

**ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL  
BUSINESS AND JOB CREATION – ACTION PLAN**

**DATE: 7 October 2014**

As noted in the accompanying report, the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel are to be incorporated within the wider work being prepared around the employment and skills agenda for presentation in December. As a result, there is a significant amount of work currently underway to develop these actions further (such as the development of a Youth Employment Strategy), which is identified below, along with their subsequent role in wider report. The financial implications of the recommendations will also be considered further within the December report, alongside any other measures identified, but there are no immediate financial implications prior to this.

<b>SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>PROPOSED ACTIONS (to be considered further within the wider report in December)</b>
<p><b>1. That the Executive notes the comprehensive level of support that is available to new and existing businesses in Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley, together with the opportunities for further growth presented by the establishment of the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Enterprise Zone and Tees Valley City Deal.</b></p>	<p>The level of available support to be noted, and specific support around employment and skills to be promoted within December report.</p>
<p><b>2. That the Council’s 0-19 Service takes action as follows:</b></p> <p><b>a) To ensure that all Middlesbrough secondary schools, academies and colleges are aware of the need to be mindful of the requirements of employers and gear appropriate training and careers advice towards ensuring that young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge to make them employment-ready.</b></p> <p><b>b) To explore the possibility of widening the annual Choices careers advice event to include employers who are seeking apprentices or trainees.</b></p>	<p>Work is currently underway through a multi-agency Youth Employment Group to identify best practice around employer engagement, with schools, which will provide a key route for delivering this action in the December report.</p> <p>The event will seek to include employers with apprenticeship opportunities as proposed.</p>

<p><b>c) To encourage schools to ensure that careers information is provided to students before they choose their options for GCSE study.</b></p>	<p>This recommendation will feed into the overall approach to employer engagement and their role in careers advice within schools.</p>
<p><b>3. That the Council takes action to review the position in terms of the employment of apprentices, in particular to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Introduce a formal Council policy on apprenticeships.</b></li> <li><b>b) Increase the number of apprentices across all Council departments and service areas.</b></li> <li><b>c) Ensure that opportunities are also made available for older apprentices.</b></li> <li><b>d) Consider how apprenticeship opportunities can be promoted/made available to young people in care.</b></li> <li><b>e) Promote the benefits of developing apprenticeship opportunities among partner organisations, including major local employers such as the National Health Service, as well as private sector employers.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Routes for implementing and funding these actions are currently being explored, in order to inform the overall policy to be put forward within the December report. The Council's role in setting an example to other public and private sector employers will be at the forefront of the policy.</p>
<p><b>4. That the Council liaises with training organisations, colleges and learning providers, other local authorities and the business sector to develop a more co-ordinated approach to supporting young people into employment across the Tees Valley.</b></p>	<p>A multi-agency Youth Employment Group has been established to take this recommendation forward, and will feed into the December report to detail a more co-ordinated approach.</p>
<p><b>5. That a progress report on the multi-agency approach that is being taken to address issues of youth unemployment is submitted to the scrutiny panel in approximately 12 months' time.</b></p>	<p>The December report will contain a number of areas that will be required to feed back, and this multi-agency approach will be identified as</p>

requested.