

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Economic & Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	17 th November 2011
TITLE:	Scrutiny Inquiry Day: The benefit of Joint working to retain Graduates in Bath & North East Somerset
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary of a Single Day Inquiry 2. Draft Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Inquiry Day 	

1. THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Graduate retention and graduate business retention has been highlighted as vital for the economy of Bath & North East Somerset in the **Economic Strategy for B&NES (2010-2026)**. A number of groups, including the Council, are working towards improving the current picture in B&NES; however, more often than not these groups fail to combine their efforts and experience.
- 1.2 It has been suggested by the Economic and Community Development Panel to undertake an investigation into the benefit of retaining graduates in Bath & North East Somerset. The outcomes of the day will be to analyse the current facts and figures on graduate retention and determine the overall benefits of retaining graduates and secondly to identify what our local businesses and organisations are doing now to retain graduates and what plans they have for the future. This would then identify whether a jointly developed and owned Action Plan is necessary and provide the opportunity to develop a more co-ordinated and achievable approach to retaining graduates within the Bath & North East Somerset area.
- 1.3 It has been proposed that the Panel may wish to undertake this in the form of a 'Single Inquiry Day'.
- 1.4 A Single Inquiry Day is one of the most effective mechanisms for the scrutiny of a single topic. This meeting would combine presentations about the current situation with informal discussion groups and finally producing recommendations at the end of the inquiry day for the relevant Cabinet Members.

2 RECOMMENDATION

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

- 2.1 Note the Draft Terms of Reference and agree the proposal to have a joint Scrutiny Inquiry Day investigation
- 2.2 Nominate 2 Councillors from the Panel to act as key contacts for the Co-ordination of the Single Inquiry day
- 2.3 To make any initial suggestions for invitations to the Inquiry Day

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 The draft Terms of Reference details the purpose and key objectives of undertaking a Scrutiny Inquiry Day investigation into the benefit of joint working to retain Graduates within Bath & North East Somerset.

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 during the course of this investigation.

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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Background papers	<i>None</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	