

Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

Date: 22 October 2015

Title: Apprenticeships

Author:	Michael Robson	Tel: 0191 643 5359
Service:	Democratic Services	
Directorate:	Law and Governance	
Wards affected:	All	

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out the background and context to this evening's scrutiny exercise to examine the impact of apprenticeships in North Tyneside, the Council's response to supporting apprenticeships and what more the Council can do to promote good practice.

2. Recommendations

The sub-committee is invited to:

- a) receive an update on the progress made by the regional Apprenticeship Growth Partnership;
- b) examine the progress made in implementing the recommendations arising from the Children Education and Skills Sub-Committee's report in relationship to apprenticeships;
- c) note the findings from the sub-committee's visit to Chirton Engineering Ltd;
- d) discuss with representatives of the Apprenticeship Growth Partnership, TyneMet College and North Tyneside Learning Trust what more the Council can do to promote good practice in relation to apprenticeships; and
- e) consider whether the sub-committee should undertake any further work in relation to this topic.

3. Details

3.1 Apprenticeship Growth Partnership

In February 2015 the sub-committee received a report in relation to proposals to establish the Apprenticeship Growth Partnership. The purpose of the partnership was to provide a means of bringing together employers, providers, schools and others to work together across the region to reduce barriers to the take-up of apprenticeships.

In setting its work programme the sub-committee agreed to receive an update on the Apprenticeship Growth Partnership and a report is attached as a separate item. (See page #.)

3.2 Children Education and Skills Sub-Committee

In February 2014 a sub-group of the Children Education and Skills Sub-Committee produced a report in relation to apprenticeships. The Cabinet accepted all four recommendations and undertook to take action in relation to them all. A report setting out the progress made in implementing the recommendations and their impact is attached as a separate item. (See page #.)

3.3 Chirton Engineering Ltd

In preparing to undertake this scrutiny exercise members of the sub-committee were given the opportunity to visit to Chirton Engineering Ltd. The purpose of this visit was to examine an example of best practice in relation to apprenticeships, gain a better understanding of Apprenticeship Scheme and identify any issues to be addressed in more detail at this meeting.

A record of the visit is attached as Appendix A.

Those members who attended the visit may wish to report their findings.

3.4 Attendees

In order to examine in more detail the impact of apprenticeships in North Tyneside, the Council's response to supporting apprenticeships and what more it could do to promote good practice, a selection of key individuals involved in supporting apprenticeships have been invited to this evening's meeting.

Audrey Kingham, Deputy Principal Curriculum and Business Development, and Pat Blyth, Head of Apprenticeships, from TyneMet College have agreed to attend. The College offers apprenticeship programmes which are made up of a combination of assessment in the workplace and college-based learning.

Kehri Ellis, Chief Executive of the North Tyneside Learning Trust has agreed to attend the meeting. Through its Apprenticeship Bursary, North Tyneside Learning Trust has supported employers in North Tyneside, including many Trust Schools, to create over 70 new apprenticeships for young people.

Geoff Ford is Chairman of Ford Aerospace Ltd. Geoff has been appointed to lead the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's Apprenticeship Growth Partnership. More details on the partnership are set out in a separate report. Geoff has been invited to the meeting but as yet it is uncertain as to whether he is able to attend.

Taking into account the evidence previously obtained and summarised above, the sub-committee will wish to discuss with providers:-

- a) The level of support available to employers to provide apprenticeships. Is it simple to set up, is information and advice accessible and is appropriate and effective training available?
- b) How easy is it to recruit suitable apprenticeships? Are young people prepared and ready for work?
- c) How can the public and private sector work together to create more apprenticeships?

Jamie Clark, the Council's Young Cabinet Member for Ready for Work and Life has also accepted an invitation to attend and to participate in the discussion. Jamie attended the visit to Chirton Engineering. He will be accompanied by Anne Taylor from the Council's Youth Participation Team.

4. Appendices (if any)

Appendix A – Record of Visit to Chirton Engineering Ltd.