

By: Paul Carter, Leader of the Council
Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Scrutiny Committee – 12 December 2012

Subject: Select Committee - Apprenticeships

Summary: This report proposes the establishment of a Select Committee which is supported by all three Group Leaders to look at the County Council's Apprenticeship Scheme and make recommendations to the County Council on 28 March 2013.

1. Introduction

(1) At the County Council meeting on 25 October 2012 the County Council noted that, when the National Apprenticeship Service published its figures for apprenticeships across the South East, Kent was far and beyond all other authorities in the South East of England with a massive and dramatic increase in the number of apprenticeships, some 39% more young people aged 16-25 in modern apprenticeships than the 12 months before that, showing the build up and success of Kent Jobs for Kent Young People.

(2) Mrs Dean agreed with Mr Carter that the increase in the number of apprenticeships in Kent in the past twelve months was very good news but said that she would like to see a report about how the demand and supply was being met.

(3) Mr Christie agreed with the views expressed by the Leader and Mrs Dean

(4) The Leader informed the Council that he would be happy for a report to be prepared which would cover:

- (a) The demand and supply across Kent for apprenticeships;
- (b) How the apprenticeship programme supported particularly vulnerable people into apprenticeships;
- (c) The outcome and quality of the apprenticeships provided; and
- (d) What the experience was like for both the employers and the apprentices.

(5) The Leader said that getting closer to the Council's customers, the employers and the young people, was absolutely essential.

2. Select Committee

(1) To take this work forward it is proposed that a Select Committee is established to undertake a short review and report to the County Council on 28 March 2013.

(2) The Leader of the County Council has asked Mr K Smith, who chaired “The Student Journey Select Committee”, to chair the Select Committee because of the synergy with this Select Committee.

(3) Having consulted the three Group Leaders the proposed membership of the Select Committee is as follows:

Mr Kit Smith, Chairman Designate
Mr Robert Bird
Mr Alan Chell
Mr David Hirst
Mr Steve Manion
Mr Michael Northey
Mrs Carole Waters
Mr Leslie Christie
Mr Richard Lees (co-opted Member)

(4) Attached as an Appendix to this report is the very first draft of the terms of reference for the Select Committee and the programme which will culminate in a report to the County Council on 28 March 2013.

3. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to approve the establishment of a Select Committee, with the Membership set out in sub paragraph 2 (2) to examine and make recommendations on the County Council’s Apprenticeship Scheme as set out in the draft terms of reference attached to this report.