

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**REGENERATION
CABINET MEMBER**

UPDATE ON NORTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This reports sets out the progress on the reduction in the number of people claiming Job Seeker allowance (JSA).
- 1.2 Key points in this report are:
- The number of people claiming JSA has gone down over the last year.
 - The reduction in North Lincolnshire is higher than the Yorkshire and Humber and the England rate.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Numbers of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in North Lincolnshire fell for the eighth month in a row according to the latest figures released by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for claimants out of the eligible workforce showed that between February 2013 and October 2013 the percentage fell from 4.9% to 3.5%. In addition, that figure is still lower than the regional rate, which was 3.9% last month.
- 2.2 This is a continuing positive trend in North Lincolnshire's unemployment figures, with unemployment in the area falling at a faster rate than regionally and nationally over the past twelve months. There were 3,696 people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in October 2013 compared to 4,815 in 2012. This is a fall of 23.2% compared to 16.2% regionally and 18.9% nationally.
- 2.3 The council has worked hard to reduce the number of people claiming JSA in partnership, by enabling businesses to start, grow and diversify through the Regional Growth Fund grant.
- 2.4 The apprenticeship programme operating within the Council and further apprenticeship opportunities in private sector has grown through North Lincolnshire giving more people opportunities to 'earn whilst they learn'.

2.5 The introduction of the Young Persons Work Experience Programme via which the council is offering people aged between 18-24 that have been claiming JSA, for more than 6 months the opportunity, for paid work experience, has also contributed to the reduction.

2.6 All of these initiatives have had a positive impact on the number of people claiming JSA.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 There are no options to consider; this report is for information only.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Not applicable.

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

5.1 There are no resource implications relating to this report.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 No IIA required, as the report is for information only.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 There are no known conflicts of interest to highlight.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the reduction in the number of people claiming Job Seeker Allowance in North Lincolnshire.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

North Lincolnshire Data Observatory