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

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

**Date: 17 February 2015**

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

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

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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 took place in October. Representatives from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Jobcentre service attended the Board to discuss the change to a digital by default service for jobseekers. Councillor Mitchell, Lead Member for Digital & Creative Technologies, Culture & Skills, and officers from City Development and Citizens and Communities also attended the meeting.
4. The second session of the inquiry was originally scheduled for January, but was deferred until this meeting with the agreement of the Chair, in order to allow sufficient time for the Citizens@Leeds programme board to develop a proposition to present to the Scrutiny Board. Officers will bring a presentation to the Board meeting, to outline the proposals from the Programme Board, and will respond to Members' questions on the proposals.
5. In the meantime, members of the Scrutiny Board have carried out the visits to a Community Hub and a Job Centre as set out in the terms of reference. Additional visits have also been made to see trainees at work on the Re-making Leeds Scheme and to learn about Work Related Activity provision with jobseekers.

6. In addition a working group meeting took place in October around the Community Learning Programme. Findings from all of these activities will be incorporated into the Scrutiny Board's final report following completion of this Inquiry.

### **Recommendation**

7. The board is requested to consider the issues raised by this session of the inquiry, and determine whether they have sufficient information to conclude the inquiry and produce a report of the Board's conclusions and recommendations.

### **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.