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

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

**Date: 21 October 2014**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry – Employment and Skills**

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

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**Summary of main issues**

1. At the first meeting of the Board in July, Members agreed that they wished to prioritise employment and skills as a topic for inquiry this year. This follows on from previous work undertaken by this Board over the past few years.
2. Two working group meetings were held during August to scope the inquiry and the attached terms of reference were agreed by the Board at its September meeting (Appendix 1).
3. The first formal session of the inquiry was scheduled for this meeting. Representatives from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Jobcentre service have been invited to attend the Board to discuss the change to a digital by default service for jobseekers.
4. A report coordinated by the Director of City Development is attached (Appendix 2). Councillor Mitchell, Lead Member for Digital & Creative Technologies, Culture & Skills, and officers from City Development, Resources and Citizens and Communities will also be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments.
5. The next session of the inquiry is scheduled for the Board's meeting on 13 January 2015, as set out in the terms of reference. In the meantime it is intended to arrange for members to visit a community hub and a jobcentre.

## **Recommendation**

6. 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.