

**Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2012**

**EXB87 STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING STATEMENT FOR 14-19 EDUCATION AND TRAINING- KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Strategic Commissioning Statement for 14-19 education and training.

The Board was advised that the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement would enable the authority to carry out its statutory duty under the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the area. The Statement provided an overview of provision and needs in the area.

The Board noted that to inform the production of the Statement, and to identify key priorities for 14-19 year olds in Halton, a detailed review had been undertaken and analysed, which resulted in the six priorities detailed in the report. These priorities had been consulted on with partners in specific task groups across the 14-19 partnership, and ratified by the 14-19 Strategic Partnership and the Children's Trust Commissioning Partnership.

**Reason(s) for Decision**

To ratify the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement to ensure that Halton Borough Council fulfilled its statutory duties under Sections 15ZA and 19A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the ASCL Act 2009).

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement provided a strategic overview of provision and needs in the area. An alternative option would be not to have produced a 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement for the Borough. This was rejected as the Borough would not have had a strategic overview of the provision in order to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area.

**Implementation Date**

With immediate effect following the January 2012 Executive Board.

RESOLVED: That the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement 2012-13 be endorsed.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2012**

#### **EXB94 PROGRESS REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE BOROUGH**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, providing an update on apprenticeships in Halton.

It was noted that within Halton there were 98 different apprenticeship providers, supporting Halton residents with their Apprenticeship Frameworks. The creation of new or additional apprenticeships in the Borough had previously been supported financially by the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) which had been abolished. An Apprenticeship Business Grant was available to support employers in recruiting a new or additional apprentice, and as part of the Government's plan for growth, a number of new initiatives were announced at the end of 2011, as detailed in the report.

The Board was advised that apprenticeships had long term benefits for the Council as an employer, in engendering a talented and able workforce. The report set out some suggestions for how the Council could lead and assist the local economy on the apprenticeships agenda. With this in mind, it was proposed that the Council should support the apprenticeships scheme and incorporate the aims, objectives, target numbers, monitoring and reviewing of the scheme into its forthcoming Corporate People Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the recommendations for apprenticeships outlined in the report be noted;
- 2) the recommendations be incorporated into the Council's Corporate People Plan; and
- 3) the Board receive updates on apprenticeships on a six monthly basis.