



Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board Minutes

The minutes of the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 3 March 2022 at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board members present:

Councillor Henderson, Leader of Wyre Council
Councillor Buckley, Leader of Fylde Council
Councillor Smith, Executive Member for Blackpool Council

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Williams, Leader of Blackpool Council
Neil Farley, Co-opt Private Sector Representative (Fylde)
Paul Evans, Civil Service Representative

Chief Executive Officers present:

Garry Payne, Wyre Borough Council
Allan Oldfield, Fylde Borough Council
Neil Jack, Blackpool Council

Co-opt Private Sector Representatives present:

Peter Worthington (Wyre)
Martin Long (Blackpool)

Officers present:

Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Blackpool Council
Rob Green, Head of Enterprise Zones, Blackpool Council
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services Officer
Colm Healy, Planning Policy and Economic Development Support Officer
Nicole Billington, Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Marketing & Administration Officer, Blackpool Council
Lyndsey Lacey-Simone, Principle Democratic Services Officer, Fylde Council

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

None.

31 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 December 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

32 An update from the Lancashire Employment Skills Survey on the results of the Fylde Coast

Geoff Mason, Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), submitted a presentation and provided an update on the recent work of the LSIP including the Lancashire Employment Skills Survey.

He explained the purpose of the Local Skills Improvement Plans were to put employers at the heart of skills decisions made in the local area.

Geoff Mason covered the following key points of the presentation:

- The Employers Skills Survey
- The sector split across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre
- Service sector split across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre
- A breakdown of the manufacturing sector – priority areas now and in the future
- Barriers found
- General issues identified
- Other research activity
- The future of the Lancashire Local Skills Plan

He assured the board that the completed report, scheduled for the end of March 2022, would include a detailed analysis of the requirements needed for each sector.

Garry Payne, Chief Executive of Wyre Council, mentioned the ongoing work of Lancashire 2050, which set out the headline themes including employment skills, which could be included in a long-term strategic plan and ambition for Greater Lancashire and suggested that the LSIP report be circulated to the policy team to be used as evidence.

In response to questions posed by Councillor Smith, Geoff Mason updated the board that the results of the work have shown that many businesses rely entirely on in-house training and explained some of the issues surrounding this. He then addressed some of the issues with ageing workforces, such as being less willing to take on new training and experience gaps. He also touched on the implications of working from home and how many businesses were looking at more blended ways of learning.

Daryl Platt brought the boards' attention to the potential benefits of the lifelong loan entitlement.

Additional questions and comments were raised regarding opportunities for graduates, the implementation of the plan and explored links with training

associations.

In response to a question around the detail of survey responses, Geoff Mason explained a second survey that they were currently analysing, which asked for more detail of experiences with local providers, he also added that follow up interviews with survey respondents had taken place.

The Chairman, Councillor Henderson, thanked Geoff Mason for his thorough presentation.

33 Green job opportunities and skill gaps on the Fylde Coast

Daryl Platt, Vice Principle Engagement at Blackpool and the Fylde College, submitted a presentation that provided an overview of the green job opportunities and skill gaps on the Fylde Coast and what the college was doing to address this topic.

Daryl Platt introduced his presentation that covered the following key topics:

- The complexity of the green jobs economy (business, jobs, skills)
- Green job titles
- Skills for green jobs
- 'Greenifying' traditional jobs
- Green job group trends and job roles statistics
- Where recruitment is rising
- Job Posting Analytics data and average salaries
- Blackpool and the Fylde College and green provision and meeting the 10 point green plan
- Lancashire Institute of Technology (IoT programme)

Garry Payne alluded to the potential issue of continued upskilling resulting in a gap of more 'traditional industry' skills such as petrol and diesel mechanics. Daryl Platt confirmed that the age of people taking these traditional qualifications would evaporate over time, however assured the board that currently there were still young people taking these qualifications and electric modules were built on top of these existing modules.

Further questions were asked, regarding electric cars, home charging points, and additional businesses, such as Dennis Eagle, for the Lancashire Institute of Technology.

The Chairman thanked Daryl Platt for his attendance and contributions to the meeting.

34 Exclusion of the public and press

The Economic Prosperity Board **agreed** that the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst agenda items 7 and 8 were considered, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972,

as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

35 Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone: progress report

Rob Green, Head of the Enterprise Zone, submitted a report on the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone.

Rob Green introduced the report and summarised some of the key points in the report.

Councillor Karen Buckley raised her concern at the proposed change of logo for the Enterprise Zone, particularly with the removal of the word airport, as she believed this to be misleading.

Following thorough discussion, the board **agreed** for Nicole Billington, Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone Marketing and Administration Officer, to go back to the Enterprise Zone Governance Committee and the LEP and raise the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board's concerns with the logo change.

It was also suggested that Sarah Kemp, LEP, be invited to a future meeting of the EPB to provide an update.

The report was noted.

36 Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone: progress report

Rob Green, Head of the Enterprise Zone, submitted a report on the Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone.

Rob Green introduced the report and summarised some of the key points in the report.

He updated the board that they had received feedback from one of the submitted proposals to the Department for International Trade (DIT).

In addition, he highlighted the potential issue caused by the manufacturing of hydrogen on Hillhouse that could result in the ruling out of data centre opportunities.

The report was noted.

The Chairman thanked Rob Green for his reports and contributions.

37 Proposed dates and themes for the municipal year 2022/23

The board **agreed** the following dates for future meetings of Economic Prosperity Board:

- Thursday 9 June 2022 – 2pm
- Thursday 8 September 2022 – 2pm
- Thursday 8 December 2022 – 2pm
- Thursday 2 March 2023 – 2pm

Attached presentation slides

Both presentation slides from this meeting have been attached to the minutes.

The meeting started at 2.04 pm and finished at 3.57 pm.

Date of Publication: 11 March 2022.

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Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Economic Prosperity Board

3rd March 2022

Employer Skills Survey

Over 1,000 responses

20.1% from Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre TTWA (21.21% of Lancashire businesses are based in BFW area)

Sector splits

	Blackpool	Fylde	Wyre	BFW TTWA	Lancashire
Services	72.3%	56.9%	48.0%	62.1%	60.2%
Manufacturing	11.7%	23.5%	20.0%	16.9%	17.1%
Construction	4.2%	9.8%	16.0%	8.7%	9.1%
Transport & Distribution	7.5%	2.0%	4.0%	5.1%	5.0%
Advanced Manufacturing	3.2%	0.0%	8.0%	3.6%	3.0%
Energy & Environment	1.1%	3.9%	2.0%	2.1%	3.0%
Farming & Agriculture	0.0%	3.9%	2.0%	1.5%	2.6%

Service sector splits

	Blackpool	Fylde	Wyre	BFW TTWA	Lancashire
Hospitality	36.8%	3.4%	4.2%	22.3%	11.1%
Professional Services	10.3%	20.7%	16.7%	14.0%	19.5%
Health Care	7.4%	27.6%	0.0%	10.7%	7.7%
Digital & Marketing	4.4%	10.3%	8.3%	6.6%	5.7%
Retail	4.4%	0.0%	16.7%	5.8%	4.6%
Media	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.5%
Software and Computing	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.1%
Utilities	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	1.7%	0.9%
Telecommunications	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	0.8%	1.4%
Architects/Surveyors	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Travel	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Other (please specify)	27.9%	34.5%	45.8%	33.1%	41.1%

Manufacturing

	BFW Now	Lancs Now		BFW Future	Lancs Future
Machine Operating	1	1	Machine Operating	1	1
			Servicing Machinery	2=	7=
CAD/CAM/CNC programming	2	2	Programming specific machines & devices	2=	7=
Servicing Machinery	3=	10	Product Engineering	2=	2
Technical equipment/operational skills	3=	5=	CAD/CAM/CNC programming	5=	7=
Fabricating	3=	4	Technical equipment/operational skills	5=	7=

Barriers

- Hard to find time organise training
- Lack of funds for training
- Lack of good local training providers
- Employee reluctance
- Staff turnover

General issues

- Courses too long and too generic
- Apprenticeship levy too restrictive
- Difficulty in attracting young people into 'dirty' industries
- Trainers not up-to-date

Other activity

- Focus Groups – sector and thematic employer groups
- Roundtables – sectors dealing with 'meta-themes'
- Roadshows – cross-county events including Myerscough
- Employee and unemployed surveys
- Training provision survey

What next?

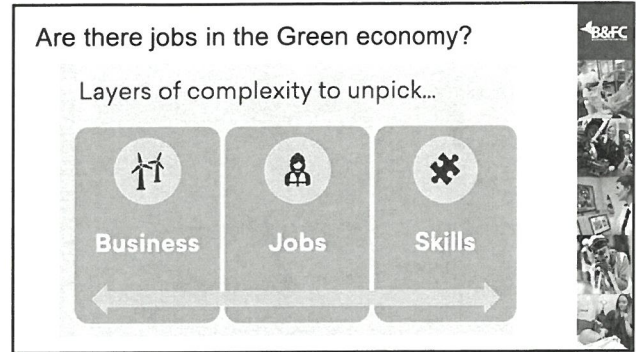
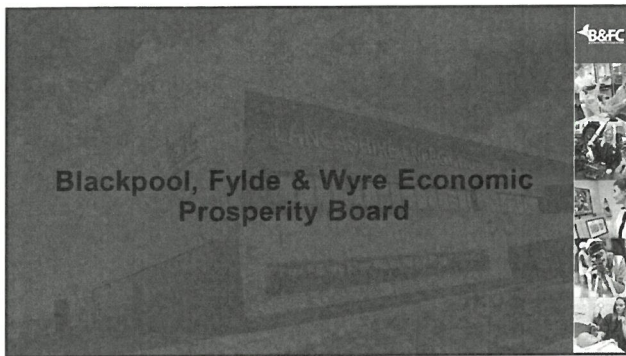
- The future – Levelling Up White Paper – national roll out
- Skills & Post-16 Education Bill
- Continued engagement with providers to work on solutions and delivery
- Working with organisation such as DWP and the prison service
- Look at further opportunities to utilize LSIP methodologies

Contacts

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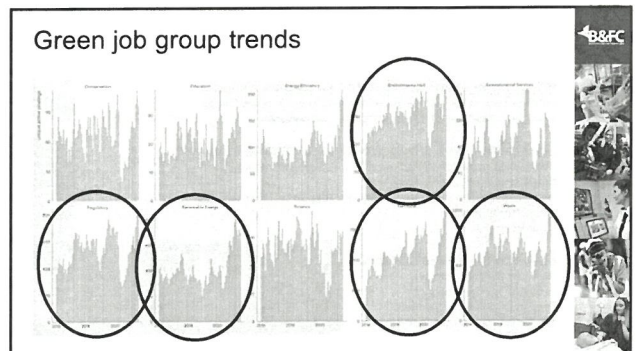
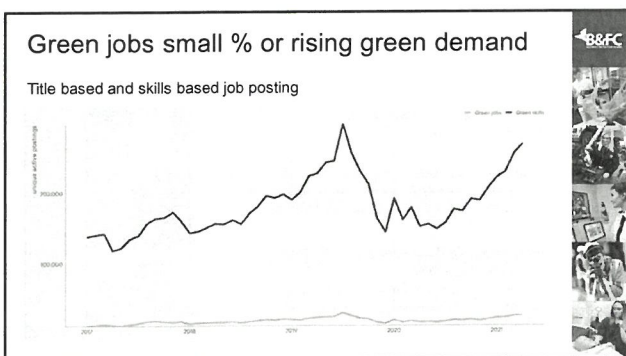
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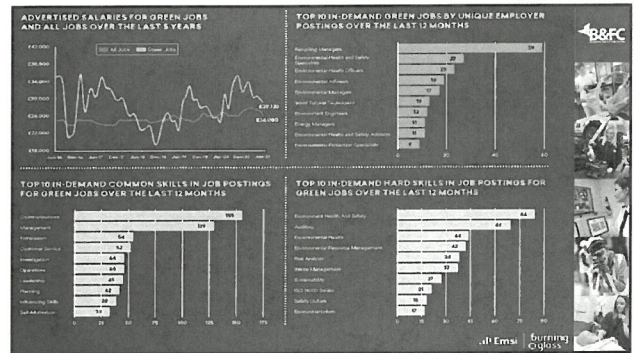
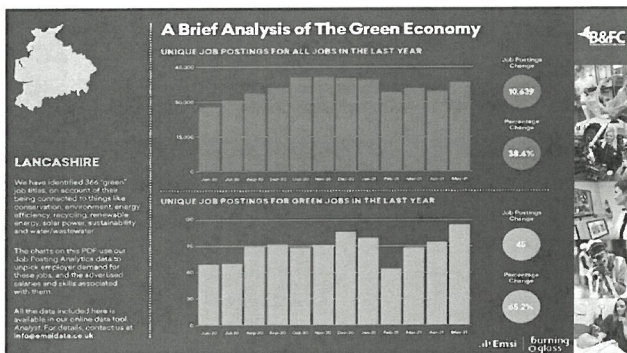
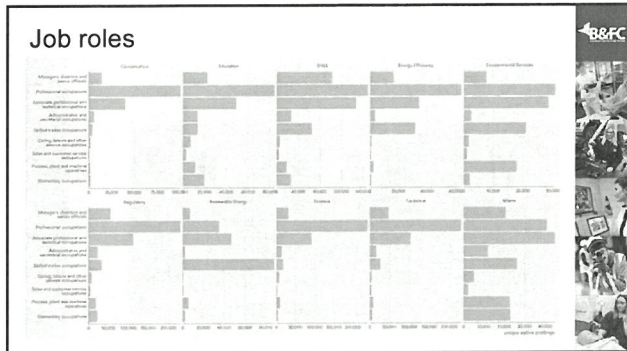


Unpicking the skills

The identification of our Green Titles has lead us to 112 specific Green Skills using Emsi's open library of skills.

Skills for Green Jobs		'Greenifying' traditional jobs	
Environmental H&S	Recycling Manager	Environmental H&S	Ready Mix Drivers
Sustainability	Sustainability Consultants	Biomass Renewable Energy	Gas Engineers
Waste Management	Renewable Energy Engineers	Environmental Resource Management	Health & Safety Manager
ISO 14000 Series			





B&FC green provision

- Greenification of existing provision examples include:**
 - Plumbing - new boiler installs include how to convert to Hydrogen
 - Automotive - Modules on Electric vehicle maintenance
- Existing Green/ Low Carbon provision available such as:**
 - Offshore wind provision, GWO provision, Working at height, Manual handling, Survival, First Aid
 - Other wind provision Offshore emergency response, High Voltage
 - Air source heat pumps
 - Nuclear Provision
- Green provision in development**
 - Level 4 low Carbon Energy
 - BSC Chemical Engineering
 - Hydrogen Commercial Vehicles
 - Green recycling - electric vehicles to trains to engineering waste to ships

B&FC meeting the 10 point green plan

- We currently offer something in 9/10 point plan
 - Many are greenification of existing provision
 - List provided in your pack
- Finance is the one category not included however AAT being rewritten for 2023 and B&FC Finance Degree being re validated and will include green finance
- Lancashire's Strategic Development Fund Pilot is Primarily Green provision
 - Air source Heat Pumps - awareness - Qualifications
 - Electric Vehicles - age of vehicle, moved outside of Main dealer maintenance

Lancashire Institute of Technology

- **The IoT Programme**
 - Themes Clean Growth, Health, Advanced Manufacturing and Digital
 - L3-L6 provision, main focus is L4 & 5
- **The Green Content Mainly on The Fylde Coast**
- **Main Fylde Coast Partners:**
 - Blackpool Transport, supported by Dennis and Mercedes
 - Leyland commercial vehicles
- **Clean Growth Focus**
 - Electric and Hydrogen/ Electric Commercial Vehicles
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Digital – Efficiency
 - Waste and recycling in manufacturing







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