

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 08 July 2024

Question from: Councillor Monteith

Question to: Councillor Courtney, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Regeneration and Transport

I understand detailed work to understand the trends of employment is currently being undertaken by the Council. Will these positive efforts include data on the number of jobs created and local job vacancies? Understanding these figures could provide insight into whether youth unemployment issues are related to job availability and uptake by residents in Calderdale or neighbouring areas. Additionally, is there ongoing research to analyse the various factors influencing unemployment in Calderdale through Regression Analysis and other Statistical Analysis techniques to identify the most significant variables impacting youth employment in Calderdale. This could enable the Council to take a more targeted approach.

Response

Our recently approved Inclusive Economy Strategy and Employment and Skills Framework set out our clear commitment to an economy to which everyone is able to contribute and from which everyone benefits. This means a growing economy, and good work for all, including young people. Our Inclusive Economy Board brings together the key partners that will help us achieve these goals, working closely with our business community.

With high business growth and the highest business density in West Yorkshire, we have a strong local economy, supporting 91,500 jobs. Job numbers are available on an annual basis. Data on job vacancies is available at a national level only, and methods that scrape job vacancy sites are resource intensive.

As well as national data, our analysis draws on local sources, including the [Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Report](#), which indicates that the region's workforce is on the rise, with 35 per cent of service sector firms and 31 per cent of manufacturers expecting to increase their headcount in the next few months. It looks at geographic and demographic differences across our borough.

We know that health inequalities are a key driver for economic inactivity here in Calderdale. 41% of economically inactive people say their inactivity was because of a long-term illness. This is above regional and national averages. That intelligence is shaping our strategic approach and delivery, with a focus on initiatives that span work and health, and some strong partnerships emerging.

Our partnership working also helps us understand the key drivers of youth unemployment. We know from C+K Careers' direct contact with young people that a

key challenge is the lack of alternative provision if a first choice at age 16 does not pan out. That's why our Post 16 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy puts an emphasis on flexible provision, and careers in a changing world.

With clear priorities, and a strong network of employment and skills organisations, we will continue to work with partners in Calderdale and beyond so that our shared economic intelligence resources shapes delivery that responds to changing labour market conditions.