

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY PANEL B: APPRENTICESHIP INQUIRY – DRAFT FINAL REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	10 OCTOBER 2013		
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF SCRUTINY PANEL B		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Karen Hilleard	Tel: 023 8083 4065
	E-mail:	Karen.hilleard@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

From April 2013 to September 2013 Scrutiny Panel B undertook an inquiry into Apprenticeships. The Scrutiny Inquiry report contains 10 recommendations. The final report is attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To consider and approve the report of the Apprenticeship Inquiry, attached as Appendix 1 and forward them to the Executive for consideration and further action.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Chair of the Committee to approve any minor amendments arising from considerations raised at the Committee's meeting on 10th October 2013.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In accordance with the Council's constitution, this Committee must approve the final report of a Scrutiny Inquiry and refer it to the Executive for consideration and further action.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. On 16th August 2012 Overview Scrutiny and Management Committee agreed the indicative terms of reference for an Inquiry into the Apprenticeships, 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 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 Inquiry was undertaken by Scrutiny Panel B with information presented to 6 meetings from April 2013 to September 2013.
5. The final report contains 10 recommendations in total, summarised in Appendix 1, which if implemented will help to support the creation of a Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan. They should also lead to an increase in awareness and take up of apprenticeships in the city.
6. The 10 recommendations are grouped under the following key themes:
 - Improve the promotion, preparation for, and recruitment of, young people into Apprenticeships.
 - Maximise employer take up of Apprenticeships across the city, particularly in key sectors and in the Council.
 - Establish an Apprenticeship training offer in Southampton which includes frameworks and levels which are likely to employ young people and meet the needs of the Southampton economy
 - Best practice.
7. A draft final report of the Apprenticeship Inquiry is attached as Appendix 1. This Committee needs to consider whether the report adequately responds to the Inquiry objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference shown within the attached report.
8. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee procedure rules within the constitution require that within two months of the date that this committee approves a final inquiry report, the Executive will consider the report and submit its findings to either this Committee or to Council. If this Committee is therefore minded to accept the final version of the report, then the document will be forwarded to the Executive for further action.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

9. Revenue funding is required to deliver the recommendations, which will form part of the Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan covering a three-year period 2013-16. A skills budget has been identified to deliver the recommendations, fully-funded by existing European Social Fund grant. City Deal funding for youth employment and employer engagement will support delivery from 2014 (this will be subject to a separate report to Cabinet and Council).

Property/Other

10. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

12. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Final Report – Apprenticeship Inquiry
2.	Key findings and emerging recommendations

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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