

# Skills and Productivity Board - meeting 6

**Monday 9 August 2021**

**09:00 to 11:00**

## **Attendees**

Arun Advani

Claire Crawford

Andy Dickerson

Ewart Keep

Grace Lordan

Ken Mayhew

SPB secretariat

Deputy Director for Skills Strategy (acting Chair)

Department for Educational officials

## **Agenda item 1 - Welcome**

The acting chair announced that Angela Noon, CFO Siemens UK would join as the new chair.

Key objectives for this meeting:

- discuss question 1 and confirm next steps
- update on question 2 including agreement on qualitative work and timings
- confirmation of question 3 individual projects

## **Agenda item 2 - Question 1**

Early findings on question 1 were shared.

The board discussed what further evidence would be required to understand the causes, and therefore solutions, for the skills identified as being in demand. For example, understanding whether the underlying problem is insufficient supply of skills, or whether labour market dynamics cause a mismatch between skills and occupations.

Board agreed to:

- identify possible extensions and wider uses for the analysis
- consider best approaches to testing early findings with business and other stakeholders after sharing internally within DfE

Secretariat agreed to:

- set up initial meetings from the end of week commencing 16 August to discuss uses and applications for initial findings with audiences within DfE

### **Agenda item 3 - Question 2**

The secretariat recapped decisions to date and updated board on progress.

The board discussed ways of developing evidence to support its response to the question. As part of this, the board considered ways of engaging key stakeholders (primarily employers). A relevant qualitative research project within DfE considering future skills needs was discussed.

The secretariat agreed to:

- commission qualitative research into future skills needs to complement the existing work on question 2
- begin mapping to current and future skill needs with support from board members (Andy and question 2 leads in particular)

### **Agenda item 4 - Question 3**

Board members provided updates on the 4 research proposals agreed under question 3. All leads shared high-level research plans with the secretariat.