

**APPRENTICESHIPS AND T LEVEL QUALIFICATION UPDATE –
SUNDERLAND COLLEGE**

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To meet with representatives from Sunderland College in order to discuss the operation of apprenticeships in the city and the introduction of the T Level qualification.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to include an update on the operation of apprenticeships in the city and the background to the introduction of the T Level qualification.
- 2.2 Mr Iain Nixon (Vice Principal Partnerships and Commercial) from Sunderland College will be in attendance to provide a presentation and answer questions.
- 2.3 Sunderland College is the largest provider of apprenticeships in the city and one of the largest in the region, offering around 40 apprenticeship programmes.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 Apprenticeships have a long history in the UK. In the past they were associated with so called “traditional” trades such construction, engineering and shipbuilding – industries central to the local and regional economy. Nowadays apprenticeships reflect both traditional and newer emerging sectors in the economy including:-

- mechanical and engineering
- construction
- creative and cultural
- education
- health and care
- businesses services and digital
- tourism and retail
- transport and logistics

- 3.2 An apprenticeship can be defined as a real job with training. As employees, apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. Most of the training is ‘on the job’ within the workplace. Off the job, usually on a day-release basis, apprentices receive training to work towards a nationally recognised qualification, provided by a local college or by a specialist learning provider.

- 3.3 T Levels offer students practical and knowledge-based learning at a school or college and on-the-job experience through an industry placement
- 3.4 T Levels are intended to be one of the main choices for students after GCSEs alongside:
- apprenticeships for students who wish to learn a specific occupation 'on the job'
 - A levels for students who wish to continue academic education
 - other qualifications not served by A levels or T levels, including sport science, performing arts and small qualifications designed to be taken alongside A levels.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information provided.

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