

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

6 NOVEMBER 2014

SUBJECT:	<i>APPRENTICE REVIEW - SCRUTINY REPORT</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>THE CHAIR OF THE APPRENTICE SCRUTINY PANEL</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides background information regarding the report of the Apprentice Scrutiny Review, which has been approved by the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee and referred to Cabinet for further consideration.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee on 23 September 2013, Members approved a work programme which included a review of apprenticeships.

2.2 A Task & Finish Panel consisting of four Members of the Committee was established which included Councillors Anita Leech, Rob Gregson, Eddie Boulton and former Councillor Mark Johnston. It was agreed that Councillor Anita Leech would be the Chair of the Review Panel.

2.3 The purpose of the review was to ensure that funding allocated to the Apprentice Programme is being used effectively and is providing the best outcomes for apprentices through exploiting all available opportunities.

3.0 EVIDENCE GATHERING AND REPORT

3.1 The Scrutiny Review was undertaken over a number of meetings, from October 2013 to March 2014. These meetings aimed to engage partners, businesses and individuals in the Scrutiny Review and to obtain a better understanding of the impacts and issues around the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme.

3.2 The final report was presented to the meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee on 22 September 2014. The relevant draft minute from that meeting is:

“Further to minute 16 (17 September 2013), Councillor Anita Leech introduced the Wirral Apprentice Programme Scrutiny Review, which had been undertaken by a Panel she had chaired, which had also comprised of Councillors Eddie

Boult, Rob Gregson and former Councillor Mark Johnston. She confirmed that the purpose of the Review had been to ensure that funding allocated to the Apprentice Programme was being used effectively and was providing the best outcomes for apprentices through the exploitation of all available opportunities. The Panel had gathered evidence from a wide range of sources and had made a number of recommendations around key themes including the requirement for support of apprentices, the availability and quality of information and guidance available to young people, getting young people ready for work, the Wirral Apprentice Policy and barriers to those who were considering an apprenticeship. Councillor Leech thanked all of the Members of the Panel, in particular former Councillor Mark Johnston and the scrutiny support officers, Tim Games and latterly Mike Lester, for their assistance.

Members thanked the Panel for a very comprehensive report and recognised the considerable work still required in the development, creation and accessibility of apprenticeships.

Resolved (13:0) (One abstention) –

(1) That the Scrutiny Review and its recommendations be endorsed.

(2) That the Review be referred to the Cabinet for approval.”

3.0 REFERRAL TO CABINET

3.1 As agreed by the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee, the Report of the Scrutiny Panel has been referred to Cabinet for consideration

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Cabinet is requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Apprentice Scrutiny Report.
- (2) Cabinet requests officers to develop an Action Plan to implement recommendations contained within the report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Apprentice Scrutiny Report