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SHEFFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Sheffield Chamber
Albion House
Savile Street
Sheffield
S4 7UD

t. 0114 201 8888
e. membership@scci.org.uk
w. www.scci.org.uk
Follow us on Twitter @sheffchamber
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Skills & Employment Forum Minutes

Wednesday 20th September 2017 – 8am – 9.30am

Wake Smith Solicitors

1 Velocity, 2 Tenter Street, Sheffield S1 4BY

Minutes

1. Attendees

John Baddley, Wake Smith (JB)
Tom Sutton, Sheffield Chamber (TS)
David Thurkettle, PWC (DT)
Ann Lyons, Thinking Partners (AL)
Andrew Hartley, Sheffield College (AH)

2. Apologies

Bridget Kelly, SHIFT Media Ltd

3. Meeting with Nigel Brewster

JB and DT met with Nigel Brewster. Nigel highlighted great opportunities within advanced manufacturing, specifically AMRC and AMID. Advancements in this sector creating highly skilled jobs and graduate employment. The AMRC and AMID will create a World Class model.

An area where there is a weakness is within IT Skills. Growing digital sector in Sheffield that is not being matched by required skills. People often require basic IT training with regards to Microsoft Office when employed in administrative roles. If we as a region are going to retain digital businesses and a growing sector we need to train people on digital skills. One of the focus areas of this Forum should be digital skills as a result. AH emphasised the importance of digital skills from the College. The College are currently investing in their digital course provision. AH cited that Sheffield Hallam are creating course that focus on cyber digital. Digital skills should be embedded within the curriculum. AH also cited a shortage of skills in software development.

JB highlighted that 23% of working age people in the SCR have low or no qualifications. TS to invite Louisa, Benchmark Recruit to present to the Forum during the next meeting to follow on from their skills research. DT highlighted the importance of the Forum in assisting navigating businesses in Sheffield and the Region to access support for skills.



4. Engagement with the Forum

TS did highlight that communications have been sent to members. AL cited challenges with people donating time to attend meetings. AL suggested discussion group with a representative range of businesses that cover all sizes and sectors. Agreed that we focus on an event to encourage involvement. Event to be organised to take place in 2018.

5. Objectives for 2018

- The Forum to focus on digital skills and the importance of in Sheffield and the region
- The Forum to assist businesses in navigating skills support in Sheffield and the region

6. Actions for Next Meeting

- TS to invite Louisa, Benchmark Recruit to next meeting
- TS to invite Jane Gratton, British Chambers of Commerce to a future Forum meeting or event
- TS to schedule next meeting in November 2017 - Tuesday 28th November

