

Report to: Development Housing and Skills
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29th November, 2010

Report of: Director, Chief Executive's
Department

Report No:

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Report Title: Skills Scrutiny Panel

Non Confidential:

(**Non-Confidential**) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

The present to Members a progress report of the Skills Scrutiny Panel

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to note the progress made by the Skills Scrutiny Panel.

Background Doc(s):

Summary:

(on its own page

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The Skills Scrutiny Panel comprising Councillors Critchley, A. Connell, Cox, Cottam, Harkin and Mrs. Ronson held its inaugural meeting on 5th November, 2010, when it appointed Councillor Critchley as its Chairman.

By way of background information to its work, the Panel received presentations from the Director of Development and Regeneration detailing the components of the Council's long term economic strategy, what had been achieved and how the Council would respond to the changed financial climate following the economic downturn.

The Panel also received a presentation which outlined the apprenticeship position in Bolton based on information provided by the National Apprenticeship Service.

The Panel was of the opinion that although the changed financial climate had resulted in a reduction in the number of new jobs to be created, there would still be over 5,000 more jobs in Bolton by 2020. The Panel felt that its remit was to investigate ways of improving the skills base of Bolton people to enable them to achieve more and to put them in a position to take up the maximum number of those new jobs created.

The Panel has scheduled 4 meetings to March, 2011, when it will discuss issues around employer feedback, the Council's involvement in the 14-19 Strategy and building skills for competitiveness and skills for work. The Panel has identified a number of potential contributors from both public and private sectors and has set itself a challenging timescale of submitting its final report to the meeting of the Development, Housing and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 11th April, 2011.

Regular reports on the work of the Panel will be made to the Committee.

with background docs)

