

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 28 March 2017

Electoral Division affected: All

Apprenticeship Reforms

Appendix A refers

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report provides the Committee with an overview of the apprenticeship reforms, including the apprenticeship levy, and the development of an Apprenticeship Growth Plan to support individuals, employers and providers.

Recommendation

The report is presented for information and comment as appropriate.

Background and Advice

The Government has set a target to achieve 3 million apprenticeship starts by 2020 which is underpinned by a series of reforms in apprenticeship policy and funding.

Apprenticeship Reforms

In the spring of 2017 the Government are introducing the Apprenticeship Levy for all employers with a pay bill over £3 million, this will impact 2% of businesses in England.

The apprenticeship reforms also include: employer-designed standards, expansion of higher level and degree apprenticeships, a new funding model, an Apprenticeship Delivery Board and a digital apprenticeship service. These reforms are putting employers at the heart of the apprenticeship system.

Furthermore there is a duty that is due to come into force from 1 April 2017 that will require public sector organisations with a headcount of over 250 to have on average 2.3% apprentice starts based on the headcount, per annum. See further information at the links to the Government papers below.

Apprenticeship Growth Plan

The purpose of the Apprenticeship Growth Plan is to make the apprenticeship system work for Lancashire, encompassing the areas supported by Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Borough Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

The Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework identifies growth in apprenticeships as a key priority in tackling replacement demand and skills shortages, as well as improving economic wellbeing in Lancashire.

Embedded throughout the Strategic Framework are the following objectives that have now come together in the Apprenticeship Growth Plan:

- Increase the number, range and quality of apprenticeships.
- Encourage greater levels of provision at higher and degree level.
- Reach more employers in sectors with high replacement demand and growth.
- Ensure that young people and adults are aware of apprenticeships and enthused.

The 4 themes of the Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework: Future Workforce, Skilled & Productive Workforce, Inclusive Workforce and An Informed Approach are the framework for the action plan.

Please note that the Apprenticeship Growth Plan will be a live document and therefore will be updated in a timely and appropriate manner.

Consultations

As set out in the report.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no risk management implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework	Published February 2016	Lisa Moizer

[Apprenticeship
Targets for Public
Sector Bodies
Government consultation
response](#)

Published January
2017

[Schools' guide to
apprenticeship reforms](#)

Published March 2017

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A