

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	CABINET RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY PANEL ON APPRENTICESHIPS		
DATE OF DECISION:	21 JANUARY 2014		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE (IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHANGE)		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None

BRIEF SUMMARY

From April 2013 to September 2013, Scrutiny Panel B undertook an Inquiry into apprenticeships across the city. On 10th October 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) considered the final recommendations detailed in the f the Inquiry report and approved it for submission to the Executive. The Inquiry report submitted to Cabinet on 19th November contains 10 recommendations and this report recommends that the Cabinet approves all the recommendations of the Inquiry Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve all recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel B Apprenticeships Inquiry, for implementation through a Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan, to be funded using existing budget and new European grant income, as set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) To agree the establishment of a city-wide Apprenticeships Steering Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Leisure.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The overview and scrutiny procedure rules, in part 4 of the Council's Constitution, requires the Executive to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, and to submit a formal response to the recommendations contained within them within two months of their receipt. Cabinet considered the Scrutiny Panel B Inquiry report on Apprenticeships on 19th November 2013. Therefore, this report details Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Apprenticeships Inquiry.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) requested Scrutiny Panel B to hold an Inquiry into Apprenticeships. The purpose of the Inquiry was to examine existing local and national issues relating to apprenticeship recruitment and consider how the number of apprenticeships in Southampton could be increased, leading to development and implementation of a Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan.
4. The Inquiry took place from April 2013 to September 2013 and considered a wide range of evidence from a variety of organisations, employers, education providers, individuals and officers from Southampton City Council.
5. The Inquiry made 10 recommendations which were presented to Cabinet on 19th November 2013. These are grouped under the following key themes:
 - Improve the promotion, preparation for, and recruitment of, young people into apprenticeships;
 - Maximise employer take up of apprenticeships across the city, particularly in key sectors and in the Council;
 - Establish an apprenticeship training offer in Southampton which includes frameworks and levels which are likely to employ young people and meet the needs of the Southampton economy; and
 - Best practice.
6. The recommendations support the emerging priorities of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for employment and skills and the wider Solent Economic Strategy. Funding for recommendations 4 and 7(Enhanced Traineeships and business brokerage), are included in the draft EU Strategic Investment Framework for future funding.
7. The Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan, at Appendix 1, sets out all recommendations within the Scrutiny Inquiry report over a three-year period 2014-2016 and includes revenue funding requirements.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

8. There are resource requirements for the delivery of recommendation in the Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan. However, in setting the recommendations due regard has been given to the current financial pressures faced by the Council, and no additional council budget is requested.
9. The total budget requirement for full delivery of the recommendations, over a three-year period, is £800,000. A confirmed budget of £300,000 has been identified to deliver the recommendations comprising £275,000 from existing European grant income and £25,000 existing council funds. An indicative additional funding allocation of £500,000 will be accessed through the Solent LEP.

10. The confirmed budget will fund two new fixed-term posts required to deliver the Apprenticeship Action Plan, one Apprenticeship Manager to be supported by one Employment and Skills Apprentice.
11. City Deal funding, to be received for youth and adult employment, will also support delivery of the Apprenticeship Action Plan.

Property/Other

12. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

13. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 9 Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

14. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

15. To develop the Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan is a key action for 2013/14 within the Council Plan 2013-16.

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan: Summary Recommendations and Actions.
2.	Southampton Apprenticeship Action Plan: Indicative Costs.

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	Report of Scrutiny Panel B: Apprenticeships Inquiry April 2013 - September 2013. http://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&MId=2478&Ver=4
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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