

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources - for decision Education Board – for information Community and Children’s Services – for information	18 February 2016 3 March 2016 11 March 2016
Subject: Developing a Framework for the City Corporation’s work on Employability	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development	
Report author: Damian Nussbaum/ Liz Skelcher, Economic Development Office	

Summary

Work has taken place to develop a headline ‘outcomes framework’ to help connect City opportunities with the talent of Londoners to reinforce City competitiveness and support London’s communities.

Development of this framework has drawn on the recent work of a senior, cross-sector Study Panel into employability among young Londoners, co-chaired by Alderman and Sheriff Bowman; input from a senior Officer group; and Dame Fiona Woolf’s ‘Power of Diversity’ initiative. (It also builds on a solid track record of work undertaken by the City Corporation, with others, over a number of years).

Using the City’s unique position in this way, we could work more strategically and leverage the potential of the City to have a much greater impact on employability in London.

Recommendation

The Policy and Resources Committee, Education Board and Community and Children’s Services Committee are asked to note the progress made in developing an employability framework with a further report on progress to be submitted later in the year; and the Policy and Resources Committee is further requested to agree the proposed next steps.

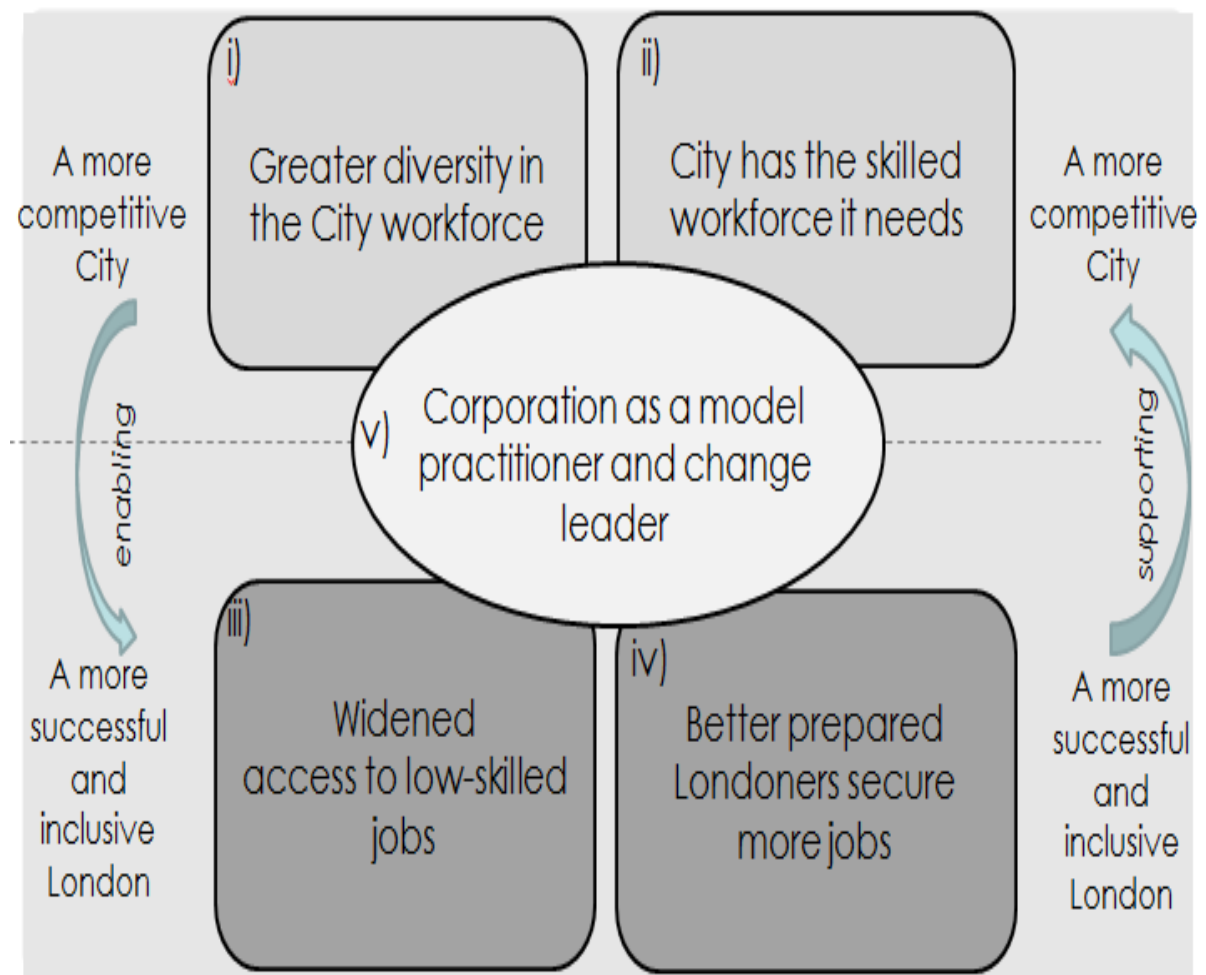
Main Report

Background.

1. The City Corporation (together with City Bridge Trust, Central London Forward and Heart of the City) has an extensive programme of work aimed at supporting Londoners into employment, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. This work has been built up over a number of years and reported to Committee periodically, with a comprehensive overview submitted in 2014.

Current Position

- Building on previous work, a headline outcome framework for our employability work has been developed as follows:



- This has drawn on the work of the senior, cross-sector Study Panel co-chaired by Alderman and Sheriff Bowman, into employability among young people in London, which aims to increase the amount of activity by 'the City' (*the subject of a separate report on today's agenda*) as well as further research commissioned by EDO to cover employability of all Londoners.
- The work to develop the Framework has been driven by a senior officer group seeking to inform the City Corporation's activity, having regard to related activity as trustee of Bridge House Estates (through the City Bridge Trust), and as participants in, and funders of, Central London Forward and Heart of the City. The group has analysed the current needs in London, and sought to identify where the City is best placed to make a difference, to ensure that we maximise the impact of our resources. The group comprised senior Officers from City Bridge Trust, Community and Children's Services Department, the Town Clerk's

Office and Central London Forward, alongside the Economic Development Office.

5. This group has noted that :
 - a. Despite the economic recovery, unemployment in London remains above the national average and that although educational attainment is among the best in the country, this is not translating into success among young people in accessing jobs.
 - b. There is increasing demand for high-skilled staff for City roles over the next 10 years; and that this is generating concern over skills shortages.
 - c. The City creates low skilled jobs with many more jobs created through outsourcing (20,000+); some 600,000 Londoners are unemployed and want to work, but few employers actively use their buying power to support London employment
 - d. The City is international but less diverse than London's; there are many initiatives to open up the workplace to more people from less privileged backgrounds but progress is slow and significant barriers remain
6. There are many organisations involved in this agenda, including City employers and employees, but efforts could be better focussed to maximise impact.
7. The City Corporation itself has been trying to address these gaps – directly, through programmes connecting Londoners to City opportunities e.g. through the Barbican Centre, EDO programmes, Open Spaces, apprenticeships); as an employer (through apprentices, work experience, aspiration raising activity); and through our wider family (which includes Central London Forward; City Bridge Trust and Heart of the City)
8. However, the City Corporation 'family' cannot fill these gaps alone. Using the City's unique position, we could work more strategically and leverage the potential of the City to have a much greater impact on employability in London.

Taking this forward

9. Based on the outline framework for activity, we propose to develop an action and resource plan for each of the five themes and consider how to engage business.
10. Next steps would include the following: implement the findings of the Study Panel into youth employability ; support the Power of Diversity initiative and other measures to strengthen the diversity of the City workforce; consider how to seize the opportunities offered by the new apprenticeship levy; look systematically at how to develop exemplar employment practices (including through the City Corporation's and City businesses' supply chains); conduct further geographical analysis; and create a compelling narrative for our work.
11. A separate report on the Policy and Resources Committee agenda today addresses the proposed strengthening of the Economic Development Office's work to help drive the City Corporation's role as a leader in employability .
12. We will report back on progress with the Framework to your Committees before the end of the year.

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