

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I097102
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1. **TITLE:** Apprenticeship Review

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Delivery

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To present the recommendations of the Education, Skills and Growth panel which looked to identify how to; increase in the number of young people taking up apprenticeships in the borough, increase in the range of apprenticeships in the borough, reduce the barriers locally which prevent young people taking up apprenticeships with focus on the impact of Corona virus. and Identify and assess barriers to local businesses employing apprentices and reduce those barriers.

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

- i. the Executive works with Apprenticeship pathway providers to ensure our young people aged between 16-21 have the best opportunities and outcomes.
- ii. the Executive adopts an Apprenticeship policy which sets out expectations around pay, terms and conditions and that the Education, Skills and Growth Panel is consulted on the draft policy and for this to be completed by December 2021 to coronavirus capacity limitations.
- iii. the Executive promotes Apprenticeships externally and internally by producing a promotional video which highlights the benefit of becoming an apprentice, growing businesses, and supporting the economy by March 2022 to coronavirus capacity limitations.
- iv. the Executive reviews the current Apprenticeship webpages and updates the content to include more information, links to job vacancy websites and information about what to expect from an apprenticeship by December 2021 to coronavirus capacity limitations.
- v. the Executive investigates whether it would be possible to facilitate a mentoring scheme between large businesses and small/medium businesses to encourage more apprenticeship opportunities by March 2022 to coronavirus capacity limitations.
- vi. the Executive develops ongoing partnerships across Berkshire to provide a united gateway of support and guidance to businesses enabling them to take better advantage of the apprenticeship levy.

7. REASON FOR DECISION

The Education, Skills and Growth Overview & Scrutiny Panel was commissioned to undertake a review into Apprenticeships as part of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme. This review activity was undertaken from November 2020 until January 2021 and witnesses were consulted during this time. A survey was also sent to local business, apprentices, and schools to gain wider feedback. The methodology undertaken, findings and recommendations are set out in the attached report as endorsed by the Commission on 17 February 2021.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Education, Skills and Growth Overview & Scrutiny Panel's assessed several options as part of the review.

9. DOCUMENT CONSIDERED: Report of the Executive Director: Delivery

10. DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
16 March 2021	24 March 2021