

## Agenda item 5

For information: Update on the work of the Apprenticeship Project Coordinator

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### Summary

Terry Bishop, Apprenticeship Project Coordinator will be making a presentation at the meeting on the work he has been pursuing since the last update on 30 November 2016. This report provides some background information on the project and how it has evolved.

### Background

The Apprenticeship Project has its roots in earlier research commissioned by the Council that identified the need for an apprenticeship broker to liaise with business and support the promotion and take up of apprenticeships in the town.

In 2014, FTC entered into a partnership with Frome College to deliver an employer focused programme to coordinate and facilitate the growth of apprenticeships in Frome and the surrounding rural parishes. The programme would form part of a wider Frome Next Steps Hub intended to bridge the gap between education and employment. Terry Bishop was appointed to act as the Apprenticeship Project Coordinator and is currently employed by Frome College with FTC meeting the salary cost.

The original objectives of the programme were:

- To grow the number of apprentice vacancies and the number of employers taking on apprentices in Frome and surrounding rural parishes
- To provide a Frome based point of contact and information for employers on apprenticeships
- To identify gaps in apprenticeship provision

### Evolution of the project

Early work with local employers demonstrated a strong interest in taking on apprentices but the challenge for many employers was identifying young people who were ready to take up those opportunities. The introduction of the World of Work (WOW) programme was in part designed to address this challenge.

WOW started in September 2016 as a Level 2 provision for Post-16 students not wishing or able to do an A Level course or not yet ready to start an apprenticeship. The arrangement is one day doing a BTEC Work Skills course, one day doing English and Maths and three days in a work placement with the potential to progress to a formal apprenticeship at the end. Terry's role has been to identify the employers, oversee progress in the workplace and help with student progression as the course comes to an end. Of the leavers in 2017, nearly half were offered either full time work or apprenticeships in their placements, nearly a quarter found alternate apprenticeships and the rest either found other work or went on to full-time college. The WOW programme has improved the employment prospects of students that are less

academically minded whilst providing an opportunity for employers to assess their suitability for a formal apprenticeship. As such, it overcomes an early barrier identified by participating employers.

Outside of the WOW programme, Terry has continued to provide information and support to local employers regarding apprenticeships. He has also provided information on apprenticeships to Year 12 students and their parents as well as general careers support to years 9, 10, 11. A new development is supporting students that are interested in Higher and Degree level apprenticeships.

Terry will provide more detailed facts and figures relating to outcomes at the meeting.