Working together to support a thriving North Lincolnshire

North Lincolnshire Council and The Department of Work and Pensions in North Lincolnshire have a joint aspiration to make North Lincolnshire the best place to live, work, visit and invest. We have built a strong working relationship in the pursuit of the realisation of this ambition and have delivered many successful employment and skills programmes together over recent years, working hard to secure positive outcomes for our residents.

North Lincolnshire Council, and its partners, is ambitious for our area. We have economic recovery, renewal and growth plans in place to support our existing and future businesses sectors and residents, and investment through initiatives such as the Towns Fund put Scunthorpe at the heart of a local, regional and national economic recovery programme. Having a suitably skilled and work-ready local community is a crucial, underpinning aspect of all our plans

Like many areas across the UK, The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the labour market and the economy of North Lincolnshire and it is clear that some groups have been more adversely affected than others. It is our joint commitment however, that every citizen who can work should have the opportunity to work and gain the skills required for the changing employment market.

North Lincolnshire Council and DWP are working collaboratively on projects which identify gaps, look at solutions and put relevant projects into place.

Our joint commitments:

I.   North Lincolnshire Council will use robust data and intelligence to develop and deliver high quality, innovative employment support programmes targeted to priority groups and/or wards most in need of additional intervention to improve employment outcomes, social mobility and raise aspirations. This also includes ensuring employment support is widely accessible to maximise resident engagement.

II. DWP and NLC will support young people overcome multiple barriers to employment through establishing a North Lincolnshire Youth Hub as well as introducing Youth Employability Coaches, specifically to work with 18-24-year-old unemployed people, in order to increase both skills attainment and employment outcomes.

III. DWP will invest in additional Work Coaches and, based on propositions developed by NLC, maximise use of the Flexible Support Fund and other

available funding to improve access and provision of employment support, address gaps in the local offer and engage hard to reach communities.

IV.   DWP and NLC will work with the Local Enterprise Partnership, employers and other partners to shape skills provision across the county, including digital skills, in order to reduce the risk of duplication, maximise employer incentives and ensure new programmes create inclusive, skills-enriched pathways for residents to secure good job outcomes.

V.   DWP and NLC will work collaboratively with the business community to maximise employer engagement through the Sector-based Work Academy Programme and Kickstart. This builds on the work already championed by the local training providers to improve take-up and quality of apprenticeships by employers, which both these programmes can complement.

VI.   DWP and NLC will work with key stakeholders to co-ordinate an effective offer for individuals and employers at risk of redundancy.

VII.   DWP and NLC will ensure significant new investments and capital projects in the county increase skills and employment opportunities for local residents, particularly those out of work. To facilitate this NLC will continue to develop the job hub page as a local place to find the local vacancies. Also promoting the local DWP offer to business for a joined-up offer.

The objective of these principles is to inform a comprehensive, agreed programme of work that will result in increased opportunities and support for unemployed North Lincolnshire residents to move into sustained jobs. A strategic body will be established by DWP and NLC to ensure effective stewardship of this partnership agreement and the delivery of agreed work streams.