

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee

Colin Chick

Executive Director

Economy, Environment and Infrastructure

Agenda Item 6

Living our values every day




Accountable



Integrity



Empower



Respect



Excellence



Our recovery

Ambition for Gloucestershire – as set out in our strategy [Looking to the Future](#)

Vision “To make the most of all that Gloucestershire has to offer, help improve the quality of life for every community, support businesses to be successful and make sure the county is a place where people want to live, work and visit”.

The ambitions are mirrored through the recovery plan.



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Our recovery cont.

Core priorities:

1. People, place and connectivity – resetting how our communities interact with business and education



2. Employment and skills – encouraging resilience through skills and employment



3. Infrastructure, economy and growth – accelerating infrastructure to promote sustainable development and growth



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Employment and skills

The Employment and Skills Hub is a core part of priority 2.

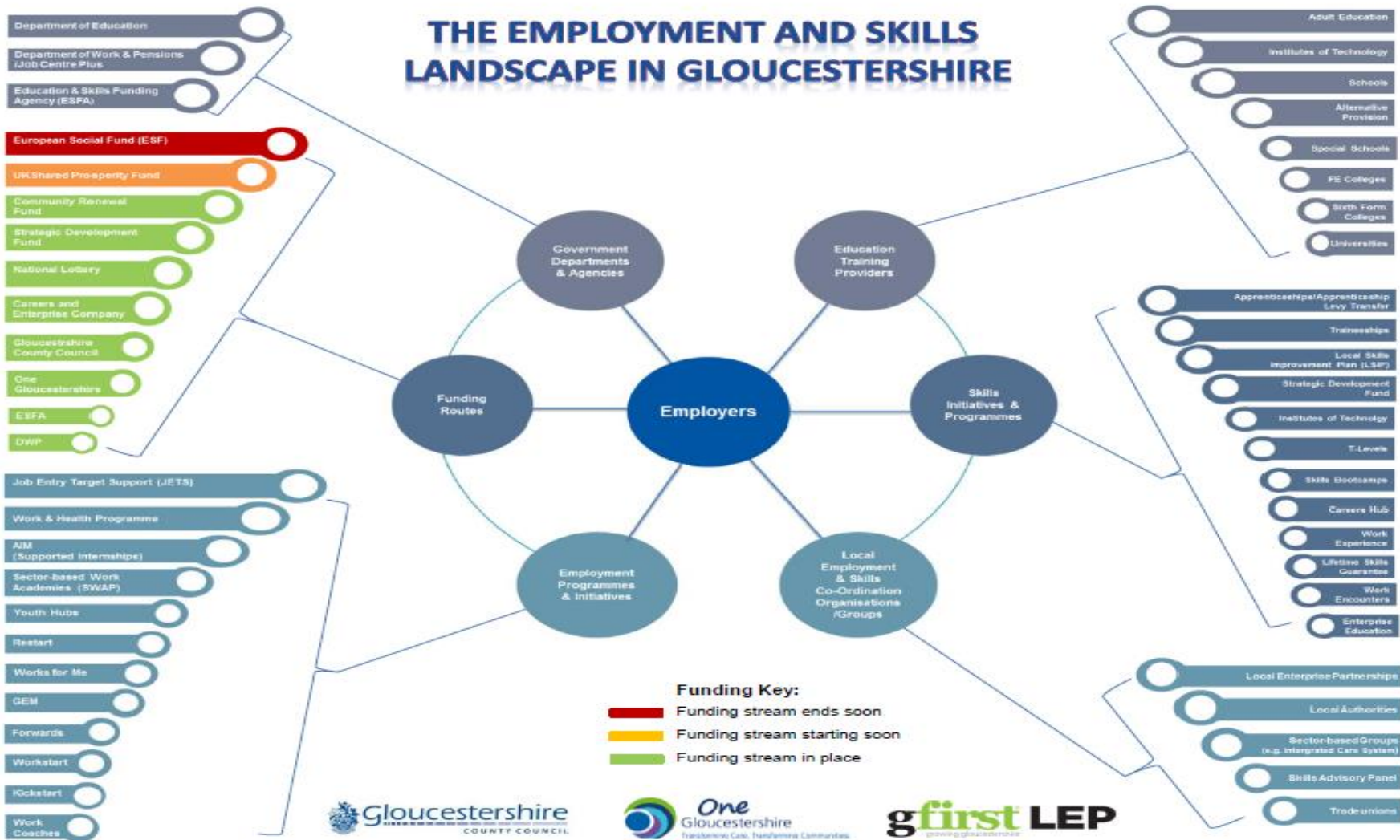
This includes a “single front door” offer, working in a more coordinated way with GFirst LEP, schools, colleges, universities, independent training providers, DWP/Jobcentre Plus, etc.)

It will also:

- * Promote innovation and joined up initiatives enabling us to learn from and support one another to provide even better support.
- * Give extra capacity to this key priority by providing a focus on the data, local business intelligence, relationships with partners and a “go to” for internal service areas.
- * Provide a central source of advice and capacity across E&S to deliver GCC’s role as an anchor organisation through the generation of social value in GCC contracts.
- * Establish a blueprint for future funding mechanisms and alignment, in particular UK Community Renewal Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



THE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS LANDSCAPE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Factors contributing to need

September closure of job retention schemes

- 30,300 employments were furloughed equating to 1.8 in 10 resident employments (end April)
- A spike in redundancies is expected once furlough ends

Socio-economic impact - target groups

- Vulnerability in labour market likely to worsen
 - Long-term impact on deprived communities and GCC target groups
- Risk of increase in temporary housing need and homelessness

Risk of increased demand and health inequalities

- Increased JSA cost to the tax payer
- Increased pressure on health and social care services both immediate and in the longer term and an increase for support across mental health needs
 - Longer-term increase in benefit claimants

September closure of SEISS

- 14,900 Self-Employment Income Support Scheme claims were made against (May)
- This is over 40% of the eligible population
- Residents unable to sustain their business will likely become unemployed (even if temporarily)

The lost generation

- An additional increase in NEETS is expected in September due to disrupted education and a lack of work experience due to 15-months of lockdown
- Increase in workless households
- Unemployment can lead to poorer health and wellbeing

Job postings are up but so are levels of redundancies

- Vacancies are higher than previous quarters signifying growing demand but “lack of relevant skills” are reported as barriers to job security.
- loss of consumer confidence in the labour market

Employment and Skills Hub benefits

Manage and meet increasing demand

Anticipating surge in demand when furlough and SEISS end in September 2021

Co-ordinated employer engagement

Create more economy of scale in employer engagement resource – work better with them and keep them engaged

Seek and deliver “upstream solutions”

e.g. by aligning funding from DWP programmes; better co-ord with DCs and VCS; and use of social value

Ensure existing target groups not given lower priority

e.g. apprenticeships and cost avoidance in social care

Improved experience for customers

Provide a seamless journey that raises expectations, improves resilience and encourages ambitions

Secure and make best use of limited resources

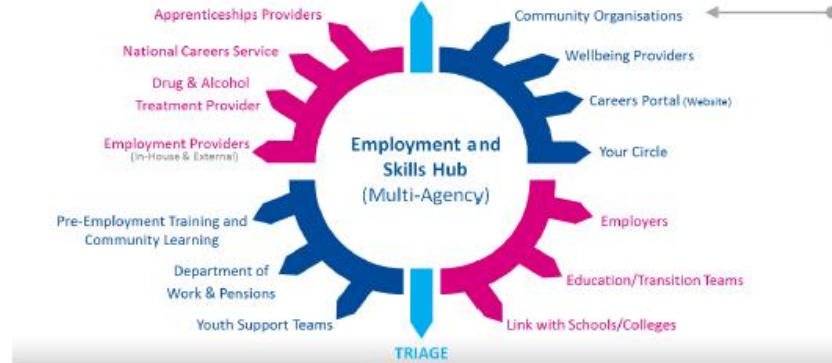
e.g. in anticipation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (launching 2022)

Improve employment, skills and training liaison with schools

Co-ordinate to address variation in schools career resources



REFERRALS IN



TRIAGE

