

Regeneration & Transport Select Committee

A meeting of Regeneration & Transport Select Committee was held on Monday, 20th August, 2007.

Present: Cllr Maurice Perry (Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Bill Woodhead (Vice Cllr Fred Salt).

Officers: M, Rowell, R. Todd (DNS), D. Ladd, G. Birtle, M. Jones (LD)

Also in attendance: S. Atkinson (Training and Employment Services Manager), M. Smiles (Adult Operational Services), L. Wrightman (STEPS Team Manager).

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Michael Smith.

RTS 7/07 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

RTS 8/07 **Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th August 2007.**

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2007.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2007 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

RTS 9/07 **Review of Employability - To receive evidence from the following witnesses:-**

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

S Atkinson (Training and Employment Services Manager)
M Smiles (Adults Operational Services - Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities - Community Care Manager)
L Wrightman (STEPS Team Manager)

Prior to the meeting Members were supplied with background information regarding Training and employment Services and STEPS, Disability and Public Sector Employment, Welfare Reform and Support into Employment for Disable People, and the Evans Report (2007).

The evidence presented by S Atkinson (Training and Employment Services Manager) outlined the schemes that they provided to both 18 - 24 years olds and those aged 25+. His evidence covered the following key areas: -

1. Success rates of Youth Programmes 2006/7
2. Success rates of Adult Programmes 2006/7
3. Learner Profiles
4. Client Profiles
5. Job Centre Plus Issues
6. Learning Skills Council Issues
7. Current Developments and Policies

8. Priorities

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the evidence received. Members queried how TES receive their funding, and S. Atkinson explained that funding was received for schemes via several differing sources which included NRF funding, funding from Job Centre Plus via sub-contracts, European funding, and funding from local bodies e.g. Five Lamps.

Members queried further the Local Authorities uptake on TES schemes. S. Atkinson informed that the most used scheme by the LA was the Administration Apprenticeship. There were also Learners placed with companies who were sub-contractor for Service Stockton. S. Atkinson suggested the LA could provide help to promote schemes in harder to reach communities by targeting schools with 'good news stories'.

R. Todd noted that in other areas in the country Level 1 and Level 2 jobs are ring fenced for placements from training local schemes, and suggested that this was one possibility for members to consider.

M. Smiles (Adults Operational Services - Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities - Community Care Manager) and L. Wightman (STEPS Team Manager) presented evidence on STEPS service which covered:-

1. STEPS Service Aspirations
2. STEPS Team
3. Client Groups
4. Journey Travelled
5. Development Planning
6. Future Aspirations of the Service

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions of the witnesses, and M. Smiles and L. Wrightman discussed looking at alternative forms of and customised employment and flexible working. Members noted the contradiction between the Leitch report and the objectives of STEPS service.

Members thanked the witnesses for their attendance at the meeting.

CONCLUDED that the evidence received from the witnesses be noted.

**RTS
10/07**

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.