



## AGENDA

### SELECT COMMITTEE - APPRENTICESHIPS

**Wednesday, 23 January 2013, at 1.00 pm**

Ask for: **Theresa Grayell**

**Swale 2, 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)*

13:00 - Interview with **Danielle Sparkes**, Senior Technical Clerk, and **Mary Leadsham**, Apprentice Technical Clerk, Building Control, Dover District Council (Pages 1 - 6)

14:30 - Interview with **Anne McNulty**, Executive Director, Education  
15:15 pm Business Partnership (EBP) Kent (Pages 7 - 10)

#### **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

**Tuesday, 15 January 2013**

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## **Kent County Council**

### **Apprenticeships Select Committee**

#### **Hearing 4**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013**

#### **Biography**

**Danielle Sparkes, Senior Technical Clerk, Building Control, Dover District Council and Mary Leadsham, Apprentice Technical Clerk, Building Control, Dover District Council**

Danielle is Senior Technical Clerk in Building Control at Dover District Council. Her main roles are to carry out administrative tasks for the day-to-day running of the office and provide support to Building Control officers.

She is also currently mentor to apprentice Mary Leadsham and responsible for her learning programme and work development. She is her main support during her apprenticeship. Mary is Technical Clerk in Building Control whilst carrying out her apprenticeship. Mary carries out tasks as required to help with the general running of Building Control and whilst she does this she gathers evidence towards her NVQ portfolio.

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# **APPRENTICESHIPS SELECT COMMITTEE**

## **Hearing 4**

**Wednesday 23 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**

**Danielle Sparks, Senior Technical Clerk, Building Control, Dover District Council, and Mary Leadsham, Apprentice Technical Clerk, Building Control, Dover District Council.**

- Question for both - Please introduce yourselves.
- Question for Mary - Why did you decide to do an apprenticeship?
- For Mary - How did you find out about the apprenticeship scheme you are on?
- For Danielle – How does Dover District Council recruit apprentices?
- For Mary - Have you done any work experience prior to this apprenticeship?
- For Mary - Did you receive careers guidance by a personal adviser at school? If so, what did you learn?
- For both – In your view, what are the benefits of apprenticeship schemes both for the apprentice and the employer?
- For both - Is there anything you would change about apprenticeships?
- For Danielle – What can be done to lower the risks and costs for employers when recruiting and training apprentices?
- For both - What skills do you think employers look for from the young people they want to recruit?

- For both - How well does the process of gaining apprenticeships qualifications balance with the demands of the working environment?
- For Mary - Do you see any barriers to your employability?
- For Mary - How confident are you that you will find a permanent job after the apprenticeship?
- For both - How can more young people be persuaded to begin apprenticeships?
- For both - What do you think should be done to improve the quality and delivery of apprenticeships in Kent?
- What are the benefits of apprenticeships for businesses and young people?
- To what extent, in your view, do apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries 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? To what extent are employers currently engaged in these processes?
- In what ways, if any, can local employers (with particular regards to small businesses) be supported so that it is easier for them to offer apprenticeships to young people?
- Please discuss employer-led models with regards to apprenticeships? What is the role of national management with regards to apprenticeships?
- Please discuss the issue of qualifications without skills in relation to apprenticeships.
- How best can apprenticeships be marketed to young people and businesses in Kent?
- Please discuss the role and impact that local career education and information, advice and guidance have in enabling young people in Kent to make informed choices about their future education and employment.
- 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 4**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013**

#### **Biography**

**Anne McNulty, Executive Director, Education Business Partnership (EBP) Kent**

Anne is the Executive Director of the Education Business Partnership (EBP) Kent.

EBP Kent provides individually designed services for schools, colleges and employers.

The aims are to enrich the curriculum, actively engage employers in the development of their future workforce, and equip young people with a better understanding of personal skills and their future choices.

EBP Kent is a member of The Institute for Education Business Excellence, working to nationally recognized standards and the latest government related policy and directives.

EBP Kent has achieved the National Quality Award in recognition of the innovative, high standard Education Business Links for the young people of Kent.

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## **Hearing 4**

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### **Themes and Questions**

**Anne McNulty, Executive Director, Education Business Partnership (EBP) Kent**

- Please provide an outline of the roles and responsibilities that your post involves and an overview of the services supplied by Education Business Partnership (EBP) Kent.
- What are the benefits of apprenticeship placements for businesses and young people?
- To what extent, in your view, do apprenticeships meet local labour market needs and the expectations of growth industries in Kent? Are local partnerships with regards to apprenticeships working effectively in Kent? To what extent are employers engaged in these processes?
- What feedback does EBP Kent receive from the employers it liaises with?
- 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.
- In what ways – if any – can Kent County Council improve the quality and/or quantity of apprenticeships in Kent?
- Please discuss the role and impact that local careers education and information, advice and guidance (IAG) have in enabling young people in Kent to make informed choices about their future education and employment.
- Please discuss the role and remit of the EBP Employability Centre.

- Please inform the Select Committee of any policy changes at national level with relevance to this review.
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?