**Title:** Improving the Employability Prospects of Barking and Dagenham’s Young People

**Report of the Commissioning Director, Education (Scrutiny Champion for the Children’s Services Select Committee)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Report</th>
<th>For consideration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Report Author:</strong> Tina Robinson, Democratic Services Officer</td>
<td><strong>Contact Details:</strong> Tel: 020 8227 3285 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tina.robinson@lbbd.gov.uk">tina.robinson@lbbd.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accountable Director:** Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education

**Accountable Strategic Director:** Anne Bristow, Strategic Director, Service Development and Integration

**Summary:**

The Children’s Services Select Committee (CSSC), has undertaken a scrutiny review of ‘Improving the Employability Prospects of Barking and Dagenham’s Young People’. Appended to this report is a draft scrutiny report, for members' consideration.

Recommendations of the CSSC as an outcome of the scrutiny review are key to changes leading to improvements in the offer work-related learning, work experience and apprenticeships. The draft report contains the findings of the scrutiny review and possible recommendations, which members are asked to analyse and discuss in order to give direction to officers in producing the final version of the report.

It should be noted that this is a mini-review due to the local elections in 2018, which had resulted in a shorter timescale than usual within which to complete it.

**Recommendation(s)**

The CSSC is recommended to review the draft scrutiny report and recommendations and provide its comments on the report to give direction to officers in producing the final version of the report.

**Reason(s)**

The topic of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) relates to the Council’s vision to grow the Borough. Reducing NEETs is a key objective with the borough’s manifesto corporate workplan. Improving the employability prospects of young people is key to reducing NEETs.
1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Every year each of the Council’s Select Committees agrees a work programme which lists the areas it wishes to scrutinise in the municipal year. As well as one-off agenda items, the work programme often includes a more-in depth investigation into an area of concern that is relevant to the committee’s remit, which usually involves Select Committee members attending sessions outside of the standard evening meetings scheduled for the year.

1.2 For 2017/18, having received an ‘options report’ providing information on the issues a scrutiny review would involve for three different areas, the CSSC agreed that NEETs would be the topic on which to undertake a scrutiny review, due to the Council’s focus on improving performance in this area. (CSSC Minute No 9, 2 October 2017, refers)

1.3 Due to 2018 being an election year, it was noted that the review would be slightly smaller in scope that the usual Select Committee reviews, due to the reduced timeframe in which it could be completed.

2. Proposal and Issues

2.1 The key issues that arose as part of this review are in the body of the draft scrutiny report at Appendix 1. The Select Committee members are asked to consider the draft report and discuss its findings and the potential recommendations put forward. Members will wish to comment on the draft report and assess whether they are in line with their views arising from this review, and comment on whether there are any gaps which need to be addressed prior to the publication of the final version of the report. The Select Committee is asked to note that officers will continue to work on the layout, wording and overall presentation of the report between this meeting and the publication of the final version of the report at the 21 March 2018 CSSC.

3. Title, Terms of Reference and Key Issues Explored in the Report

3.1 The title of the Scrutiny Review is “Improving the Employability Prospects of Barking and Dagenham’s Young People” and the following three key questions form the Terms of Reference for the scrutiny review:

(i) What do young people and parents expect and want from an offer of work experience and work-related learning, and how do they see this best contributing to young people’s employability skills?

(ii) How can the Council better engage with businesses to enable them to support the development of employability skills in our young people?

(iii) What are the views of parents and young people around apprenticeships? How might we improve the perception and take up of Apprenticeships by borough residents?
3.2 The key issues explored in the report are:

- What is Barking and Dagenham’s performance on Participation?
- What is the Council already doing to improve Participation Performance?
- What is Barking and Dagenham’s Work-Related Learning Offer?
- What is the range and quality of apprenticeships on offer to Barking and Dagenham’s young people?
- What does research tell us about best practice in Work-Related Learning and Apprenticeships?
- What do young people, parents and businesses think about Barking and Dagenham’s offer of work-related learning, work experience and apprenticeships and how might they be improved?

4. Next Steps

4.1 Officers will make changes to the scrutiny report as agreed by the Committee at the meeting and produce a final version of the report for consideration by the CSSC at its on meeting on 21 March 2018. After this, the decision maker will be asked to respond to the recommendations, develop an action plan to monitor the implementation of the recommendations, and present progress on the action plan to the Committee in approximately six months’ time.

5. Implications

5.1 Legal and financial implications will be sought in relation to the final scrutiny report, which will contain the recommendations made as a result of this scrutiny review.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

The scoping report for this scrutiny review is available at (CSSC Minute No 9, 2 October 2017):


List of appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft scrutiny review report on ‘Improving the Council's Adoption Scorecard Performance’.