

# **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**

#### **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?