

REPORT TO Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2010

SUBJECT: PPB Scrutiny Topic Group Titles

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present Scrutiny Topic Group Titles for the remainder of the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Members approve the Scrutiny Topic Group Titles presented in this report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.0 BACKGROUND

Each year Members of the Employment Learning and Skills PPB propose topics which they wish to consider in more detail. The proposed topics for this year are:

- 1) Barriers to Employment from an employers' perspective and;
- 2) Deficit policies and the impact of the recession.

In regard to the first topic, it is proposed that consideration will need to be given to how partners support local people to gain employment, but more importantly provide local people with the skills, knowledge and experience needed by employers to ensure that support is demand led not supply led.

As part of the review it is suggested that the following agencies and groups will need to be engaged in the discussions:

Halton Chamber of Commerce;
North West Employers;
Halton Enterprise Board;
North West Business Link;
Employers' Engagement Service.

The intention would be to complete this topic and present recommendations to the January 2011 PPB.

In regard to the second topic, much of the work will be dependent upon the outcome of the Government's Spending Review, which is due to be announced towards the end of October. It is proposed that an interim report back on the topic would be appropriate in January 2011. Therefore it is proposed that the topic would need to be addressed in two stages.

Stage 1 would be an initial audit/assessment of emerging Government policy relating to the Employment, Learning and Skills agenda. This would reflect, for example, the anticipated Economic Development White Paper, and wider welfare reform agenda and its relationship with worklessness and potential return to work incentives. This work would also coincide with work on the Sustainable Community Strategy referred to elsewhere on this agenda.

Stage 2 would focus on an assessment of these policies alongside the Government's proposals for a reduction in the national budget deficit, and, subsequently, an examination of the potential implications for Halton's Employment Learning and Skills agenda.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The brief for Topic 2 will focus on assessing the implications of emerging Government policy, the spending review and its potential impact on supporting Employment Learning and Skills provision in Halton.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

As the topic groups develop, there will be an opportunity to more accurately gauge the effect of the Government's deficit reduction policies on the Council's Employment Learning and Skills priority.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

n/a

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

N/A

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100d OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background papers.