

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Adult Services and Health– Lead Cabinet Member – Cllr Beall**

#### **TEES ACHIEVE OFSTED REPORT AND FUTURE PLANS**

1. Summary

This report summarises the findings of the Ofsted inspection of Tees Achieve, which is the Stockton Borough Council Service that delivers learning and skills, and also provides an indication of plans for the future direction of travel for Tees Achieve.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Note the successful outcome of the June 2014 Tees Achieve Ofsted Inspection in securing Grade 2 (Good) overall with Grade 1 (Outstanding) for Community Learning.
2. Endorse the plans, as set out in paragraphs 7 – 15, for the future direction of travel for Tees Achieve

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the successful Ofsted inspection of Tees Achieve and supports the future plans to enable the service to continue to improve.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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**SUMMARY**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

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**DETAIL**

Background

1. Stockton Borough Council Service Tees Achieve provides a range of learning and skills opportunities including apprenticeships, traineeships and study programmes for young people, classroom based learning for adults aged 19+ and community learning. Courses offered include accredited programmes, leading to improved employability prospects and part-time non-accredited courses which have a positive impact on personal and social development as well as potential enterprise opportunities for some learners.
2. Tees Achieve were previously inspected in May 2012 and were graded 3 (Satisfactory) overall. Following the introduction of a revised Ofsted Common Inspection Framework in September 2012 the satisfactory outcome was removed and grade 3 is now 'in need of improvement'. All satisfactory providers were scheduled for a further inspection during the 2013/14 academic year.

Ofsted Report

1. Tees Achieve were most recently inspected by Ofsted in June 2014. The inspection covers three broad categories:

- Outcomes for learners – graded 2 (Good)
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment – graded 2 (Good)
- Effectiveness of leadership and management – grade 2 (Good)

The grades combined give the overall effectiveness score, which was also graded 2 (Good). The sub-grades for the areas inspected (Apprenticeships, Employability, Study Programmes and ICT) were all graded 2 (Good), with Community Learning graded 1 (Outstanding).

2. The summary of findings which led to the 'good' classification is as follows:
  - A good proportion of learners progress to employment
  - Significant improvements in personal, social and economic well-being for learners
  - Good teaching, learning and assessment
  - Exceptionally good additional learning support for individual learners
  - Strong focus on improvement and staff development since the last inspection
  - Good partnership working
3. The report highlighted the following areas that Tees Achieve need to do to improve further and achieve 'outstanding' classification:
  - Improve outcomes for learners on longer courses, including success rates for apprentices within the planned time
  - Increase the proportion of lessons that are outstanding
  - Recruit more learners from communities with higher levels of deprivation and encourage them to progress to higher-level and accredited courses.
4. The full Ofsted report is attached to this report and can also be found on the Ofsted website <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/54630>

#### Future direction of travel

5. Following the inspection, officers are now reviewing the focus of the organisation to reflect the skills gaps, barriers to work and the need for progression.
6. Whilst reviewing the service strengths and future delivery, officers will also take the opportunity to investigate the effectiveness of the current branding to ensure it represents the service we deliver, and is clearly associated as a SBC service.
7. Tees Achieve will capitalise on its strength in community learning to engage with more learners from the more disadvantaged areas of the Borough who would not otherwise attend a college. Closer working with Stockton Riverside College, who were also graded 2 (Good) by Ofsted in 2014, has been developed to secure clear progression routes for learners when they are ready to move on.
8. To improve outcomes for learners on long courses, including apprenticeships, systems to closely monitor the progress of learners have been introduced. Actions to rectify slow progress or early leavers are implemented in a timely fashion.
9. Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is closely monitored with all teaching staff observed at least once a year with timely re-observations where grades are less than 'good'. A more robust observation process introduced in 2013/14 led to an initial drop in the grade profile but this has now improved to more than 80% of grades being good or better.

The system has led to better identification of training needs. The focus for 2014/15 is to support tutors who are graded 'good' to become 'outstanding'.

10. Tees Achieve has segregated its learners into two main markets. For many learners, engaging in community learning promotes their physical and mental well-being and this is their primary aim for attendance. For many other learners, they engage in learning to eventually hope to become economically active by learning skills and competencies that may empower them to enter the jobs market or start a small business.
11. Maths, English and IT will form the foundation stones of the core curriculum. Courses to build skills and develop social well-being will meet the requirements of the two target markets.
12. Tees Achieve will continue to offer employability courses. In 2012-2013 36% of learners entered employment following employability training. From September 2014 employability learners will be offered enterprise training to awaken them to the idea of enterprise, to assess their skills and attributes and to signpost to specialist provision if learners decide to take a step towards starting a business.
13. Using information from the Local Economic Assessment, and where Labour Market Information indicates a need, Tees Achieve will respond or consider commissioning to other approved providers who have the skills or specialist facilities to deliver. Providers with links to employers will be sought to improve progression routes into employment, particularly for 16-18 apprenticeships and 16-18 traineeships where there are growth opportunities and are currently open to funding increases. Tees Achieve will follow formal procurement procedures to commission delivery.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. There are no financial implications to the council as Tees Achieve operates entirely within funding provided by external funders including the Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency, European Programmes and fee income.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. Any commissioning carried out by Tees Achieve will follow Stockton Borough Council's formal procurement procedures.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

16. Tees Achieve is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

17. Tees Achieve impacts directly on the Economic Regeneration and Transport theme by improving the skills level of local people, moving more people into work and increasing the level of entrepreneurial activity across the Borough.

18. Tees Achieve also impacts on a number of other areas of the Sustainable Community Strategy because of the positive impact of learning on health and well-being, social skills, involvement in the community and home life.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

19. This report itself is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

20. Relevant portfolio holder and appropriate officers.

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Background Papers – Ofsted report link <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/54630>

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors - All

Property - None