

**Skills Research Steering Group  
Wednesday 24 March 2010, 2pm  
County Hall, Pinney Room**

**Present:**

Andrew Lightfoot (Chair)  
Andy Dean  
Ben Neild  
Debbie Passmore  
Graham Morris  
Matthew Cross  
Sophie Ruggieri  
Steve Pitcher  
Suzie Burrow

**Apologies:**

Daniel Bailyes  
Jeffrey Kenyon  
Richard Ball  
Sally Kittle

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

**2. SLIM Progress Report**

Ben presented summary data prepared so far and the implications were discussed. His PowerPoint presentation is available separately. The presentation covered:

- a. The structure of each of the five reports to be prepared (one for each ESB area and an aggregate)
- b. Knowledge intensive industries
- c. Public sector growth 2003-8
- d. Unemployment data, including companies between 1990s and 2008 onwards
- e. Priority communities – NB: ESBs to identify priority neighbourhoods in Plymouth and Torbay
- f. Information re. underutilised skills and retention of skills / turnover rates
- g. Stocks and flows (LSC data) – NB: suggested leaver destinations from FE be explored.

**3. Additional Data**

It was agreed that the sub-regional tables recently circulated by SLIM were helpful. The National Skills Audit provided points on skills gaps but it was a relatively small sample and access to the detailed analysis was necessary for it to be helpful sub-regionally. In the following week, SLIM were due to circulate the regional analysis for the regional skills priorities.

**4. SWRIEP Funding**

Andrew explained the background to the proposal to supplement the SLIM contract with the additional support from SWRIEP. The intention was to develop an economic intelligence approach across the sub-region and create an improved basis for modelling future employment and skills needs. Matthew outlined the work commissioned for Plymouth from Ekosgen which could be expanded. This included consideration of all relevant data and models and the impacts of various scenarios. Contact was to be made with Ekosgen to explore this opportunity.

Mention was made of:

- Working Futures, data for Devon and Cornwall, by industry and occupation, with projections of replacement and expansion skills needs;
- SWRDA's interactive projections data table;
- Construction skills use of Expansion to develop regional projections;
- Greater Manchester's forecasting model.

### **Next Two Meetings**

6 May 2010 3:30pm

16 June 2010 10:30