- ix. *Recruitment*** – with the two skills managers and the skills policy executive leaving the organisation we have been actively recruiting to the skills team. The Chair of OSB is joining the interview panel for skills hub manager 26 September with other interviews planned over the next few weeks.