

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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| MEETING: | Economic & Community Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel |
| MEETING DATE: | 24 th May 2012 |
| TITLE: | Update on the Scrutiny Inquiry Day: The benefit of Joint working to retain Graduates in Bath & North East Somerset |
| WARD: | ALL |

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Briefing report & Recommendations table for discussion

1. Briefing Report of findings and outcomes from the SID
2. Recommendations Response table
3. Paul Swinney Presentation 'The impact of universities on city economies'
4. Jim Plunkett-Cole Briefing report on graduate Retention in Bath & North East Somerset

1. THE ISSUE

- 1.1 At its meeting on the **18th November 2011** the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a Scrutiny Inquiry Day into the benefits of joint working to retain graduates in Bath & North East Somerset. The aim of this investigation was to identify what local businesses and organisations are doing now to retain graduates and what plans they have for the future. This would then help the Council identify how we can best work together to support these efforts, through a greater understanding of what more still needs to be done and through discussions with key stakeholders about how this is achievable, thus ensuring that Bath & North East Somerset is attractive to graduates and graduate employers.
- 1.2 The Economic & Community Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel held the single inquiry day on the **18th April 2012**. It was a successful event which brought together a wide selection of key stakeholders. The inquiry day focused on identifying the current picture and discussing practical and achievable ways that the economy of Bath & North East Somerset can be improved through the retention of graduates.
- 1.3 The findings and outcomes are detailed within the attached briefing report along with the jointly agreed recommendations/ action plans which were developed on the day.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to:-

- 2.1 Consider and make any further comments to the Scrutiny Day Inquiry findings
- 2.2 Consider the joint recommendations table, and make any further comments before they are submitted to the relevant Cabinet Members and Partners.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The enquiry day was conducted within the resources available to the Economic & Community Development Panel.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 The attached briefing report details all of the key findings and outcomes from the Scrutiny Inquiry Day which took place on the 18th April 2012. This provides a summary of the presentations & workshop sessions.

Full copies of the key presenters presentation slides and briefing report have been included as supporting background evidence and reasoning for the development of the recommendations agreed on the day

The recommendations table details a list of proposals to be considered by both Cabinet members decisions.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 Equalities issues were considered by the Panel as part of their work in formulating the scope of this proposed investigation.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 *Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel; Cabinet Member; Other B&NES Services; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer*
- 7.2 Consultation has happened with relevant Service Officers. More detailed consultation will take place with partner organisations and local businesses in taking this investigation forward.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 *Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People;*

9 **ADVICE SOUGHT**

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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| Contact person | <i>Donna Vercoe – Policy Development & Scrutiny 01225 396053</i> <i>Lauren Rushen – Policy Development & Scrutiny 01225 396410</i> |
| Background papers | <i>None</i> |
| Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format | |