

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCRD) – Integrated Regional Employability and Skills Programme.

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Additional information:

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Date	27/08/19

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive, Resources and People Services

**SUBJECT:** Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCRD) – Integrated Regional Employability and Skills Programme.

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To update members of recent progress made with the ESESCRD Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) programme.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the recent progress made on developing and progressing the ESESCRD Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Programme; and in particular, ESESCRD Joint Committee approvals for the IRES programme and seven project proposals outlined in this report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The ESESCRD IRES programme is a change programme that will help strengthen regional capacity to achieve better outcomes for the whole region to mitigate or reduce skills shortages and gaps. The programme will deliver incremental system-wide improvements that will boost the flow of individuals from disadvantaged groups into the improved career opportunities generated by wider City Region Deal investments. The programme will integrate and align closely with local and national provision and is anticipated to provide an additional 14,700 people with improved skills and 5,300 moving into employment across the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region over the course of the 8 year, £25 million investment period.

3.2 A key component of the programme is the recently established IRES Programme Board comprising influential decision makers from all relevant partner agencies and chaired by East Lothian Council Chief Executive. Since inception in December 2018 the Board have continued to meet regularly and report via an already established governance structure to the Executive Group (Chief Executives from the six local authority areas) and onward to Joint Committee.

3.3 A previous members library report (Feb 2019) provided update on the ESESCRD Integrated Regional Employability & Skills Programme and advised of ESESCRD Joint Committee approval for the IRES programme on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Since then, all seven of the programme project propositions have subsequently received Joint Committee approval

3.4 Targeted Skills Gateway's for Data Driven Innovation and Housing Construction and Infrastructure projects were approved on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and so too the project proposition for Intensive Family Support. Propositions for Integrated Employer Engagement, Labour Market Analysis, Integrated Knowledge Systems and Workforce Mobility were each given approval on 7th June 2019. Detailed business plans are included as background papers with summary for each provided as follows:

- **Data-driven innovation (DDI) targeted skills gateway**

Bringing together industry, universities, colleges, schools and other partners to provide integrated and visible progression routes into DDI careers. New activities will encompass basic/key skills in schools (digital citizens who interact with public and private digital services) through to advanced postgraduate training and research (digital business leaders driving the development of global digital businesses) to help drive high value growth.

- **Housing construction and innovation (HCI) targeted skills gateway**

Closer alignment of industry, universities, colleges, schools and other partners to provide integrated and visible progression routes into Construction and Low Carbon careers will help create and deliver improved employability, skills attainment, upskilling, career progression and inclusion. New activities will help address the skills shortages in the sector and open up new opportunities to non-traditional groups of people into construction.

- **Intensive family Support**

Proposed interventions will help develop a multi-agency family focused service that targets areas of intense need. The service will offer a combination of intensive general and specialist supports tailored to help support individuals within families to progress their own goals, employment and ultimately help them improve their lives.

- **Integrated employer engagement**  
Establish a no wrong door approach that will create designated points of contact to help improve and manage the multiplicity of individual employer relationships. Also develop a regional approach to Community Benefits from Procurement to ensure that the significant expenditure of the partners fully exploits any opportunity to drive inclusive growth.
- **Labour market analysis and evaluation**  
A cross-partner virtual team to undertake research and evaluation will draw on existing partner expertise to provide insights on the success of our activities, expose obstacles or ineffective approaches, and identify best practice from elsewhere that could be adopted or tested as part of a culture of continuous improvement.
- **Integrated knowledge management systems**  
Better alignment and integration of partner performance management systems and digital services to enable more effective pooling, analysis, and dissemination of performance information that will be critical to driving service improvement and increased responsiveness.
- **Workforce mobility**  
Work with transport colleagues to identify opportunities to improve the range of transport options for disadvantaged job seekers and learners.

3.5 The IRES Programme seeks to incrementally improve the currently complex and weakly connected regional employability and skills service infrastructure with the goal of:

- Increasing the visibility of job and learning opportunities to our citizens and put in place the support required to help more disadvantaged citizens succeed
- Opening-up new and diverse talent pools to business that help minimise skills gaps and shortages, while demonstrating the value of an inclusive approach
- Improving the capacity and capability of partners to work collaboratively on building a more inclusive (Fair Work), innovative, and future proofed job market

## 4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The IRES Programme will support delivery of the Council priorities in respect of Growing our Economy, People and Communities as set out within the Council Plan. The ESESCRD is consistent with the approved proposed LDP and is reflected strongly in the refreshed Economic Development Strategy 2018-22.

## 5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified
- 5.2 [https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13222/integrated\\_impact\\_assessment\\_-\\_city\\_region\\_deal](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13222/integrated_impact_assessment_-_city_region_deal)

## 6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - The Scottish Government is making £25 million of flexible revenue funding available to the partnership over a 8-year period (2018/19 to 2026/27) to support the delivery of a programme of change as set out in the IRES Programme Business Case.
- 6.2 Personnel - ELC Chief Executive currently chairs the IRES Programme Board and the Council's Chief Operating Officer for Education represents the Council's interests on the IRES Board. The Council's Team Manager for Employability & Skills is seconded 3 days per week to the IRES Programme Management Office to help progress developments alongside colleagues from other local authorities.

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 ESESCRD – IRES Programme – Accelerating Growth  
<http://www.acceleratinggrowth.org.uk/ires>
- 7.2 ESESCRD – IRES Programme - Reports to Joint Committee Dec 2018, Mar and June 2019  
[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/committee/1046/edinburgh\\_and\\_south\\_east\\_of\\_scotland\\_city\\_region\\_deal\\_joint\\_committee](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/committee/1046/edinburgh_and_south_east_of_scotland_city_region_deal_joint_committee)
- 7.3 ESESCRD – IRES Programme – Report to East Lothian Council Members Library Service 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16411/members\\_library\\_service](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16411/members_library_service)
- 7.4 Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal – Report to East Lothian Council 22 August 2017  
[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/6061/east\\_lothian\\_council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/6061/east_lothian_council)

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