

## Post Scrutiny - Executive Response

**In Respect of:** Scrutiny Review of the Skills Agenda

**Date:** 5 January 2015

**Cabinet Deputy:** Councillor Ged Cooney (Learning, Skills & Economic Growth)

**Coordinating Officer:** Damien Bourke, Assistant Executive Director - Development, Growth & Investment

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
1. The Council to work in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Tameside College and Ashton Sixth Form College to further explore engagement with schools to include more detailed information on career choices, skills required for job opportunities in the local area and routes into employment.	Accepted	<p>This work is already taking place through our commissioning of work by Positive Steps who provide independent Further Education (FE) and careers advice in schools.</p> <p>The New Economy is also funding an apprenticeship project whereby a worker from Positive Steps is providing specific apprenticeship information to pupils in schools.</p> <p>Further work around this can now be undertaken as the Employment and Skills team is put into place.</p> <p>Plans are to bring together key stakeholders to perform a review of post 16 education in Tameside with a view to streamlining the education on offer.</p> <p>In addition, the devolution announcement may mean local authority control to incentivise FE providers to lay on the courses to match the skills required in the job market.</p>	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby/ Heather Loveridge	Oct 2015

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2. Tameside Council to work closely with Tameside College to build strong examples and case studies of apprenticeships in order to engage the private sector.	Accepted	The Council and College have strong relationships already. Turnover in staff at the college and at the Council has meant that close work has lessened to date. However, once the Employment and Skills team is in place work can begin again with a look to marketing successful apprenticeships in Tameside.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby	Dec 2015
3. Develop better and targeted relationships with private sector businesses in the borough with more collaborative work making the best of all available opportunities.	Accepted	Work is already underway to create a comprehensive database of businesses in Tameside through our business rates information. The Leader is planning to hold a Business Summit in March with local businesses. Newsletters are planned and the Live Work Invest website will be promoted.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby	July 2015
4. Re-establish links between Job Centre Plus and Tameside College with the Council's Development, Growth and Investment department to improve communication and information sharing.	Accepted	JCP, the College and Council are already working closely around the 'Jobs with Training' initiative. The third cohort of Jobs with Training should commence sometime this year. Once the Employment and Skills team is fully established there will be regular meetings and data sharing. One to ones with key stakeholders are already taking place.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby	July 2015

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5. Job Centre Plus to work with Tameside Council to secure employment opportunities for residents in relation to business growth in Tameside.	Accepted	As in 4. As in 1 (devolution powers). In delivering the Leader's Pledges this year e.g. grants for businesses taking on apprenticeships, this will inevitably involve close work with Job Centre Plus. Continuation of the Jobs with training initiative will mean that the work around this with JCP will continue. The Working well programme will support 400 clients between March 2014 and 2017. Jobcentre are an integral part of the Working Well Steering Group lead by Tameside Council. We aim to support 50 people into work through this project. Working Well clients are some of the most vulnerable individuals with regards to achieving employment.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby / David Berry	Dec 2015
6. Options explored by Job Centre Plus and Tameside College to offer an enterprise scheme specifically aimed at university leavers to give them opportunities to access the necessary work experience.	Accepted	This option will be explored in one to one meetings with JCP.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby	Dec 2015
7. Tameside College explore a more joined up approach towards funding applications with closer working relationships with organisations such as Job Centre Plus and Tameside Council.	Accepted	Whilst the Council has no direct control of the College, we will work to encourage a more joined up approach to funding applications. Devolution arrangements may give us more powers to incentivise and dis-incentivise the College's choices.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby	Dec 2015
8. The Council work to improve the promotion of Tameside Centre for Enterprise, also developing follow up support and monitoring outcomes.	Accepted	We will explore promotion of the Enterprise Centre, in addition to working with the College to see how the centre can deliver better outcomes for Tameside Businesses and economy.	Damien Bourke / Ade Alao	Dec 2015
9. Explore a range of advertising opportunities such as empty shop fronts to promote available courses and training opportunities in the borough.	Accepted	This has been considered in two towns already but problems have occurred with cost effectiveness and landlords needing to agree. Work will continue with Town Teams to pursue this idea.	Damien Bourke / Nigel Gilmore	Dec 2015

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10. That the Council work with Ashton Sixth Form College to improve connections with career advice services in the borough.	Accepted	Whilst the Council has no direct control of the College, we will work to encourage connections with career advice services, specifically Positive Steps. Devolution arrangements may give us more powers to incentivise and dis-incentivise the College's choices.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby	July 2015
11. Work is carried out to track and monitor outcomes of students leaving education with regards to further learning and employment.	Accepted	Positive Steps produce a 'Moving On' report on a regular basis which tracks school leavers at a Tameside Level. Positive Steps have been asked to provide school leaver information by establishment, to which they have agreed.	Damien Bourke / Emma Handby	July 2015