

REPORT OF THE
Cabinet / Leader
PART II

**350. HAMPSHIRE YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAMME: PART 1
(APPRENTICESHIPS, INTERNS AND FUTURE SKILLS CENTRES)**

1. The Cabinet, at its meeting on 8 February, approved proposals to employ 1,000 apprentices over five years within the County Council, including interns. This would see the annual recruitment of 200 apprentices or interns, with the majority being apprentices. There are three levels within the apprenticeship framework – intermediate, advanced and higher. The higher level leads to a level four qualification (Foundation Degree or HNC/D equivalent) and is generally seen as an alternative for college leavers to going to university.

2. This is an initiative for the whole Council and all departments will move towards an 'Apprentice First' policy so that any grade A-C post made vacant and for which approval to recruit is given, is earmarked for an apprenticeship vacancy. All apprentices would be permanent employees of the County Council and a consortium of high quality post-16 training providers would undertake the more formal aspects of skills development.

3. The Cabinet, in approving the proposals, emphasised the County Council's leading role in many different areas and the unique opportunity the apprenticeship scheme would give young people to work with dedicated and skilled local authority officers, in both general and specialist areas.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Hampshire Youth Investment Programme: Part 1 (Apprenticeships, Internships and Future Skills Centres) (search item reference 4589)

T. K. THORNER, CBE
Leader of the Council

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