

Wolverhampton City Council

Overview and Scrutiny in Wolverhampton

Scrutiny Review: Employability and Skills

Draft scoping document

Scrutiny Review: Employability and Skills

<p>1.</p> <p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p>	<p>Reasons for conducting the review</p> <p>Employability and skills was identified as a potential topic for scrutiny review at the annual work programme planning event June 2014 and agreed as a scrutiny review for 2014-15 by Scrutiny Board.</p> <p>The review is needed to consider the challenge of high levels of unemployment alongside low skill levels amongst the local population. The challenge faced by the City is clearly significant in terms of how we ensure that local people are able to access jobs to benefit from the economic growth in the City.</p>
<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>This topic is a priority for the Council. In his 2014 speech The Leader of the Council speech said ‘we need to focus on improving peoples skills to take the opportunities for new jobs, that is why the council has been working closely with Wolverhampton’s university, colleges and schools’. He also announced his intention to set up a Skills Commission.</p> <p>Key areas relating to employability and skills were researched and a pre-scoping meeting was held with the Chair, Assistant Director and link officer to determine the focus for this work. The Chair was presented with the main points and other ongoing work which shaped the timing and suitability of the key lines of enquiry.</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p>Key question(s) that the review is seeking to answer</p> <p>1. What is stopping local people with low level skills getting into employment – what are the barriers?</p> <p>2. What are the jobs are currently available in the City and the wider Black Country and are likely to be in the future, that would be suitable for this group. What needs to happen to enable local people to successfully compete for these jobs?</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Outcomes expected from conducting this work</p> <p>An increased understanding of the employment options for unskilled and low skilled workers in Wolverhampton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced linkages between knowledge of inward investment and employment interventions. • Targeted, evidence based interventions within areas of high unemployment and low skills • Improved intelligence to inform future interventions at city and locality level by all partners • A better understanding of the barriers faced by local people with low level skills

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better informed service design and more detailed information that will help to shape and develop proposals for European funding. • Outcomes of this review can feed into work being carried out by the newly formed City Board. • Outcomes from this work can feed into the proposed Skills Commission 		
5.	Resources – Councillor involvement		
5.1	The membership of the scrutiny review has been agreed:		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Chair of the Scrutiny Review Cllr Ian Angus (Chair) (Lab)</td> <td>Councillors on the review: Cllr Payal Bedi (Lab) Cllr Jasbir Dehar (Lab) Cllr Arun Photay (Con) Cllr John Rowley(Lab) Cllr Stephen Simkins (Lab) Cllr Tersaim Singh (Lab) Cllr Jaqueline Sweetman (Lab) Cllr Martin Waite (Lab) Cllr Daniel Warren (Lab) Cllr Mark Evans (Con) Cllr Haynes (Con)</td> </tr> </table>	Chair of the Scrutiny Review Cllr Ian Angus (Chair) (Lab)	Councillors on the review: Cllr Payal Bedi (Lab) Cllr Jasbir Dehar (Lab) Cllr Arun Photay (Con) Cllr John Rowley(Lab) Cllr Stephen Simkins (Lab) Cllr Tersaim Singh (Lab) Cllr Jaqueline Sweetman (Lab) Cllr Martin Waite (Lab) Cllr Daniel Warren (Lab) Cllr Mark Evans (Con) Cllr Haynes (Con)
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	Principal Cabinet Member Cllr Peter Bilson Lead Senior Executive Director Tim Johnson		
6.	Evidence Sources – Officer Support		
	<p>Scrutiny link officers Sheila Collett, Head of Service Keren Jones, Assistant Director</p> <p>Scrutiny Officer Deborah Breedon</p> <p>External Organisations expected to contribute Jobcentre Plus Linda Bowen Business Representation Adult Education University/College Third Sector providers/Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council City Deal Chamber of Commerce Schools</p>		
7.	Meetings and evidence gathering		
7.1	It is suggested that wherever possible evidence should be heard in person from witnesses. Witnesses should be encouraged to submit evidence in advance to give opportunity for review members to prepare questions.		

7.2	At this stage it is envisaged that there will be five meetings of the review group.	
Meeting	Objective	Witnesses
6 Nov	The Scale of the Challenge: scene setting and scope meeting.	Keren Jones, Sheila Collett, Paul Tabor, JC, Adrian Barlow, Resham Gill
13 Nov	Current position - What is already in place or planned and what are the barriers? Job Centre Plus roles and initiatives Including Job Clubs - Linda Bowen Talent Match – Kim Babb Employability Partnership - Angela Hoyle City Deal – Jacki Lakin Schools - TBA	Linda Bowen, Kim Babb, Angela Hoyle, Jacki Lakin Sheila Collett, Resham Gill
1 Dec	Business and inward investment – The right jobs and the right skills? Business partners Chamber of Commerce	James Cunningham, Business partners Sheila Collett
8 Dec	Gaps in provision and coverage – closing the gaps and unblocking barriers.	James Cunningham, Sheila Collett Providers
11 Dec	Gaps in provision and coverage – Adult education and colleges	James Cunningham, Sheila Collett Partners
7 Jan	To agree main findings and recommendations	Keren Jones, Sheila Collett
8.	Report drafting – key stages	
	Activity	Target date
	Identify key gaps in provision/coverage and feed into proposed Skills Commission	Dec 2104
	Draft report completed	Jan 2015
	Consideration of draft report findings and recommendations by the review group	Jan 2015
	Draft report presented to the Strategic Executive Board (SEB) and the relevant Cabinet Member(s) for comment on the content and recommendations.	Jan 2015
	Review Group approve final draft report	Jan 2015
	Report presented to Cabinet	Feb 2015

