

REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEM



1	Title of Work Programme Item	Youth Unemployment in Plymouth
2	Responsible Director (s)	Anthony Payne, Director for Place Carol Burgoyne, Director for People
3	Responsible Officer Tel No.	David Draffan, Assistant Director for Economic Development Colin Moore, Assistant Director for Lifelong Learning
4	Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

5	Objectives	<p>Youth unemployment has risen to over one million in the UK. Here in Plymouth, unemployment for 18 – 24 year olds has risen to a level which causes concern to the Council and local community.</p> <p>The task and finish will review local strategies and plans currently in place to help Plymouth’s young unemployed and to help identify any gaps or additional interventions that can be put in place to provide more opportunities for them to gain places in work or training.</p> <p>The task and finish will acknowledge the Council’s Worklessness Plan and the current workstreams of the city’s Growth Board Worklessness Sub Group. It will seek to add value and avoid duplication by addressing the short to medium term rather than longer term plans and objectives</p> <p>To achieve this, the key objectives will be to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the latest youth unemployment figures and their location across the city • Review current employment or training programmes across the city and their take up (including barriers such as accessibility) • Review leading employers currently engaged with existing programmes and what can be done to encourage more • Review the current apprenticeship schemes in place, and their occupational classification and whether they are leading to permanent employment opportunities • Review arrangements for encouraging and supporting quality apprenticeship placements; • Review the Council’s approach to employing apprentices • Review current provision by other public sector providers • Review business links with education and training providers with regard to employability skills
6	Who will benefit?	<p>Young people will have access to a wider range of opportunities. Businesses will benefit from the skills and engagement of young people. Councillors will be assured of a coherent framework in place between providers and organisations across the city to ensure the optimum potential for work and training opportunities for young people.</p>
7	Criteria for Choosing Topics (see table at end of document)	<p>The topic was raised at Full Council on 5th December 2011 MOTION ON NOTICE No 15 (11/12)</p>

8	What will happen if we don't do this review?	Plymouth has an above average youth employment rate and an over reliance on the public sector. The recession and threats to local jobs will only increase the pressure and competition for work. As Plymouth seeks to achieve its vision for growth we need to ensure that young people are engaged and have appropriate skills to match the needs of future employers. Apprenticeships are a strong option for the continued education and training of many young people in the city. The schemes offer viable opportunities for key industries to recruit and develop new talent. If this review isn't carried out, the council misses the opportunity to directly challenge local strategic decision makers and businesses to provide a good range of employment and training opportunities.
9	What are we going to do?	Task and finish group involving meetings to be completed by the end of March 2012.
10	How are we going to do it? (witnesses, site visits, background information etc.)	Background information, witnesses, review existing plans.
11	What we won't do.	This review will focus on the general issue of opportunities for young people 18 – 24 yrs. It will not consider adult unemployment above this age.
12	Timetable & Key Dates	The first scoping meeting will take place early to mid January 2012. Further meetings will be arranged with a final report and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board by end March 2012
13	Links to other projects or initiatives / plans	Children and Young People's Plan Local Economic Strategy Worklessness Plan Growth Board and Worklessness Sub group
14	Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel / Membership if Task and Finish Group (to be decided by OSP before submission to OMB	Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel
15	Where will the report go? Who will make the final decision	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Cabinet , Growth Board and LSP.
16	Resources (staffing, research, experts, sites visits and so on)	Lead Officer, Growth & Prosperity OSP Lead Officer, Democratic Support Officer
17	Is this part of a statutory responsibility on the panel?	No
18	Should any other panel be involved in this review? If so who and why?	This requires a joint task and finish with Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Childrens and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

19	Will the task and finish group benefit from co-opting any person(s) onto the panel.	Yes. Representative members will be sought from key organisations and providers such as the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, JobCentre Plus, National Apprenticeship Scheme, The Federation of Small Businesses
20	How does this link to corporate priorities?	By nurturing young talent, organizations and sectors develop a stronger local workforce. This will not only support the future Growth of the City and the Raising Aspiration agenda, but will improve inclusivity .