



Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

Date: 1 April 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, and the second session was held in January. A working group meeting to enable Members to meet with young people and hear from them first hand about their experiences took place at the Connexions centre on Eastgate on 16 January.
3. In January it was agreed to add a further inquiry session at an additional meeting of the Board (now confirmed as this meeting), to enable Members to hold discussions with 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.
4. 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 opportunity to engage with the range of partners involved in conducting this inquiry.
5. In order to assist members in preparing for the session, the report previously provided for the January meeting is attached as Appendix 2.

Recommendation

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

Background documents¹

None used

¹ 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.