

Council: Tuesday, 10 September 2013

Non Executive Business Item: Councillor Andrew Harper

Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman

Platforms Programme

Add to penultimate paragraph

Council therefore asks that Cabinet consider a report on the value for money of this scheme.

Council also recognises that public bodies do not create sustainable jobs and that these issues will only be resolved by the private sector being allowed to expand free of Government interference and following the reduction of public sector debt.

Substantive Non Executive Business Item to read:

Council notes that the Platforms Programme launched in June 2012 has come to the end of its First Phase. Council welcomes the positive outcomes it has achieved for many of Barnet's 16-24 year olds formerly not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Over the course of the last fourteen months, more than 350 young people have been engaged with 220 actively participating in a range of schemes, which have provided among other things: apprenticeships; internships; voluntary sector jobs; Princes Trust placements; employment and enterprise support; and support for young people with learning difficulties.

In addition, the programme has helped 70 local businesses add capacity to their staff by incentivising the creation of work placements.

Council welcomes the fact that over this period the percentage of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance has fallen from 4.3% to 3.2%, contributing significantly to the reduction in overall number of JSA claimants. Council further welcomes that the proportion of young people classed as NEET is down at 3.2%, well below the London average (4.5%) and national average (5.6%).

Council is pleased that many young people have reported positive experiences of the programme and that some participants have moved on to longer-term placements or permanent employment. However, as the job market remains challenging for young people – despite the economic uplift – Council recognises that there is more work to do. Council therefore asks that Cabinet consider a report on the value for money of this scheme.

Council also recognises that public bodies do not create sustainable jobs and that these issues will only be resolved by the private sector being allowed to

expand free of Government interference and following the reduction of public sector debt.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to continue to work with the Council's partners to identify the most successful strands of the Platforms Programme and utilise any under-spend from the First Phase to maximise outcomes in the Second Phase.