

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET** held on 21 June 2016 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor Ms A Western

19/16 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

20/16 **DERBYSHIRE – TOYOTA CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE 2016**
Since 2001, the County Council had financially supported the annual Schools Exchange Programme between Derbyshire and Toyota City schools with students participating in the exchange on an annual basis. Six Derbyshire schools had been involved in developing links with Japan over the past 15 years with activity focusing on annual cultural exchanges and Japanese language tuition.

It was proposed that the County Council continued to financially support this Schools Exchange Programme during 2016 by part-funding the exchange as a continued commitment to the civic, cultural and economic twinning link with Toyota City.

The official reception for the visiting Japanese students was due to be held at County Hall, Matlock in September 2016, although this had yet to be finalised. This year 24 Japanese students would be staying with Derbyshire host families with a reciprocal return visit by Derbyshire students to Toyota City, due to take place in October 2016. Officers had worked with schools in recent years to identify other funding sources to support the Programme and, as such, the financial contribution required from the Council had reduced year on year.

RESOLVED to approve a budget of £5,350 to support the Derbyshire-Toyota City Student Exchange Programme 2016.

21/16 **PROPOSED CREATION OF A PERMANENT HEAD OF EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS POST IN THE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITIES** Currently the Council provided its employment and skills functions through a number of services across a number of departments. Strategic oversight of these services was provided by the Employment and Skills Board and this had brought about some improvement in joint working

but operationally, there was no single point of co-ordination, priority setting or delivery.

An officer working group (consisting of staff from Adult Care, Corporate Resources, Children's Services, Youth Offending and Economic Regeneration services) and was commissioned by the Board to undertake a review of functions, activity and resources. The review identified a number of issues and in light of these findings the Employment and Skills Board agreed to develop a dedicated, single employment and skills service that had the responsibility and accountability for policy development. Taking a 'whole systems approach', the Employment and Skills Service would develop, design and deliver a fully integrated approach. Essentially, this would enable the Council to establish a common understanding and strengthened approach to the implementation of national and regional policy, including the 21st Century Guildhall.

Subsequently, at the Employment and Skills Board on 12 February 2016, it was agreed to create a Head of Employment and Skills with responsibility for scoping, redesigning and managing the new service, in line with the core purpose highlighted. The work of the new Head of Service would be multi-faceted and there were already two clear areas of work; short term (3 to 6 months) and medium to long term (6 months onwards) and an emerging work plan.

RESOLVED to (1) note the work that had taken place so far to develop the Council's thinking and activity on improving work around employment and skills;

(2) agree to add the Head of Employment and Skills post to the establishment of Economy, Transport and Communities directorate and to the subsequent recruitment for a postholder at Grade 15;

(3) agree to a review of the post in March 2017 to ensure that the grade was still appropriate; and

(4) agree the broad range of short and longer term actions to ensure progress continued to be made.

22/16 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of exempt or confidential information.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To receive declarations of interest (if any).

2. To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2016 (contains exempt information).

23/16 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.