

The Future of Work in Southampton

Terms of Reference and Draft Inquiry Plan

1. Scrutiny Panel membership:

- a. Councillor McEwing
- b. Councillor Bogle
- c. Councillor Coombs
- d. Councillor Fitzhenry
- e. Councillor Furnell
- f. Councillor Guthrie
- g. Councillor Laurent

2. Purpose:

To consider how Southampton can maximise the opportunities created by artificial intelligence, automation and technological changes whilst seeking to mitigate the potential disruption to the labour market.

3. Background:

- Artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and other forms of 'smart automation' are advancing at a rapid pace and have the potential to bring great benefits to the economy.
- It has been estimated that UK GDP will be up to 10.3% higher in 2030 as a result of AI – the equivalent of an additional £232bn – making it one of the biggest commercial opportunities in today's economy.
- New automation technologies in areas like AI and robotics will also create some totally new jobs in the digital technology area and, through productivity gains, will support additional jobs, primarily in services sectors that are less easy to automate.
- However, smart automation could also produce a lot of disruption, not least to the jobs market. Analysis suggests that up to 30% of UK jobs could potentially be at high risk of automation by the early 2030s.
- The risks appear highest in sectors such as transportation and storage (56%), manufacturing (46%) and wholesale and retail (44%), but lower in sectors like health and social work (17%). Analysis identifies that 21.9% of jobs in Southampton are in occupations that are very likely to decline by 2030.

4. Objectives:

- a) To develop understanding of the potential opportunities and risks to the Southampton economy generated by smart automation.
- b) To consider the existing plans and proposals in place to maximise the opportunities and mitigate the risks in Southampton.
- c) To identify what is being done elsewhere to prepare economies for the impact of smart automation.
- d) To identify what initiatives could be introduced in Southampton to upgrade the skills mix of the workforce, support digital sectors that can generate new jobs, target new opportunities and seek to ensure that the benefits of this technological revolution are felt by all across the city.

5. Methodology:

- a) Undertake desktop research
- b) Seek stakeholder views
- c) Identify best practice
- d) Seek views of experts

6. Proposed Timetable:

Six meetings between September 2018 and March 2019.

7. Draft Inquiry Plan (subject to the availability of speakers)

Meeting 1: 20 September 2018

- Introduction, context and background
 - What is meant by Artificial Intelligence and the term Fourth Industrial Revolution?
 - What impact will Artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and other forms of 'smart automation' have on UK jobs and society?
 - What are the potential opportunities that will be created by the growth of AI, robotics and other forms of 'smart automation'?
 - What could the impact of AI, robotics and other forms of 'smart automation' be on Southampton?

To be invited:

- Cllr Hammond, Leader of the Council - SCC
- Andrew Carter, Chief Executive – Centre for Cities

Meeting 2: 18 October 2018

- The national, regional and Southampton policy framework supporting the growth of the AI and data driven economy
 - National Industrial Strategy – Grand Challenge
 - The role and contribution of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership
 - The Southampton approach

To be invited:

- Tom Barnett, Chair of the University of Southampton's Web Science Institute Advisory Board
- Anne-Marie Mountfield, Chief Executive – Solent Local Enterprise Partnership
- Denise Edghill, Interim Service Director – Growth, Southampton City Council
- Felicity Ridgway, Service Lead – Policy, Partnerships and Strategic Planning, Southampton City Council

Meeting 3: 22 November 2018

- What is required for Southampton to become a centre for AI, robotics and smart automation?

To be invited:

- TBD

Meeting 4: 20 December 2018

- Education, skills and re-training – Ensuring that the Southampton workforce has the required skills to stay ahead of the robots

To be invited:

- Professor Dame Wendy Hall, Professor of Computer Science in Electronics and Computer Science and a Director of the Web Science Institute - University of Southampton
- Councillor Paffey, Cabinet Member for Aspiration, Schools and Lifelong Learning - SCC
- Geoff Glover, Associate Lecturer, Southampton Solent University, Chair of the emerging Southampton Education Quarter Forum
- Susan Bowen, President of Cogeco Peer 1
- Sarah Stannard, Principal and Chief Executive – City College Southampton

Meeting 5: 17 January 2019

- Innovation and best practice – What can Southampton learn from other cities?

To be invited:

- TBD

Meeting 6: 21 March 2019

- Panel to agree a final report

To be invited:

- Not applicable