

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****UPDATE ON THE WORK OF FUTURES GROUP****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work of Futures Advice, Skills and Employment (Futures Group) and the performance of the Enterprise Adviser Network. Peter Brammall, Chief Executive Officer of Futures Group, will attend the meeting to give an update on the work of his organisation.

**Information**

2. The Council Plan – Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future (2017-2021) makes specific reference to working in partnership with skills and employment practitioners to make sure that people can acquire the skills and qualifications they need to build a rewarding life and career.
3. Futures Advice, Skills and Employment (Futures Group) has a long history. Over twenty years have passed since futures Group was established by Nottinghamshire County Council. Founded on a combination of quality and enterprise, Futures Group place impact on individuals' lives and the strengthening of economies at the forefront of their activity. This was recognised in their ground-breaking Ofsted rating of Outstanding in 2017.
4. The two most salient approvals given by this Committee, happened in October 2017 and September 2018:
  - a) placing the political representation on the Futures Advice, Skills and Employment (Futures Group) company board with a combination of Members: one from Communities and Place Committee and one for Children's and Young People's Committee
  - b) allocating a £50,000 contribution (from 2019/2020 Growth and Economic Development Committee initiatives budget) to the countywide rollout of the Enterprise Advisor Network to give young people across Nottinghamshire (regardless background or where they go to school) a first-hand insight into the world of work and to help them shape their future.
5. Councillor Boyd Elliott and Councillor Phil Rostance were appointed as directors of Futures, Advice, Skills and Employment and sit on the Futures Board and the executive board. Nicola M<sup>c</sup>Coy-Brown, Group Manager Growth and Economic Development will replace David Hughes on both the Futures Board and Executive Board.
6. Futures Group is in a strong financial position, with very healthy levels of reserves, ownership of premises and medium-term contracts secured. The company enjoys strong support from its owners, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council and provides a broad range of support for both areas across the advice, education, employment and skills

agendas. Recent diversification (which involved rebranding and restructuring), has offered many significant opportunities for the future.

7. Over the next few years, Futures Group wishes to grow further to establish an even greater impact on more people's lives and to work with a broader range of partners to achieve this. Peter Brammall was hired to replace John Yarham who announced in December 2018 that he was leaving to take up the role of Deputy Chief Executive at the Careers and Enterprise Company in London. Peter Brammall joined Futures Group as their Chief Executive Officer in May 2019. Peter brings a wealth of experience from across the education, skills and employment support sectors. Most recently this has included roles as Principal/CEO at two large further education colleges.
8. Peter will be presenting to Policy Committee and has produced a report on the work of his organisation (attached at **Appendix A**).

### **Other Options Considered**

9. The 'do nothing' option was discounted because Nottinghamshire County Council is looking to build on the county's economic strength and stability. It will do this by working in collaboration with a range of partners to drive local economic growth through support for employment, skills, small businesses, high street and town centres. The careers and advice sector is ever-evolving and offering solutions and supporting Futures Group within that, means Nottinghamshire can stay one step ahead of the trend. Futures Group will achieve this by looking to the future and using their experience to ensure they are offering a full service that can help our residents, no matter what stage of life they are or what it was that prompted the individuals to get in touch with them.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

10. Nottinghamshire County Council provided skills advice and steer to the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2 LEP) for the development of their 2030 Strategic Economic Plan and will increasingly work collaboratively with them as a key advisor and skills partner, helping them translate their skills vision into a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). This work is on-going during 2019-2020. It is important that through the work of the Futures Group, Nottinghamshire's skills priorities are articulated in relation to careers advice, skills and employment and have relevance to the D2N2 wider economy. Meeting the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer provides the opportunity for Members to share their mission of raising skills levels to help drive enterprise, create more and better jobs and promote economic growth.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. 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.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

12. Nottinghamshire County Council's strategic objectives are to maximise the impact of employment and skills policies and employer health and well-being and behaviour to support jobs and growth and secure a globally competitive skills base.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Policy Committee approves the following action:

- 1) That an update report is considered within 12 months and that this be included in the work programme.

**COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE**  
**Leader of the County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Nicola McCoy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development Tel: 0115 977 2580

## **Constitutional Comments (KK – 13/09/2019)**

13. The proposals in the report are within the remit of the Policy Committee

## **Financial Comments (SES 13/09/2019)**

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

15. Nottinghamshire County Council has allocated £50,000 from the 2019/20 Growth and Economic Development Initiatives Budget to the countywide rollout of the Enterprise Advisor Network.

## **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.

- *Enterprise Advisor Network*, Report to Policy Committee, published 12 September 2018
- *Futures Advice, Skills & Employment Governance Arrangements*, Report to Policy Committee, published 18 October 2017

## **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

- All