

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY PANEL B: APPRENTICESHIP INQUIRY		
DATE OF DECISION:	19 NOVEMBER 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	
Director	Name:	John Tunney	Tel: 023 8091 7713
	E-mail:	john.tunney@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

From April 2013 to September 2013, Scrutiny Panel B undertook an Inquiry into apprenticeships across the city. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) considered the final draft of the Inquiry report on 10th October 2013, and approved it for submission to the Executive. The Scrutiny Inquiry report contains 10 recommendations which have been highlighted in Appendix 1. The Cabinet needs to formally respond to these recommendations within two months to meet the requirements in the Council's constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To receive the attached Scrutiny Inquiry report on apprenticeships;
- (ii) To develop a formal response to the recommendations contained within it, including an action plan detailing how the Executive proposes to take forward any of the recommendations contained in the report.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The overview and scrutiny procedure rules in part 4 of the Council's Constitution requires the Executive to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, and to submit a formal response to the recommendations contained within them within two months of their receipt.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The Panel undertook the Inquiry over 6 meetings between April and September 2013 and agreed, at a meeting on 26th September 2013, the 10 recommendations contained within the Inquiry report attached at Appendix 2.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Scrutiny Panel B received evidence from a variety of organisations, individuals and officers from Southampton City Council. A list of witnesses who provided evidence to the Inquiry is shown within Appendix 2.
7. The Executive needs to consider the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations and to formally respond within two months of the date of receiving this report in order to meet the requirements set out in the Council's constitution.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

8. A number of the recommendations would require revenue funding if approved by the Executive. A skills budget has been identified to deliver the recommendations, funded by existing European Social Fund grant. City Deal funding for youth employment and employer engagement could also support delivery from 2014 if the Executive approve the recommendations (this will be subject to a separate report to Cabinet and Council).

Property/Other

9. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

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

Other Legal Implications:

11. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

12. To develop the Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan is a Key Action for 2013/14 within the Council Plan 2013-16.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

None directly as a result of this report

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Apprenticeship Inquiry - Summary of Recommendations
2.	Final Report – Apprenticeship Inquiry

Documents In Members' Rooms

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

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
--	----

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)

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