

Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

Review of Employability

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 16th October 2007

Update on Progress (including issues/ problems/ successes)

Since the last update the committee has had evidence from Pathways to Work at Job Centre Plus, North Tees PCT, and Stockton Drugs Action Team looking at how health problems (especially mental health problems), disability, and substance abuse impact on employability; and the North East Employers Coalition, Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit and Tees Valley Engineering Partnership to examine employer perspectives on employability.

A further two meetings of the review are currently scheduled, which have been programmed thematically. These focus on areas identified as particularly pertinent to the scope of the review, including: the voluntary and community sectors involvement in increasing employability, and provision under the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Deprived Area Fund; and, essentially, the council itself as an employer, especially in relation to those considered the 'hardest to help' and those living in Stockton's wards with the worst labour market position.

As initial evidence has been taken, the review has developed from the original scope and project plan in terms of the witnesses and evidence the Committee will receive, in order to more effectively tackle the main issues and meet the stated aims of the review.

Timescale for Review

The review is currently on schedule with a view to the final report being presented to Cabinet in December 2007.

Monitoring

The Committee is due to undertake monitoring of the recommendations contained within the Street Lighting review by December 2007.