

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)**

**Date: 21 January 2014**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry – Apprenticeships**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Board decided in June that it wished to carry out an inquiry on jobs and skills this year. A working group meeting was held on 9 September to meet with representatives from City Development to scope the inquiry. Members of the working group identified apprenticeships as the focus for the inquiry, resulting in the attached terms of reference for the inquiry being agreed by the Board (Appendix 1).
2. The first formal session of the inquiry took place in November, with the second session scheduled for this meeting. A joint report from the Directors of City Development and Children's Services is attached providing evidence for this session of the inquiry (Appendix 2). This will be complemented by a presentation at the Board's meeting. Executive Members and officers from City Development and Children's Services will be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments. In addition representatives from igen and schools have been invited to take part at this session.
3. A working group meeting to enable Members to meet with young people and hear from them first hand about their experiences has been arranged for 16 January.
4. It is proposed to add a further inquiry session at an additional meeting of the Board, to enable Members to hear from the remaining partners identified in the terms of reference, including the National Apprenticeship Service, the Apprenticeship Training Agency and representatives of learning providers and employers. This replaces the evidence from these partners originally intended to form part of the session at the January Board meeting. It is hoped that this approach will give the Board more time to engage with the range of partners involved in conducting this inquiry.

## **Recommendation**

5. The board is requested to consider the issues raised by this session of the inquiry.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None used

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.