

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

ENTERPRISE ADVISOR NETWORK

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Policy Committee approval for a £50,000 contribution to the countywide rollout of the Enterprise Advisor Network to give young people across the county (regardless of background or where they go to school) a first-hand insight into the world of work and to help them shape their future.

Information

2. The Council Plan vision of being a 'great place to fulfil your ambition' coupled with Policy Committee approval to transfer internal "ownership" of Futures Advice, Skills and Employment (Futures) to the Place Directorate, positions the County Council, better than ever before, to grasp and have impact on 'the young people into work or training' agenda.
3. In common with this Council's policies, improving careers advice and guidance for young people has been a high priority for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2), particularly since the publication of the Skills for Growth Strategy. Over the last 2 years, much progress has been possible because of:
 - the development of the D2N2 Employability Framework,
 - the creation of the Careers and Enterprise Company to match-fund local activity,
 - the roll out of the Enterprise Advisor Network (EAN) into 94 schools across D2N2 and
 - the publication of the Careers Strategy in late 2017
4. The **Careers & Enterprise Company** is an employer-led organisation set up to inspire and prepare young people for the fast-changing world of work. Its role is to take an umbrella view of the landscape of careers and enterprise, supporting programmes of work, filling gaps in provision and ensuring coverage across the country.
 - a. The **Enterprise Adviser Network** is a key initiative, based on research from the Education and Employers Taskforce and other research organisations, which shows that greater contact with employers among young people leads to better employment outcomes.
 - b. **Enterprise Advisers** are volunteers from the world of work (business and the public sector, organisations of all sizes including the self-employed). Working directly with school and college leaders, they are responsible for helping educational institutions build careers and enterprise and employer engagement plans, drawing on their own local business networks.

- c. **Enterprise Coordinators** who have simple tools available to lay out a range of programmes available to schools and colleges, for example speakers in schools, CV and skill building, work experience etc. support the Enterprise Advisers. The Enterprise Coordinator helps 'join the dots' at a local level and creates the coverage across the county.
5. The Enterprise Adviser Network requires a funded network of Enterprise Coordinators, each supporting progress and Enterprise Advisers with circa 20 schools. To date, each Enterprise Coordinator has been part funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company, with the remaining funding from Derbyshire County Council, Futures Advice, Skills and Employment, Chesterfield & Bolsover Learning Community, Rushcliffe Borough Council (covering all southern Nottinghamshire districts) and the Evolve Trust.
 6. However, this funding ended in August 2018. Without further funding, D2N2 is unable to sustain the network successes nor achieve the shared ambition to extend benefits to all educational institutions in the LEP area.

The match-funding package

7. The Careers and Enterprise Company has already committed to continuing to provide 50% of employment costs where local match is made available.
8. Subject to the necessary approvals, it is proposed that Futures, a jointly owned company with City Council, who have established governance, management oversight and management information systems in place should facilitate accountability for the activities of the Enterprise Adviser Network and are invited to deliver the county's contribution to the Network.
9. Futures is working in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council on a number of opportunities and priorities. Should Futures host two full-time equivalent posts, at a total cost to the Council of up to £50,000, this will provide another opportunity to coordinate activities and resources, and to generate a greater impact for local residents and Nottinghamshire youth.

Other Options Considered

10. Nottinghamshire District Chief Executives have considered match funding (on two separate occasions) and have confirmed they are not prepared to commit funds (their own Council's or business rates pooling) to continue activity in Nottinghamshire. This is because some (not all) of the districts already fund local programmes – such as the Erasmus coaching and mentoring skills programme.

Reason for Recommendation

11. The D2N2 LEP Board are currently revising the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for the area. At a recent workshop to agree priorities, the Board identified the mismatch between local skills and aspiration and the needs of our growing local economy as a top priority for the new SEP to address.

12. That being the case, the LEP is now seeking to elevate this programme and to embed it across LEP delivery; linking to sector skills groups, creating distinct governance for this work, and agreeing with partners and stakeholder the kind of targets and performance monitoring that are needed to assure partners of progress.
13. Providing the necessary match presents the county with an opportunity to work directly and productively with the LEP on this area of significant economic importance. This approach would enable the drawing down of match funding from government. In return, this work will inspire and inform young people in schools across the area about their career choices.
14. The 2 FTE staff would be exclusively working in Nottinghamshire schools and would not be a shared resources across the LEP geography. Whilst the personnel would be based within Futures, their roles require them to be actively working with Nottinghamshire schools. Their performance targets would both be set and monitored by the Growth and Economic Development team, with outputs reported to Policy Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. It is proposed that Policy Committee gives approval for up to £50,000 to be allocated for a one year period with an option to extend subject to performance, from the Growth and Economic Development 2019/20 initiatives budget, to cover half the costs associated with two FTE posts, for which the Careers and Enterprise Company will provide the equivalent in match.

Implications for Service Users

17. The implications for service users if this proposal is approved, is that the young people of Nottinghamshire will receive the same level of service, as found in the other areas that make up the D2N2 LEP area and helps to 'level the playing field'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Approves £50,000 to be allocated for 2019/2020 from the Growth and Economic Development initiatives budget, to cover half the costs associated with two Enterprise Coordinators (full-time equivalent) posts, for which the Careers and Enterprise Company will provide the equivalent in match.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE
Leader of the County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments [SLB 15/08/2018]

18. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments [CSB 23/08/2018]

19. The financial comments are contained within paragraph 16 of the report.

HR Comments [JP 17/08/2018]

20. There are no specific HR comments to make concerning this report assuming that the two posts are based in and managed by Futures.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All