



AGENDA

SELECT COMMITTEE - APPRENTICESHIPS

Friday, 11 January 2013, at 9.00 am

Ask for: **Theresa Grayell**

**Wantsum Room, Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone**

Telephone **01622 694277**

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting in the meeting room

Membership

Mr K Smith (Chairman), Mrs C J Waters (Vice-Chairman), Mr R H Bird, Mr A R Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr D A Hirst, Mr R J Lees (co-optee), Mr S C Manion and Mr M J Northey

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

09:00 - Interview with **Graham Razey**, Principal and Chief Executive, East
09:45am Kent College (Pages 1 - 4)

10:00 - Interview with **Tony Allen**, Director, Area Relationship Team South
10:45 am East, Skills Funding Agency (Pages 5 - 8)

11:00 - Interview with **Paul Winter**, Managing Director, Wire Belt Company
11:45 am Ltd, Sittingbourne (Pages 9 - 12)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Members of the Select Committee are asked to remain in the meeting room for 20 minutes at the end of the public part of the meeting for summing up.

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services
(01622) 694002

Thursday, 3 January 2013

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Kent County Council

Apprenticeships Select Committee

Hearing 2

Friday 11th January 2013

Biography

Graham Razey, Principal and Chief Executive of East Kent College

In April 2010 Graham Razey was appointed as Principal and Chief Executive of East Kent College. Graham currently serves on the Local Enterprise Partnership Board, is chair of the Thanet Regeneration Board Employment and Skills group and is chair of the Young Care Leavers post compulsory education strategy group.

Graham Razey has also served on the education board of the Institute of Financial Services as the Further Education representative and as a school governor.

East Kent College is a Further Education College located in the town of Broadstairs, on the Isle of Thanet in Kent, part of the South East coast of the United Kingdom. It has recently changed it's name from Thanet College and completed a rebranding exercise in August 2012.

East Kent College offers apprenticeships both at intermediate and advanced levels. Apprenticeships include courses on:

- Accounting
- Customer Service
- Business Administration
- Health and Social Care
- Hairdressing
- Hospitality Supervision
- Bricklaying
- Carpentry
- Bench Joinery
- Painting and Decorating
- Retail
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
- Engineering
- Supporting Teaching and Learning

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APPRENTICESHIPS SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 2

Friday 11 January 2013

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Graham Razey, Principal and Chief Executive, East Kent College

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please outline the apprenticeships and support offered to young people by East Kent College.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- What are the challenges facing local learning and skills providers in offering apprenticeships to young people?
- How can it be ensured that the current qualifications offered by apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent?
- In your opinion, what initiatives could be implemented in order to improve the number of 16-18 apprenticeships starts in Kent?
- In what ways, if any, can collaboration between employers, schools and learning providers be promoted in order to improve the quality and quantity of apprenticeships?
- In your view, how can local employers (with particular regards to small businesses) be supported so that it is easier for them to offer apprenticeships to young people?
- How best can apprenticeships be marketed to young people and businesses in Kent?

- What are your perspectives on the current process by which information, advice and guidance (IAG) is currently offered in schools?
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What can KCC do to increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?

Kent County Council
Apprenticeships Select Committee

Hearing 2

Friday 11th January 2013

Biography

Tony Allen, South East Area Relationship Director, Skills Funding Agency

Tony Allen is the South East Area Relationship Director for the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

Prior to the creation of the Agency in April 2010, Tony held a number of appointments with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). These included; Area Director for Kent and Medway, and also Skills Director for the South East Region. Tony joined the LSC in 2002.

During the ten years within the LSC/ SFA, Tony has been actively involved in employer and skills work. He led the very successful Employer Training Pilot in Kent & Medway, and in addition to his local responsibilities, was jointly responsible for the implementation of regional skills initiatives such as the Action for Business College programme.

The Skills Funding Agency is a partner organisation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and it exists to fund and promote adult further education (FE) and skills training in England.

Each year BIS sets out its policy priorities for the skills sector in a Skills Investment Statement (SIS), detailing the overall level of funding available to the sector to deliver the policy intentions of government. The Agency's task is to implement BIS's policy, as set out in the SIS, consistent with the Chief Executive's statutory duty to promote and secure reasonable adult FE in England. To achieve this, they influence and support the capacity and quality of the FE system so they can fund the expected demand for high-quality skills training.

Additionally, the SFA houses the National Apprenticeship Service, with a field force located across the country, working to develop the relationship with business to drive forward the government's ambition for increasing Apprenticeships.

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Themes and Questions

Tony Allen, South East Area Relationship Director, Skills Funding Agency

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please provide an overview of the services supplied by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).
- What are the benefits and challenges surrounding apprenticeships in England?
- To what extent can the SFA influence and support the quality of the Further Education system so that the expected demand for apprenticeships can be met?
- Please discuss the impact and implications of RPA (raising the participation age in compulsory education) on the growth of apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds.
- Please inform the Select Committee of any policy changes at national level with relevance to this review.
- How do you see the role and shape of apprenticeships evolving in the next five years?
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What can KCC do to increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships in Kent?

- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?

Kent County Council
Apprenticeships Select Committee

Hearing 2

Friday 11th January 2013

Biography

Paul Winter, Managing Director, Wire Belt Company Ltd.

Wire Belt is a leading manufacturer of stainless steel conveyor belts with manufacturing plants in the UK, America and Germany and distributors across the globe. The UK operation, Wire Belt Company Ltd, is based in Sittingbourne, Kent with a dedicated production facility employing over 60 people.

Having its origins in the J. W. Greer Company, established at the very beginning of the 20th Century, the Wire Belt Group currently comprises companies with manufacturing plants in three countries and with distributors around the world.

The open mesh steel belts produced are used in industries ranging from food processing and printing to pharmaceuticals and engineering. Clients include some of the most well known names in the food industry from frozen food specialists to makers of luxury chocolates.

Wire Belt has been working in support of education within the local community for over 20 years and has very good relationships with all local schools.

The Company has been particularly active in the creation of the local Children's Centre as well as the Swale Skills Centre; a unique state of the art vocation centre designed to deliver training in engineering and sustainable technologies to all those of 14 years and above.

Wire Belt has been included in the National Apprenticeships Roll of Honour.

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Themes and Questions

Paul Winter, Managing Director, Wire Belt Company Ltd.

- Please introduce yourself and outline the roles and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please inform the Committee about the apprenticeship schemes currently offered by Wire Belt.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- What are the challenges, if any, facing local businesses in offering apprenticeships to young people?
- In your view, how adequate are young people's soft skills (punctuality, presentation, commitment etc) and literacy and numeracy standards when undertaking an apprenticeship?
- Please discuss the importance of attracting high-achieving school leavers into Advanced Apprenticeships with manufacturing and engineering.
- What are your perspectives on the current process by which information, advice and guidance (IAG) is currently offered to young people? In your view, what is the optimum time to inform career decisions?
- Please discuss the impact and implications of RPA (raising the participation age in compulsory education) on apprenticeships in the manufacturing and engineering sectors.

- How can it be ensured that the current qualifications offered by apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent?
- In your view, how can local employers (with particular regards to small businesses) be supported so that it is easier for them to offer apprenticeships to young people?
- In what ways, if any, can collaboration between employers, schools and learning providers be promoted in order to improve the quality and quantity of apprenticeships?
- How best can apprenticeships be marketed to young people and businesses in Kent?
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and provision of apprenticeships in Kent? What can KCC do to increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?