

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 10 March 2014

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| ITEM 5(a) Overview and Scrutiny Report – Apprenticeships |
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Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Ian Grayson

Report from: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny study in relation to Child Poverty.

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet are required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within two months. In providing this response Cabinet are asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendations and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

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1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet consider and formulate a response within 2 months to the recommendations presented as a result of the overview and scrutiny study into apprenticeships.

1.3 Forward plan:

The report was included in the forward plan for the period 24 February 2014 – 31 May 2014 under the matters arising from Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its sub committees heading.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

This report supports the Our People and Our Economy themes within the Our North Tyneside Council Plan.

1.5 Information:

Background information

- 1.5.1 In July 2013, the Children, Education and Skills sub-committee established a sub-group to look at the issue of apprenticeships. The group comprised the following membership:
- Cllr Gary Madden
 - Cllr Pamela Brooks
 - Michelle Ord (parent governor representative)
- 1.5.2 The initial remit of the sub-group was to establish whether apprenticeships are fit for purpose and what outcomes they provide for young people. Apprenticeships must be provided through a Skills Funding Agency provider; there are around 66 providers based in the North East, but with over 500 operating in the area.
- 1.5.3 Collation of performance information in relation to apprenticeships is undertaken by the Skills Funding Agency and little information is shared in relation to long-term success rates.
- 1.5.4 The sub-group therefore felt it would be more useful to concentrate on ensuring that the Council is delivering the best service possible to apprentices and encouraging employers to create apprentice positions.
- 1.5.5 The sub-group met with relevant officers to discuss a wide range of issues including:
- current demand and provision of apprenticeships;
 - the support offered by the Council to employers interested in creating apprenticeships;
 - how opportunities to create apprentices are marketed; and
 - case studies of young people that have completed apprenticeships
- 1.5.6 As a result the sub-group identified 4 recommendations aimed at increasing the number of apprenticeships available within North Tyneside and rewarding quality apprenticeships. The report has been considered and approved by Children, Education and Skills sub-committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1: Cabinet ask officers to devise a North Tyneside Apprenticeship standard to award to employers within the borough that demonstrate a commitment to working with apprentices.

Recommendation 2: Cabinet ask officers to review the marketing strategy currently in place in relation to employer engagement and devise an e-flyer that could reach as many employers as possible.

Recommendation 3: Cabinet ask officers to ensure that all opportunities are maximised to illustrate the benefits and rewards that be achieved through apprenticeships, both for the apprentice and the employer.

Recommendation 4: Cabinet ask officers to ensure that mechanisms are in place to routinely capture information on the short and long term success of apprentices.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 2

Cabinet may not accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 3

Cabinet may accept part of the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above and reject the rest.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This option will meet the statutory duty of Cabinet to respond to overview and scrutiny recommendations within 2 months of receiving them.

In providing its response Cabinet is asked to provide reasons for any recommendations which are not approved. Overview and Scrutiny Committee feel that accepting the recommendations set out in the report will help raise the issue of child poverty and offer additional support to vulnerable families.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Report: Apprenticeships

1.9 Contact officers:

Emma Fagan, Scrutiny Advisor 643 5315
Shona Duncan, Principal Manager, Employment and Skills

1.10 Background information:

1) Overview and Scrutiny Report: Apprenticeships

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications at this stage.

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications at this stage.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Consultation was undertaken with council officers during the completion of the study.

2.4 Human rights

There are no direct issues relating to human rights arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct issues relating to equalities and diversity arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no direct issues relating to risk arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct issues relating to crime and disorder arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct issues relating to environment and sustainability arising from this report.

PART 3

The following officers and Members have been sent a copy of the report for their information:

- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager, Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications