

1 July 2015

Economic Development Committee

Brentwood Apprenticeship Scheme 2015/6

Report of: *Anne Knight, Economic Development Manager*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 On the 10th June 2015, a revised budget was brought forward to members for 2015/6, which included the allocation of £24,000 for an apprenticeship scheme to be introduced.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees to commence work on the “Brentwood Apprenticeship Scheme 2015/6” to include both opportunities within the Council and through partnership working with the private sector.**
- 2.2 Discussions commence with Brentwood Community Print and other mental health groups within the Borough to identify joint working and opportunities under the apprenticeship scheme.**
- 2.3 That a detailed project proposal is submitted to the Committee for approval at the next Economic Development committee meeting.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Both the new government and former coalition government prioritised apprenticeships across the country and the number in training is currently at an all time high.

The new Council administration has a clear desire to deliver an apprenticeship scheme for 2015/6 and £24,000 is included within the revised Council budget for this purpose. Work now needs to be undertaken to develop this scheme to maximise employment opportunities and training.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

4.1 Option 1 - Apprentices are recruited to work within the Council.

This would have the benefit of allowing the Council full control of the scheme but would limit the number and type of apprenticeships created as all of the costs and roles would be borne by the Council.

4.2 Option 2 – the Council to work in partnership with the private sector to encourage and support them to take on apprentices

This would be beneficial to both the businesses and the apprentices, maximising the opportunities and breadth of experience and roles available; providing additional support and resource for business growth; and strengthening the relationship between businesses and the Council. The benefits from the available budget (£24,000) for the scheme could be increased if utilised as grant funding to pay businesses for a percentage of the cost of each apprentice, allowing more apprentices and businesses to be supported by the scheme.

4.3 Option 3 – Council to work in partnership with local mental health organisations to encourage joint funding of apprenticeships or placements within organisations

In 2014, Brentwood became the first Council in the country where all members signed up to be mental health champions. To ensure this has meaning, it is vital that through discussions with local organisations such as Brentwood Community Print, opportunities to support individuals with mental health into employment, apprenticeships or placements are explored.

Options 2 and 3 represent the best options for maximising the impact of the Council funding available for an apprenticeship scheme as they offer a greater number of apprenticeship opportunities and engage both the private and voluntary sectors.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To progress an apprenticeship scheme for Brentwood Borough to support the employability and skills priority of the Economic Development Strategy

in line with the Council's 10th June 2015 revised budget approvals. To help facilitate support the Councils approved "mental health champion" status.

6. Consultation

6.1 The Economic Development Strategy successfully underwent public consultation and has been adopted.

6.2 In developing the Brentwood Apprenticeship Scheme the following groups will be consulted:

- Brentwood Community Print and mental health support groups
- Businesses in Brentwood via Chamber of Commerce and FSB
- Community and Health Committee Chair and Vice Chair

7. References to Corporate Plan

7.1 Economic Development is a key priority to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan priorities of sustainable economic development, promoting a mixed economic base across the Borough, maximising opportunities for retail and a balanced night time economy. This includes:

- Facilitating the creation of new businesses
- Assisting in the provision of advice and guidance for local businesses
- Working in partnership with the business community and support agencies
- Seeking inward investment into the Borough
- Assisting the SE LEP and Heart of Essex Partnership to secure projects and funding to benefit the Brentwood Economy

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Chris Leslie, Finance Director

Tel & Email: 01277 312 542 christopher.leslie@brentwood.gov.uk

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Chris Potter, Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312 860 christopher.potter@brentwood.gov.uk

8.2 None

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 All Health & Safety issues relating to the event will be managed by Thurrock Council and the venue chosen.

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

- None

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Anne Knight

Telephone: 01227 312607

E-mail: anne.knight@brentwood.gov.uk