



Appendix A

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - HEALTH CHECK OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To look at how partners locally, including the private sector, can work together to influence the local economy

Key lines of Inquiry:

- How can schemes, such as Apprenticeship Programmes, be developed and expanded so that they deliver for both local employees, employers and local residents?
- What is the vision for skills and learning issues, particularly low skills?
- What support is there for those that are in long term unemployment?
- What are the areas for potential growth in jobs?
- What can other organisations/groups/individuals do to help?
- Whether a mapping skills gap exercise has been undertaken to identify the type of skills that are in short supply; and what the findings of this exercise are
- How specific services can be used to generate business investment
- How can the offer of commercial land in the borough be improved to ensure a steady stream of quality premises that are accessible by new and established organisations?
- What could feasibly be done to improve the physical infrastructure in and around the town?
- How it can be ensured that those who are seldom heard or isolated are engaged with?

2. Outcomes Required

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches in influencing the local economy

3. Information Required

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene: “To identify the issues locally – The Northampton Picture”
- Relevant national and other background research papers, such as:
 - Mitigation Advisory Committee: [Skilled Shortage Sensible](#) (2013)
 - UK Commission’s Employer Skills Survey 2013: [UK Results](#) (2014)
 - [Future of Apprenticeships in England: Implementation Plan](#) (2013)
 - [Winning the Global Race: Jobs, Skills and the importance of vocational education](#) (2014)
 - Department for Business, [Innovation and Skills – Evaluation of Apprenticeships: Employers](#) (2012)
 - Warwick Institute for Employment Research: [Review of Apprenticeships Research](#) (2013)
 - SEMLEP – Strategic Economic Plan 2014
 - NEP – Northamptonshire Strategic Economic Plan 2014
- Survey data in relation to skills and skill shortages, including equality data within the wards
- Relevant Legislation
- Relevant data, such as ONSA and other statistical data, including Government statistics on apprenticeships
- Best practice and successful initiatives in both Northampton and elsewhere
- Witness evidence:

Internal

- Leader of the Council, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
- Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
- Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
- Director of Workforce and Development, LGSS

External

- Academic, Enterprise, Industry and Innovation, University of Northampton, Northampton College and Moulton College
- Director, Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership
- Director, Adult Learning, Northamptonshire County Council

- Chair, Northampton Town Centre BID
- Chair, Markets Action Group
- Chair, Brackmills BID
- Director, Northamptonshire Connexions
- Director, Job Centre Plus, Northampton
- Director, Talent Match, Northamptonshire
- Director, Northamptonshire Growth Hub
- Director, Aim Higher Northamptonshire
- Director, SEMLEP
- Director, Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce
- Assistant Director, Transport Highways & Infrastructure, Northamptonshire County Council
- Key employers in the town
- Skills Funding Agency (SFA)
- Apprentice Training Agency
- Local employers
 - ETM Engineering
 - Carlsberg

4. Format of Information

- Background data
- Background reports and presentation
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Site visits

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Statistical data
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-
 - Key witnesses as detailed in section 3 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

None suggested for this Review.

7 Considerations for Community Impact, such as health, equalities and human rights

This Scrutiny Review will look at issues such as employment skills, training and skills shortages. It will seek to address how Northampton Borough Council can influence the local economy.

The Scrutiny Panel, in having regard to the general equality duty, will be mindful of the protected characteristics when undertaking this scrutiny activity; so that any recommendations that it made could identify disproportionate and unintended potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the community, including any potential mitigation required. This will be borne in mind as the Scrutiny Panel progresses with the review and evidence is gathered.

In order that the Scrutiny Panel obtains a wide range of views, a number of key witnesses will provide evidence as detailed in section 3 of this report.

Any recommendations that explore ways of working, training and employment opportunities enabling income inequality to be addressed will consider impact and potential mitigation as appropriate and relevant across all protected characteristics. Impact assessments will be integral to any reports including actions plans.

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

16 July 2015
17 September
15 October
3 December
21 January 2016
10 March

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Richard Lawrence, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Richard Lawrence, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2016. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2016)