



ROCHDALE
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL

ITEM NO. SFL204

Subject:

Review Skills Budget - Apprenticeships

Cabinet Member: Councillor Donna Martin, Children, Schools & Families

1. RECOMMENDATIONS / DECISION REQUESTED

- 1.1 It is recommended that the proposed budget proposals are agreed as a basis for consultation.
- 1.2 That the budget for RMBC's internal Apprenticeship, Work Experience and Internship Scheme be reduced from £164k to £84k with immediate effect.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 A budget of £184k was agreed by ELT to support arrangements to refresh and implement RMBC's own Apprenticeship/Work Experience/Internships Scheme. Forecasted numbers of new apprenticeships to be created by this scheme was 75. However, due to council savings and in particular the practicalities of recruiting in the coming months, this number has been re forecasted to 50% of the original number in the coming 12 months.
- 2.2 In addition to this, RMBC Skills Team has aligned other funding streams such as the GM Commitment to Youth Unemployment and The Youth Contract to ensure the momentum to increase numbers of young people accessing apprenticeships in Rochdale borough is maintained.
- 2.3 RMBC's own commitment to increasing opportunities for young people, as identified in the equalities impact assessment will be maintained as planned.

3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 None considered

4. BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

- 4.1 Following ELT approval on 27/09/11, In response to the issue of Youth Unemployment and RMBC's own Equalities Impact Assessment which highlighted the lack of opportunities and jobs for young people, the RMBC Apprenticeship Programme has been reviewed and revised by the RMBC Skills Team and external training providers and our own HR.
- 4.2 Discussions have also taken place with The National Apprenticeship Service, taking account of policy change in this area alongside the Greater Manchester commitment to Youth Unemployment and the Youth Contract initiatives.
- 4.3 Having researched best practice and met with a number North West Local Authorities with established Apprenticeship Programmes, a series of revisions and recommendations for approval have been made and agreed.

- 4.4 That the focus for apprenticeship recruitment, wherever possible, is to provide opportunities for young people who are borough residents, aged 16-24, in response to RMBC's Equality Impact Assessment and our commitment to reducing Youth Unemployment.

5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN / REQUIRED

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families has been consulted.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. **Theme:** Building Success

- 6.2. **Proposal Title:** Review Skills Budget - Apprenticeships

6.3. Breakdown of Savings from the Service:

Service Name: Children, Schools and Families

Area of Service: Support for Learning

Cost Centre affected:

Is this a cost or additional saving: a saving

	Savings 2013/14 £000		Savings 2014/15 £000		Savings Total £000	
	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off
Employees						
Other Costs	82				82	
Income lost (Show as minus)						
Net Savings	82				82	
Additional Income Generated (show as a positive figure)						
Total Savings	82				82	
Implementation Costs						
Total Savings less Implementation Costs	82				82	

6.4 Financial Impact on another service?

There is no financial impact on another service as a result of this proposal.

- 6.5 **Details of the Financial Impact on another service:** There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

6.6 Voluntary Sector Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact on the voluntary sector as a result of this proposal.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no significant legal implications as a result of this proposal

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The proposals within this report do not have any staffing implications for the Council.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

10. ASSET IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no asset implications for members to consider arising from this report.

11. JOINT WORKING

11.1 Partnership arrangements are in place across the borough and sub region to ensure that the momentum for apprenticeship and work experience growth continues. RMBC and its partners including training providers, schools and employers are fully committed to growth in this area.

12. EQUALITIES IMPACT

12.1 **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment:** This proposal has no staffing implications and therefore there are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

12.2 **Equality/Community Impact Assessments:** An equality/community impact assessment will be completed for this proposal.

13. VOLUNTARY SECTOR IMPACTS

13.1 There is no impact on the voluntary sector as a result of this proposal.

<p>Background Papers: There are no background papers relating to this report.</p>
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