

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

YOUNG PERSONS WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the cabinet on progress with the Young Persons Work Experience Programme.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows.
- Youth unemployment is an ongoing concern and is an area that the council is committed to working to help improve.
 - The council has already taken positive action and achieved some significant successes.
 - The council is currently working with relevant partners to put in place a Young Persons Work Experience Programme, providing opportunities for 26 young people to secure valuable work experience in a diverse range of functions.
 - The programme will help the young people involved in their future efforts to secure permanent full-time jobs.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has taken some significant steps to contribute toward reducing youth unemployment in the area and has achieved some considerable success. Currently, around 8.8% of young people in the area who are aged 18-24 are claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). This represents a reduction when compared with the same period last year.
- 2.2 Population figures from the 2011 Census show that the number of young people aged 16-24 living in North Lincolnshire has risen by 21.9% over the last 10 years.
- 2.3 The council remains committed to helping reduce youth unemployment. Measures to achieve this include putting in place an apprenticeship programme operating both within the council and the private sector. The council also operates the £10m regional growth fund and has worked in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions and North Lindsey College to deliver the Young Persons Work Experience (YPWE) Programme. Cabinet has previously approved £60,000 of funding to support the delivery of the YPWE programme.

- 2.4 The number of young people claiming JSA in the over the last twelve months has dropped by 365. This clearly demonstrates the success of the Apprenticeship Programme and the Regional Growth Fund which has helped in creating in excess of 200 new jobs in the area.
- 2.5 The YPWE programme will see a further 26 young people who have claimed JSA for 6 months, employed within the council for 6 months. This will provide them with valuable work experience. North Lindsey College will also offer 7 hours training a week in a relevant subject area in support of the programme.
- 2.6 Young people often struggle to get interviews due to a lack of work experience and an employment reference. The experience and skills they will attain through this 6 month post should help to overcome this difficulty and therefore prove invaluable to their future job and career prospects.
- 2.7 The posts have been created throughout the council, with varying roles from administration to working in the council's fleet maintenance workshop. Interviews for the first 11 posts will be held on 26 September 2013.
- 2.8 The Wage Incentive is operated by the Department for Work and Pensions. It offers funding support to employers who take on young people aged between 18 and 24 who have received benefits for at least six months. It is restricted to supporting jobs in which an employee works a minimum of 16 hours per week for a period of not less than 26 weeks. The Wage Incentive has helped young people towards securing full-time jobs following their work experience and a consequential reduction in the number of young people claiming benefits. Wage Incentive funding will be used to support the YPWE programme.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to note the progress achieved to date in taking forward the Young Persons Work Experience Programme.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The programme should make a positive contribution toward tackling youth unemployment in the area as described above.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

The cost of the scheme will be funded in part by the council and the Department for Work and Pensions via the use of the Wage Incentive funding.

5.2 Staffing

An opportunity will be created within the YPWE Programme to work within Planning and Regeneration jointly with Job Centre Plus to support and administer the programme.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACTASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Officers have completed an Integrated Impact Assessment covering the YPWE programme. No significant issues of concern were highlighted.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 A wide range of partners are involved in the delivery of the YPWE programme. Their input has helped in shaping the programme that the council is now committed to taking forward.

7.2 There are no known conflicts of interest for Cabinet to consider.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet member notes the progress achieved to date in taking forward the Young Persons Work Experience Programme, including the establishment of 26 new posts specifically for young people who have claimed JSA for 6 months throughout the council.

8.2 That Cabinet welcomes the imminent recruitment of the first eleven young people into the council via the Young Persons Work Experience Programme.

8.3 That Cabinet receives a further progress update at their meeting scheduled for Tuesday 1 April 2014.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report. Nil