



OxLEP Skills consultation response for Apprenticeship and Training Strategy at Symmetry Park (23/01677/DISC)

OxLEP Skills welcomes the opportunity to consult on the submitted Apprenticeship and Training Strategy (23/01677/DISC) for Symmetry Park (22/01144/F).

OxLEP Skills supports the strategy which includes relevant activities relating to the main themes including encouraging local labour and supply chains; school engagement; apprenticeships and training and inclusive economic activities and community engagement. The strategy has been developed with input from Cherwell District Council economic growth service and OxLEP Skills and comments shared with the developer and contractor have been incorporated into the submitted plan.

The approach to implementing the plan identifies a relevant local stakeholder group which will convene on a quarterly basis and include members from DWP, Bicester Vision, A&W College, Cherwell District Council and OxLEP Skills with help from the Careers and Enterprise Company. This will help to coordinate the training activities and provide support to identify community projects that could benefit from volunteering support.

To strengthen the plan, we would suggest including indicative dates for quarterly meetings within the plan to help coordinate members and align activities with the build programme, with the first meeting to begin prior to construction on site until the end of the build programme.