

When telephoning, please ask for : Allen Graham
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Our Reference : Apprenticeship Levy
Your Reference :



Sent via email

Dear colleague,

I am writing to you to outline proposals for the establishment of an Apprenticeship Levy Public Sector Working Group. Our organisations have now started paying the Apprenticeship Levy and other changes to Apprenticeships also come into reality, including the flexibility to now support older staff and existing employees to develop their skills through an Apprenticeship. There is also the duty to have regard to the public sector target for 2.3% apprenticeship starts each year, based on headcount.

As public sector employers paying the levy, we have each started work to adapt to these reforms – looking at workforce needs, resourcing to manage apprenticeships and identifying challenges. There are areas where we can work together to maximise the opportunity for our workforce and to benefit our local area.

As part of the work on skills we are doing across D2N2, we are now bringing together public sector employers to look at four areas for joint work:

- Using Apprenticeship levy to meet workforce and labour market needs: As individual employers we face challenges recruiting that we could meet through a joint approach to training. Working together we can identify priority areas of workforce skills shortages, hard to fill vacancies and new areas for training that are currently not met. Outcomes could be pooled training delivery, bespoke Apprenticeships run for local needs and local authorities leading on training Apprentices for sectors with high unmet needs, such as logistics, health and social care.
- Identifying gaps in the market and working with training providers, assessment organisations and sector bodies to develop new courses and Apprenticeship Standards. The landscape for new Apprenticeships is still very much in development – there may be areas of need where new Standards aren't being developed or Standards that providers are not delivering so that training is not available.
- Promoting Apprenticeships to support recruitment and helping Apprentices to succeed: for many local authorities, Apprenticeships are way into the workforce for young people. We are finding there are often support needs that are difficult for us as employers to meet. For example, supporting young people previously NEET can be demanding for managers and requires some pastoral support. There are opportunities to work together to create an effective Apprenticeship support network to help new recruits succeed and fulfil their potential.

Rushcliffe Community
Contact Centre

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NG2 6BU

In person

Monday to Friday
8.30am - 5pm
First Saturday of
each month
9am - 1pm

By telephone

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- Shared service to reduce cost of procurement: Work is already underway to develop a shared procurement solution. Nottingham City Council has worked with public sector partners across the region to develop a new 'Approved Providers List' that will be accessible by public body employers seeking apprenticeships training in England. Access to the approved list will be free for Local Authority, Police, Fire and NHS services who register for this. It will be possible to join and use the List at any stage.

To take these opportunities forward, we are holding a Public Sector Apprenticeship Levy Forum on:

Monday, 19 June at 2:00pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7YG.

The forum is targeted at HR and Economic Development colleagues from within local authorities, police, health, and fire and rescue.

To register your organisation, please contact Emma Richardson at Rushcliffe Borough Council on erichardson@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A.G. Graham', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Allen Graham
Chief Executive
Rushcliffe Borough Council