

DECISION-MAKER:	SCRUTINY PANEL B
SUBJECT:	APPRENTICESHIPS INQUIRY MEETING 1: SETTING THE SCENE
DATE OF DECISION:	25 APRIL 2013
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF COMMUNITIES, CHANGE AND PARTNERSHIPS
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report provides details for the first meeting of the Inquiry examining apprenticeships in the city. It outlines the national policy and issues for apprenticeships locally.

The Cabinet Member for Communities will outline the administration's vision and approach to apprenticeships. There will also be four presentations, followed by questions from the Panel. The presentations will highlight:

- National policy and the current apprenticeship system (Ian Smith, National Apprenticeship Service)
- Introduction to council strategies and plans and other national drivers (Denise Edghill, Head of Skills, Regeneration and Partnerships)
- Southampton, current performance, trends and best practice (Andy Tickner, Skills Manager)
- Apprenticeships in the People Plan Council's People Plan (Claire Wilkinson, Human Resources Business Partner)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) The Panel is recommended to consider the information provided by the Cabinet Member for Resources and presentations and use this, alongside the appendices, as evidence in the inquiry.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Panel to analyse the evidence in order to formulate findings and recommendations at the end of the inquiry process.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

2. The final Terms of Reference and Inquiry Plan were approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 16th August 2012. Since they were approved, the focus for apprenticeships in the city has shifted to the need to develop a new Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan. The draft Inquiry timetable is attached at Appendix 1.
3. The purpose of the Inquiry is to:
 - Examine existing local and national issues relating to Apprenticeship recruitment
 - Consider how the number of Apprenticeships in Southampton can be increased.

- Inform a new Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan.
4. The first meeting of the Inquiry therefore aims to help the Panel to understand the key national drivers and local issues for apprenticeships in the city that will influence the new Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan.
 5. Apprenticeships are vital for equipping local people with the skills they need to prosper, and to provide Southampton with the skilled workforce it needs to support economic growth and compete regionally and nationally.
 6. The Cabinet Member for Communities will make a brief statement outlining the administration's vision and approach for responding to apprenticeships.
 7. The presentation from the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) will be given by Ian Smith, Employer Account Manager for the South Central region. He will outline the role of NAS, the Government's latest apprenticeship policy and how the current apprenticeship system works. He will also update on the Richard Review of Apprenticeships.
 8. Denise Edghill, Head of Skills, Regeneration and Partnerships, is the lead officer covering apprenticeships. She will outline council strategies and plans that impact on apprenticeship access for individuals, and growth for local business. She will also update on how Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation will impact on apprenticeships.
 9. Andy Tickner, Skills Manager, is responsible for the council's apprenticeship programmes and partnership work with NAS. He will give evidence to the Panel on the impact of Employment and Skills Plans, local support arrangements and apprenticeship campaigns
 10. The final presentation outlining the role of apprenticeships in the Council's People Plan will be given by Claire Wilkinson, Human Resources Business Partner.
 11. The Panel is invited to have a discussion on the national and local drivers and trends for apprenticeships in the city and their potential impact locally with the Cabinet Member for Communities and those giving evidence.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12. None

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

13. Not applicable

Property/Other

14. Not applicable

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Power to undertake the proposals in the report:

15. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Other Legal Implications:

16. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

17. None

AUTHOR:	Name:	Dorota Goble	Tel:	023 8083 3317
	E-mail:	dorota.goble@southampton.gov.uk		

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Apprenticeships Inquiry Terms of Reference
2.	Apprenticeships Policy in England (House of Commons Library)
3.	The Future of Apprenticeships in England: Next Steps from the Richard Review
4.	NAS Southampton Final Report 2011/12
5.	Southampton Apprenticeship Campaign Briefing Paper

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
----	------

Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject/recommendations in the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment to be carried out.	No
--	----

Other Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

N/A

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
------------------------------------	-----