

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### 12 May 2014

#### ITEM 6(b)

Response to Overview  
and Scrutiny Report on  
Apprenticeships

**Portfolio(s):** Children, Young People and Learning

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Ian Grayson

**Report from Service Area**

Children, Young People and Learning

**Report Author:**

Jean Griffiths

Tel: (0191) 643 8783

**Wards affected:**

All

## PART 1

### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on the progress made in response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Report on Apprenticeships presented to Cabinet in March 2014.

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within two months.

In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Note and support the officer's response in the attached response template
2. Provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Report on Apprenticeships

### 1.3 Forward Plan:

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

### 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

- 1.5.1 In July 2013, the Children, Education and Skills sub-committee established a sub-group to look at the issue of apprenticeships.
- 1.5.2 As a result the sub-group identified 4 recommendations aimed at increasing the number of apprenticeships available within North Tyneside and rewarding quality apprenticeships.
- 1.5.3 The report has been considered and approved by Children, Education and Skills sub-committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.5.4 The report was presented to Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- 1.5.5 The recommendations are as follows:
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.
  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.
  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 apprenticeship and employer.
  4. Cabinet ask officers to ensure that mechanisms are in place to routinely capture information on the short and long term success of apprentices.
- 1.5.6 Activity is already planned for the implementation of recommendations 1, 2 and 3.
- 1.5.7 Recommendation number 4 is considered more of a long term aim because currently information is provided direct to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which is not published under current data protection rules. In addition the Council has no recognised or accepted role in receiving this level of information from employers and training providers. However the Council can collate this information from employers they directly support through provision of local wage bursaries and apprenticeship training. This will provide a level of information but will not provide a North Tyneside wide picture. Further work will be undertaken with a greater number of employers to share relevant information.
- 1.5.8. Cabinet will also be aware that since the Children, Education and Skills sub-committee sub groups work on the issue of apprenticeships, other work has commenced in relation to the Council as a direct employer of apprenticeships in addition to Cabinet agreeing a target for apprenticeships. An action plan has been developed in relation to this work and the recommendations from the sub – committee will be merged into this wider action plan for work in relation to apprenticeships.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Cabinet may accept the 4 recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.5.5 of this report, note the officers suggested actions and suggest additional activity to support their implementation.

### Option 2

Cabinet may decide to approve some of the recommendations in this report, may request officers to look at other options and suggest additional activity to support progress.

### Option 3

Cabinet may decide to reject the recommendations and suggest additional work to be undertaken.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

Three of the recommendations are straightforward in terms of implementation and are considered as appropriate to increase the numbers and quality of apprenticeships in North Tyneside. The fourth recommendation; although more challenging will provide valuable information for further consideration and will challenge and support improvements in current evidence gathering processes.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

None

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Jean Griffiths, Head of Children, Young People and Learning; tel. (0191) 643 8783.  
Shona Duncan, Principal Manager for Employment and Skills; tel (0191) 643 6065

## **1.10 Background information:**

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Report: Apprenticeships
- 2) Cabinet Response to Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations Completed Action Plan

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report, any additional work will be undertaken by existing officers utilising available resources.

### **2.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

2.3.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning.

2.3.2 Engagement with Jobcentre plus, the Skills Funding Agency and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) has been undertaken.

## 2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

The apprenticeship programme is available to all people aged over 16 in the borough.

## 2.6 Risk management

Any proposals agreed would be appropriately risk managed to ensure the Council and any partners are not exposed to unmanageable operational risks.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

The proposals to increase apprenticeships in North Tyneside will assist more young people to engage in work and therefore positively impact on crime and disorder rates.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive  X
- Head of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Strategic Manager – Strategic Services  X