



Scrutiny Board

6 March 2018

Report title	Scrutiny Review of the City's Apprenticeships Offer - Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds City Economy	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Strategic Director, Place	
Originating service	Scrutiny and Systems	
Accountable employee(s)	Angela McKeever	Head of Skills
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Report to be/has been considered by	List any meetings at which the report has been or will be considered, e.g.	
	Strategic Executive Board	19 December 2017
	People Leadership Team	13 February 2018

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

1. Consider progress made to implement the recommendations from the review which concluded in September 2016.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Scrutiny Board on the progress made to implement the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of the City's Apprenticeships Offer that was presented to Cabinet on 13 September 2017.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The scrutiny review group met to consider evidence from witnesses with knowledge and insight into the issues under investigation. The review report made a series of recommendations to further improve the quality of current city-wide apprenticeships offer and highlight those areas where action was needed to create successful pathways to sustainable employment for local people.

3.0 Progress against recommendations

- 3.1 Overall, there is good evidence that progress has been made to implement the review recommendations however there is ongoing challenge in meeting the Council target of 193 apprenticeship starts by April 2018. The target for City of Wolverhampton Council is 110 apprenticeship starts and 83 for the maintained school workforce where it is the employer.

4.0 Questions for Scrutiny to consider

- 4.1 The members of scrutiny board are asked to comment on progress against the recommendations detailed in Appendix 1.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no explicit funding implications arising from implementation of the review recommendations.

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no anticipated legal implications associated with the content of this report.

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 Inequalities were highlighted during the review process and the recommendations were developed to ensure that these inequalities were addressed. The review group considered those minority ethnic groups and the challenges facing other groups who are underrepresented in several apprenticeships starts.
- 7.2 The review group recommendations are intended to improve the current offer and to address specific barriers which limit opportunities for people with protected characteristics to consider this as an option to improve their knowledge and skills.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications related to this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 The introduction of the apprenticeship levy has financial and resource implications for CWC and other public bodies in meeting their respective national targets for national apprenticeship starts. The original review report included a specific recommendation on importance of monitoring progress towards the target for CWC of 50 apprenticeship starts and it is important that this progress is regularly reported.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications related to this report.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 Cabinet Scrutiny Review of City's Apprenticeship Offer – 13 September 2017

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