

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

### **CAREERS PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN READINESS FOR ENTERING THE WORLD OF WORK**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on the Ashfield and Mansfield Skills and Employability Summit held in November 2019.
2. To seek approval to extend the funding for the Enterprise Co-ordinators until August 2021.

#### **Information**

3. Our Council Plan 2017-2021 sets out how Nottinghamshire will have a skilled workforce, create better opportunities and support a vibrant business base. This includes developing a culture of aspiration and high achievement, whilst supporting those who are not yet achieving their full potential, for whatever reason. We want all children to have the same opportunities and life chances and to be provided with the skills to help create the right conditions for a strong local economy.
4. To achieve this vision, supported by our partners in the skills and employability sector, we developed a unique opportunity for the exchange of experiences between Ashfield and Mansfield based companies and skills, training and education providers.

#### Ashfield and Mansfield Skills and Employability Summit

5. On 15 November 2019, the Ashfield and Mansfield Skills and Employability Summit took place in Kirkby-in-Ashfield. There were over 100 attendees. Speakers included business representatives, learning providers and Nottingham Trent University. All stated their commitment and passion to improving opportunities for the young people of Ashfield and Mansfield and to ensuring school leavers are work-ready and equipped to seize opportunities.
6. Following the Leader of the Council's keynote speech, the audience heard from a former looked after young person who shared her story, voiced recommendations and gave a call to action. She challenged attendees to think about work experience, health and well-being provision, learning support and skills workshops to help young people transition into work.
7. Sixty pledges of support were received, ranging from giving an hour, mentoring and coaching for young people to becoming an Enterprise Adviser to work with schools. The post-Summit evaluations confirmed the morning's session was well-received. Work is underway to follow up on the pledges of support and ensure that linkages are made between businesses and schools.

## Nottinghamshire Enterprise Co-ordinators

8. The Careers and Enterprise Company is an employer-led body set up to deliver the Government's aspirations for strengthening links between employers, schools, colleges, funders and training providers, and give students the chance to get involved in initiatives and find out more about the world of work.
9. In September 2018, Policy Committee approved an allocation of £50,000 to cover half the costs associated with two Full-Time Equivalent Enterprise Co-ordinators posts, employed through (the County Council's part-owned) Futures Group. This included an option to extend subject to performance. The Careers and Enterprise Company committed to covering the remaining 50% of costs.
10. Since then, the two Enterprise Co-ordinators have worked across Nottinghamshire, helping schools and colleges meet the eight benchmarks of excellent careers education – known as the Gatsby Benchmarks. This support has included identifying volunteer Industry Champions (known as Enterprise Advisors) from local businesses. They commit to supporting careers and enterprise activities by: taking part in careers fairs, giving talks, running workshops, providing work experience and mentoring.
11. 48 Nottinghamshire schools and colleges are engaged, 22 of which are matched with Enterprise Advisors. Collectively this structure forms an Enterprise Adviser Network of employers, small and large. **Appendix A** shows the outputs and outcomes of the activity to date in Nottinghamshire.
12. As before, an opportunity has arisen to continue these dedicated roles across the County and draw upon further equal match funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company to extend the period of activity to August 2021.

### **Other Options Considered**

13. The Enterprise Coordinator sits at the heart of the network, harnessing the relationship between education and business. By working in partnership with both the Careers and Enterprise Company and the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2 LEP), and funding the extension to the Enterprise Coordinators role, Nottinghamshire County Council can localise and tailor the programme to meet the needs of Nottinghamshire. It is for this reason, the 'do nothing' option was discounted.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

14. Maintaining the Enterprise Coordinators presence will help simplify engagement between schools, colleges and employers, stimulating more employer engagement in areas of greatest need. Approval of the extension ensures the levelling up of services for the young people of Nottinghamshire, to that which is experienced in other parts of the D2N2 LEP area.

### **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. Extending the funding for the Enterprise Co-ordinators until August 2021 requires an allocation of £72,803. It is proposed this is taken from the Growth and Economic Development Initiatives budget as follows: £5,077 in 2019/20, £53,184 in 2020/21 and £14,542 in 2021/22.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Approves the revenue contribution of £72,803 (split over the financial years specified under paragraph 16) to extend the two Nottinghamshire Enterprise Co-ordinators until August 2021.
- 2) Approves that a sustainable plan for supporting the Enterprise Advisor Network from September 2021 onwards be developed and submitted to a future meeting for approval.

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

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Nicola M<sup>c</sup>Coy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development ext. 72580

## **Constitutional Comments (SS 18/02/2020)**

17. It is appropriate for this report to be considered by Policy Committee.

## **Financial Comments (RWK 20/02/2020)**

18. The report proposes extending the funding for supporting the Enterprise Advisor Network at a cost of £5,077 in 2019/20, £53,184 in 2020/21 and £14,542 in 2021/22. These costs will be met from the Growth and Economic Development Initiatives budget for which a sum of £515,036 is included in the annual revenue budget.

## **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
- For a summary of what good looks like for each of the Gatsby Benchmarks, download a summary guidance at:  
[https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/uploaded/what\\_good\\_looks\\_like\\_-\\_across\\_all\\_gatsby\\_benchmarks.pdf](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/uploaded/what_good_looks_like_-_across_all_gatsby_benchmarks.pdf).

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All