

## Report to the Hampshire Partnership

<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2015		
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Skills and employment Workshop – Follow up</b>		
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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to remind the Partnership of the key themes emerging for their workshop on 9 December 2014, to update them on discussions since then and propose some initial areas of work for the Partnership to take forward.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Key themes from the workshop were summarised as follows:

- The importance of ensuring appropriate advice and guidance on skills and employment options was available.
- Apprenticeships were considered to be undervalued and it was felt many employers would benefit from a better understanding of how apprenticeships worked and could be an asset to business
- Skills and employment work could be better coordinated - a more joined up approach between the bodies involved could perhaps be facilitated and noting schemes existed across the public sector and private sector.

### 3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Since the workshop, discussions have taken place with the Head of Hampshire Learning and Enterprise M3 to consider what might be useful next steps to take forward the priority actions identified at the workshop. It is suggested that the most helpful action to take forward would be to bring skills and employment practitioners and strategic leads from across the county and LEP areas together. Aims of the event could be to share the work going on and also to consider collectively how work on skills and employment could be undertaken more effectively. This could include considering improvements to the broader 'skills and employment system' across the area including identifying areas of duplication and gaps in provision, consideration of future opportunities and ways of working collaboratively which might meet the needs of residents and businesses better.

- 3.2 The Hampshire Partnership could choose to sponsor such an event in the form of a conference and workshops and Hampshire County Council have agreed to fund the event if there is support from the Partnership.
- 3.3 To inform the shape of the event it may also be helpful to take forward the Partnership's proposal to facilitate a strategic conversation between schools, colleges, employers and universities, to identify skills needs in Hampshire from their perspectives.
- 3.4 A second area identified for action that seemed to have good support related to apprenticeships. The partnership could facilitate a group to come together including those representing businesses, the apprenticeships service, the LEP's and local authorities to see where opportunities to help employers understand the opportunities from apprenticeships might lie.
- 3.5 If the Partnership agree to the above then it is suggested that a budget be identified and a small steering group of officers and if desired a representative(s) from the partnership be established to take this work forward.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Partnership consider and agreed the proposed approach to follow up from the workshop held in November and identify any representatives who might wish to be part of the steering group.