

Regeneration & Transport Select Committee

A meeting of Regeneration & Transport Select Committee was held on Monday, 6th August, 2007.

Present: Cllr Maurice Perry (Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Julia Roberts (Vice Councillor Fletcher), Cllr Fred Salt and Cllr Michael Smith.

Officers: R Todd (DNS), P K Bell, G Birtle, D Ladd (LD).

Also in attendance: V Goodrum (Partnership Director - Learning Skills Council), H Heslop (Lead Partner Tees Valley Stockton Scrutiny Panel - Government Office North East), C Livingstone (External Relations Manager - Job Centre Plus).

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Craggs, Cllr Faulks, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Kirton and Cllr Nesbitt.

RTS 3/07 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

RTS 4/07 **Draft minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2007.**

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2007.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2007 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

RTS 5/07 **Review of Employability**

As part of the Review of Employability the following witness had been invited to the meeting to give evidence to Members:-

V Goodrum (Partnership Director - Learning Skills Council)
H Heslop (Lead Partner Tees Valley Stockton Scrutiny Panel Government Office North East)
C Livingstone (External Relations Manager - Job Centre Plus)

Prior to the meeting Members were supplied with some initial background information regarding the "employability" agenda, formerly known as "worklessness". Some of the detail and tables had been captured from a draft research document written for the Tees Valley Unlimited City Region Employment & Skills Board.

Members were also supplied with some background information on the Government Office North East, the Learning Skills Council and Job Centre Plus.

The evidence presented by V Goodrum (Partnership Director - Learning Skills Council) covered the following key areas:-

1. Annual Statement of Priorities
2. Key Actions 2007/08

3. Leitch Implementation Plan - July 2007
4. World Class Ambition - Aims for 2011
5. Support to individuals
6. Employers leading the way on skills
7. A new partnership for the workplace
8. Equipping young people with the skills they need for work and life

The evidence presented by H Heslop (Lead Partner Tees Valley Stockton Scrutiny Panel Government Office North East) covered the following keys areas:-

1. The role of Government Office
2. Central Departments
3. Key priorities
4. GONE Strategy
5. Work with Whitehall and localities
6. Employment rate
7. VAT Registration
8. Gross Value Added

The evidence presented by C Livingstone (External Relations Manager - Job Centre Plus) covered the following keys areas:-

1. Purpose of Jobcentre Plus
2. Organisational Design Review
3. New look of Jobcentre Plus
4. Increased use of e-channels
5. Customer Service Channels
6. Overseas Vacancies
7. Travel to Interview Scheme
8. Work Trial
9. New Deal

10. Disability Services

11. Performance Details

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the witnesses. As some of the Member questions were quite detailed it was agreed that the Scrutiny Officer would forward the questions to the witnesses and that they would provide written responses. The Scrutiny Officer would then make the responses available to Members.

Members thanked the witnesses for their attendance at the meeting.

CONCLUDED that the evidence received from the witnesses be noted.

**RTS
6/07**

Work Programme

Members were presented with an updated Scope and Project Plan for the Review of Employability.

CONCLUDED that the Scope and Project Plan be noted.