



**Alex Burghart MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfes](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfes)

Shevaun Haviland, Director General,

BCC

3 May 2022

Dear Shevaun,

### **Local Skills Improvement Plans: Expressions of Interest for the Designation of Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs)**

As one of the country's key employer representative bodies, I am writing to share with you information on the expressions of interest exercise for Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) that I am launching today. You can find the Expressions of Interest prospectus here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-skills-improvement-plans-submit-an-expression-of-interest>. I would ask that you share the information about this opportunity with your regional and local networks.

The rollout of LSIPs is an opportunity for ERBs to take a central role in ensuring the skills provision on offer is more aligned to the needs of their local economy. The role draws on ERBs' long-held experience of working closely with employers to understand and represent their skills needs.

With ERBs leading on the development of LSIPs, local employers will benefit from increased access to the skills required to grow their businesses and increase their productivity. This will help to ensure employers are fully utilising the provision available and able to navigate the system. ERBs can drive more employer engagement in the skills system and support learners who will benefit by gaining the skills they need to secure well-paid employment.

### **Eligibility**

We are looking to appoint a range of ERBs to lead LSIPs across England. To be eligible to be designated as the lead, your organisation should be independent of government. An ERB would need to be reasonably representative of local employers in the area and able to work with employers outside their membership, other ERBs, as well as a whole range of local stakeholders, including providers and local government. We do not consider as ERBs, bodies established by the LEP, MCA or GLA.

## **Funding**

I know that it is important that ERBs are properly resourced to undertake this work so to support activities during the development, implementation and reviews of the LSIP, designated ERBs will be able to apply for up to £550,000 per ERB for the period up to March 2025.

## **Timescales**

The closing date for the expressions of interest is 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022. We expect to be able to designate ERBs for specific areas of the country from autumn 2022 onwards. We expect by summer 2023, most of the country will have an LSIP developed approved and published by the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Burghart". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Alex Burghart MP, Minister for Skills**