

## **Economic and Community Development & Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel**

### **SCRUTINY INQUIRY DAY**

## **The benefit of joint working to retain Graduates in Bath & North East Somerset**

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April 18<sup>th</sup> 2012  
Banqueting Room, Bath Guildhall

*This meeting is a “working” meeting and therefore not open to the public – outcomes will be presented to the public meetings of the Economic and Community Development on (24<sup>th</sup> May 12)*

### Purpose

Graduate retention and graduate business retention has been highlighted as vital for the economy of Bath & North East Somerset. 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.

This meeting aims to firstly assess the current facts and figures on graduate retention to determine whether there is any benefit to our local economy and secondly, to facilitate discussions and joint action planning by a range of organisations and businesses that have an interest or stake in graduate retention in and across Bath and North East Somerset.

Organisations, businesses and the Council will be able to discuss their issues, needs and priorities for the retention of graduates within B&NES and provide the opportunity to share what work they are doing.

The outcomes of the day will be to determine the overall benefits of retaining graduates and identify whether a jointly developed and owned Action Plan is necessary. This would then provide the opportunity to develop a more co-ordinated and achievable approach to retaining graduates within the Bath & North East Somerset area.

### Key Objectives

- To analyse and compare the facts/ figures about graduate retention identifying what figure that Bath & North East Somerset would like to retain and why.
- To identify what local businesses and organisations require to retain graduates and what plans they have for the future
- To Identify how best we can work together to ensure that Bath & North East Somerset is attractive to graduates and graduate employers
- To identify how the Council can support these efforts better by understanding what more needs to be done and what is achievable.

### Scope

The day will focus on identifying the current picture and whether there are any practical and achievable ways that the economy of Bath & North East Somerset can be improved through the retention of graduates. This will help the Council, and partner organisations / businesses, identify where best to focus their efforts, and prevent the duplication of effort.

### Approach

The ECD Panel will take the lead in co-ordinating the Scrutiny Inquiry Day, however it has been recognised that the subject area under investigation overlaps within other Panel remits, particularly the Housing & Major Projects Policy Development Panel and Early Years, Children and Youth Panel. The ECD Panel will therefore keep these Panels regularly informed of developments and will also be invited to attend the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

### Exclusions:

- Student fees
- Graduate Business Incentives
- Houses of Multiple occupation

### Outline of the Day (draft)

- Presentations/ Speakers and good practice/industry experts, with Q&A opportunity (confirm these)
- Background/ evidence reports on issue/ facts and figures
- Partner/ Business/ Student Experiences ( aim to identify what work is currently being done)
- Networking lunch
- Facilitated workshops to:-
  - A. identify how we can all work together to ensure graduate retention within B&NES
  - B. Identifying what needs to be done to achieve this. ( formulate joint objectives)
- Joint action plan/recommendations

### Attendees

Members of the ECD /HMP/ EYCY Panels

Cabinet Member, Cherry Beath (Sustainable Development), Nathan Hartley (Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for the EYCY)

Service Officers from relevant departments within Council (TBC)

### *Relevant stakeholders include;-*

- Connexions,
- Next Step
- Local Universities & Colleges, (Bath Spa University / Bath University/ Bath College/ Sixth Forms/ Norton Radstock College)
- University Student Union
- Bath Ventures Innovation Centre ( Bath University)
- Training Providers
- Chamber of Commerce
- Small Business Focus
- Big Business (to be identified)
- Banks (Co-operate responsibility/ strategies for graduates)
- Local Strategic Partnership (Business West Initiative for B&NES)

### Background information

The Scrutiny Inquiry day will support the existing work being undertaken within the Council particularly including the **Economic Strategy for B&NES (2010 – 2026)** and the priority actions: *“To increase the number of Graduates working with local employers”*(**Supporting Actions/ Skills**)

### Enquiries

For further information, contact:

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