

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 27TH June 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – People and Economy.

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: People and Economy Quarterly Policy Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of recent national policy announcements relevant to employment, learning and skills.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 That the report is noted

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 A number of policy, legislation, consultation and guidance documents, are issued by government departments and agencies that have varying degrees of relevance to issues on the employment, learning and skills agenda and related topics.

3.2 A brief summary of key announcements is provided in this report, so the Board can consider whether to initiate more detailed scrutiny and/or report to a future meeting.

4.0 RESEARCH, CONSULTATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

4.1 [Apprenticeships: Vision for 2020](#)

Plan for how the Government will increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships, achieving 3 million apprenticeships by 2020.

4.2 [Reviewing post-16 education and training institutions: area reviews \(waves 1 and 2\)](#)

This policy statement [Reviewing Post-16 Education and Training Institutions](#) sets out the Government's approach to facilitating a restructuring of the further education sector. This will be done through a series of area based reviews of provision. The second wave includes details of the local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) covered by the relevant review. The area reviews in wave 1 began in September to November 2015, those in wave 2 are due to begin early in 2016.

- 4.3 Higher and degree apprenticeships**
Provides information for young people on the opportunities, progression and benefits of doing a higher or degree apprenticeship.
- 4.4 A parent's guide to apprenticeships**
Information for parents about the benefits of apprenticeships and the opportunities they provide.
- 4.5 Jobcentre Plus support rolled out to schools**
Government scheme to provide expert employment support to young people.
- 4.6 National living wage: employee survey**
A survey of employees about their views of the national living wage.
- 4.7 Policy paper: Digital skills for the UK economy**
Ecorys UK were commissioned to produce a research paper by the Departments for Culture Media and Sport, and Business Innovation and Skills.
- 4.8 Apprenticeship standards in development**
All occupations approved by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to develop an apprenticeship standard.
- 4.9 Evaluating youth social action**
This report shows that young people develop skills for employment and adulthood through taking part in social action initiatives.
- 4.10 Government vows to make UK best in Europe for innovation and IP**
The UK IPO today launched a five year strategy setting out government plans to boost British innovation and the UK's creative sector.
- 4.11 Guidance: Employer guide to apprenticeships and traineeships**
Updated employer guide to apprenticeships and traineeships document. Information for employers showing the benefits of apprenticeships and traineeships to their business.
- 4.12 LGIU Briefing - Consultation on apprenticeship targets for public sector bodies**
This LGIU briefing deals with the **consultation document** issued on 25 January on the public sector apprenticeship target duty. The document sets out details of which organisations will be in scope of the duty, which will include nearly all local authorities in England; also in the document are details about reporting requirements. The consultation closes on 4 March 2016.
- 4.13 LGIU Briefing - The Local Welfare Safety Net**
This LGIU briefing deals with a **report** published on 6 January 2016 by the HC Work and Pensions Committee (WPC) on local welfare schemes. For the purposes of this report, the local welfare safety net

is defined as comprising three schemes: Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs), and the discretionary elements of the DWP's Social Fund (Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants)

- 4.14** **Independent report: Boosting enterprise in more deprived communities**
Michelle Mone's review of how to encourage more people to become self-employed in disadvantaged communities.
- 4.15** **UK economic review: Mar 2016**
Commentary on the latest GDP estimate, labour market conditions and other economic issues.
- 4.16** **Fuel poverty - What it means for young parents and their families**
New research, published by the National Children's Bureau to mark Fuel Poverty Awareness Day, found 4 in 10 of those living in cold homes are couples or single parents with dependent children.
- 4.17** **MPs reject Sunday trading reforms**
The Government has been defeated in its plans to overhaul Sunday trading laws, by 31 votes.
- 4.18** **One Public Estate**
This LGIU Policy briefing gives an update of the One Public Estate Programme and considers the opportunities to use assets to drive growth, increase employment and to stimulate new housing as well as capitalising on the cash value.
- 4.19** **Institute for Apprenticeships: Enterprise Bill factsheet**
Outlines the measures that will be included in the Enterprise Bill.
- 4.20** **Guidance: Higher and degree apprenticeships**
Provides information for young people on the opportunities, progression and benefits of doing a higher or degree apprenticeship.
- 4.21** **Cities and devolution update February 2016** LGIU Briefing
This briefing provides an overview of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act, its potential implications for enhanced devolution and local growth, and also considers recent analysis of city performance – given one of the principal purposes of the Act is the empowering of intermediate tier leadership of local growth.
- 4.22** **Guidance: Apprenticeship levy: how it will work**
Explains who the levy affects, how much you will pay and what happens once the money has been paid.
- 4.23** **Apprenticeships, young people, and social mobility**
Research highlighting recent trends and challenges for youth apprenticeships

4.24 **Connected Councils: A Digital Vision of Local Government in 2025**
How can digital technology improve services for residents and communities? The NESTA report summarised here sets out a vision of where councils might be in 2025 and highlights examples of good practice in local authorities.

4.25 **LGIU Briefing: Government's spending with SMEs**
The National Audit Office's report, Government's spending with small and medium sized enterprises, analyses the progress made by central government in increasing its spending with SMEs. Although focusing on central government procurement the implications are relevant to the public sector as a whole.

4.26 **LGIU Briefing: Economic Prosperity Boards**
Economic Prosperity Boards were introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. They haven't been much taken up but do they have the potential to provide a useful structure for partnerships in those cases where combined authorities are less appropriate?

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The varied range of issues covered in this report potentially present a number of challenges and opportunities across a number of the Council's current priorities. Where appropriate a more detailed analysis of the information and relevance to the council will take place.

6.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Each of the policy briefings highlighted within the report are likely to have differing implications for the council priorities. Where a full report is requested by members, the implications for each of the council priorities will be highlighted. However it would not be possible to list all of the possible implications for each of the priorities for every report highlighted.

7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

As above

7.3 A Healthy Halton

As above

7.4 A Safer Halton

As above

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

As above

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 There are no immediate risks directly relating to the information in the report.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 None

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act