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

**Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships)**

**Date: 12th May 2009**

**Subject: Inquiry into Skills**

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**Electoral Wards Affected: All**



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships)) has now completed its inquiry into Skills.
- 1.2 The Board is now in a position to report on its findings and its conclusions and recommendations resulting from the evidence gathered.
- 1.3 Whilst Members of the Scrutiny Board have been given an opportunity to comment on the draft report it is still out for consultation with our partners. In view of the fact that today's meeting is the last in the current municipal year the draft final report and recommendations will be circulated to all Members of the Board on the 5th May 2009 for consideration at today's meeting along with a summary of the evidence considered during the inquiry.

**2.0 Consultation**

- 2.1 This is one of the first Scrutiny Board inquiries to which the protocol between scrutiny and statutory public sector partners in Leeds applies. A separate protocol exists for the scrutiny of health. The statutory public sector partners protocol states that

"At the conclusion of an inquiry, Scrutiny Boards usually produce a preliminary report. These reports are drafted by the Scrutiny Support Unit in conjunction with the Scrutiny Board Chair and agreed by the Scrutiny Board. They contain a summary of the evidence submitted and the Board's conclusions and recommendations. Where a Scrutiny Board is considering making recommendations to a named public sector partner it will invite advice from the relevant Chief Executive prior to finalising its recommendations."

- 2.2 Several of the recommendations relate to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and its successor bodies and other public sector partners. Advice has been sought from them and will be reported to today's meeting.
- 2.3 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 16.3 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be attached to the report".
- 2.4 In this case the specific recommendations involve the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive (Planning Policy and Improvement), Directors of City Development , Resources, Children's Services and Environment and Neighbourhoods and they have been invited to consult with their relevant Executive Board Member and provide any advice that they would wish to provide at this stage, before the Scrutiny Board Members, finalise their report.
- 2.5 Any advice received from the Directors and Executive Board Members will be circulated to all Members of the Board at today's meeting.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Board is requested to:-
- (i) Agree the Board's final report and recommendations having regard to any advice made by our public sector partners and the relevant Directors and Executive Board Members.
  - (ii) Request that the relevant public sector partners and specified Directors in consultation with their Executive Board Members formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within 3 months of receipt of the Board's report.

Background Papers

None Used