

To: City Executive Board

Date: 16 June 2016

Report of: Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Apprenticeships (short report)

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present a recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on apprenticeships.

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Andrew Gant

Executive lead member: Councillor Pat Kennedy, Board Member for Young People, Schools and Skills

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board:

That the City Executive Board states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendation set out in the body of this report.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee requested a report on apprentices employed by the Council and considered this item at its meeting on 7 June 2016. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Pat Kennedy and Jarlath Brine for providing the report and answering questions.
2. The Committee agreed several recommendations and a fuller report will follow in July but due to the timing of the current apprenticeship recruitment campaign, the City Executive Board (CEB) is asked to consider one recommendation at its meeting on 16 June 2016.

Summary and recommendation

3. The Committee heard that the Council was in the process of recruiting 21 apprentices as part of a campaign that focuses on OX1 to OX4 postcode areas

and closes on 30 June 2016. The Committee was advised that some fifty-nine applications had been received (as of 7 June 2016), with approximately half of these applicants resident in the City. The Committee considered whether the policy of recruiting applicants who were resident in the City reflected the realities of the local labour market, given the very high cost of living in Oxford and the high numbers of workers who commute in to the City. The Committee suggest that consideration should be given to extending the eligibility criteria beyond the OX1 to OX4 catchment areas but with a preference for recruiting applicants who are resident within these areas where possible. If agreed by CEB in June, this would open up the current recruitment campaign to applicants from nearby towns and villages.

Recommendation - That consideration is given to extending the eligibility criteria for apprenticeships beyond the OX1 to OX4 postcode areas but with a preference for appointing applicants with these postcodes.

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List of background papers: None

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