

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 7 November 2018

Subject: LTE Group performance update

Report of: John Thornhill, Chief Executive – LTE Group

Summary

Further to the report the Committee received in December 2017, this report provides a progress update and for a more rounded update on the work of LTE Group. The report provides a wider overview and detail of the broader work in education and skills performed by LTE Group in support of the Manchester and Greater Manchester skills strategy. The report also includes an update for The Manchester College together with an overview and performance update for Total People and provision of apprenticeships.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the update and provide any comments.

Wards Affected

All Wards

Contact Officers

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Follow on update – LTE Group performance update and Manchester College estates programme update - Economy Scrutiny Committee – 6 December 2017

Background

In 2015, the then, “Manchester College Group” embarked on a series of changes to evolve the education and skills offer in the City so that we could better support the changing needs of communities and the economy. In turn we sought to underpin the Manchester and GM skills strategy whilst supporting the significant changes in housing, transport and population demographics envisaged to 2020.

After extensive research and consultation it became clear that responding to the needs of hard to reach groups such as NEET or ex-offenders, working adults who needed to improve their skills and earning potential, school leavers choosing technical and vocational pathways or employers wishing to employ apprentices would need very different responses and dedicated or specialist focus. The Group evolved and added new services, new offers and made significant investments in quality. We evolved to become The LTE Group (learning, training and employment), the only charitable social enterprise of its kind in the UK.

In parallel, we set out plans to invest significantly in new facilities and new capacity at The Manchester College to meet projected population growth.

Context

At previous scrutiny committees, members have asked for a progress update and for a more rounded update on the work of LTE Group. This paper provides a wider overview and detail of the broader work in education and skills performed by LTE Group in support of the Manchester and Greater Manchester skills strategy.

The paper includes a members’ progress update for The Manchester College together with an overview and performance update for Total People and provision of apprenticeships.

In addition and for the first time, details of the education and skills work in support of offenders in custody at prisons in Manchester or at prisons where a significant proportion of learners will return to Manchester and Greater Manchester on release are available and included.

An update on MOL and our provision for professional learners is also provided as well as our local offer for residents in higher technical and professional qualifications (UCEN Manchester).

Summary

The work that the LTE Group now does for the City covers all areas of the post-16 education and skills system. From hard to reach groups who may never have participated at school, to senior professionals in work developing their careers.

In any one year the LTE Group can be supporting 25,000 to 30,000 residents, most of whom are from Manchester with some from GM. In turn, we work with more than 4000 employers on everything from apprenticeships to work experience placements for 16 year olds as part of their vocational studies. LTE group contributes significantly to the local economy - we employ 4,700 people, more than half of whom are based in Manchester.

Our plans for investment in new facilities and capacity will contribute a further £1.2bn of GVA but importantly, in a way that is socially inclusive and responds to the needs of Manchester.

Key points

Members should note the strong year-on-year performance at The Manchester College which compares favourably on outcomes for learners with peers in other large UK towns and cities. Importantly the College now compares very favourably with DfE's own "benchmark" group of colleges that are rated as having made good progress and rate of improvement.

Members should be reassured that Total People continues a strong track record over many years performing well above the national achievement rates for training providers in terms of performance for apprentices and employers.

This was recognised when Total People was awarded the skills provider of the year 2017 at the GM Skills for Business Awards. A further reflection of Total People's quality of delivery is that despite the changes posed by the move to the levy, Total People has not seen the significant downturn in employer demand that is evident nationally. Whilst there is more to do in support of 16-18 apprentices and new sectors in Manchester, the foundations to develop these are strong with a current "GOOD" rating with OFSTED.

Members should note the extensive work that Novus does with hard to reach groups and support for offenders whilst in custody and on release. Novus is the highest performing in its sector on quality for learners and at inspection with OFSTED/HMIP.

This year through the Novus Works initiative more than 600 ex-offenders have been helped into full-time work on release. We estimate that around 1500 learners from Manchester will study or develop new trade skills with Novus while in custody each year.

MOL, whilst smaller, makes an important contribution to professional learning and is unique in being able to offer high level online only programmes. Annually around 1200 Manchester based professionals improve their skills, life chances and earning potential with MOL.

UCEN Manchester was launched a year ago specifically to address the need for local residents who may be the first person in their family to study in higher education, or who may not be able to afford £9000 fees, or who might need to study locally with caring responsibilities, or indeed for those learners who prefer to learn locally and study in smaller groups with more support.

It is not a competing offer with our local universities but a complimentary offer that works in partnership with MMU. Many of our learners progress to local universities as a result. Importantly, members can see that we are already being successful at widening participation in Higher Education locally across many more wards. This year applications to UCAS for HE nationally are down 3% but UCEN Manchester applications are up 8% through having a strong local offer. Some 1500 learners now study through this route and we have plans to develop more higher level, technical and professional education through UCEN Manchester in line with our investment in facilities and through the new college estate.

Overall members can be assured that Manchester has a leading national provider of skills and education based in the City, working for the City and GM, delivering good quality outcomes for learners, communities, and businesses.

Our challenge is to continue to invest in quality, greater capacity and facilities through our focus on The Manchester College estate programme.

This is key to improving quality even further but also to develop new sectors in support of new job growth and to provide capacity for the 20% population growth now working through the schools system.