FINAL Press Release

Funding for apprenticeship training available to local organisations

West Sussex County Council opens the second round of the Apprenticeship Funding application process from 1August 2019

From 1 August local businesses are able to apply for funding to train apprentices. The funding is available from West Sussex County Council as part of the Government’s Apprenticeships Levy Programme.

As a large levy payer West Sussex County Council has been able to utilise the fund to develop staff within its organisation. From April 2019 25% of the apprenticeship funding has been available to support external small to medium organisations across West Sussex. Due to the success of the first funding round a second round has been launched.

Businesses based in West Sussex are invited to apply to fund apprenticeship training. This is part of the solution to tackle skills shortages across a range of business sectors. This includes those in the science, technology, engineering, creative digital industries and social care organisations.

Applications will be accepted from small to medium employers seeking funding for up to four apprenticeships per organisation. Applications are made online via the West Sussex County Council Have Your Say Platform at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/apprenticeship\_levy](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/apprenticeship_levy) and closes on 31st of October 2019.

Applications are welcomed from:

* Businesses based in West Sussex serving West Sussex residents.
* Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in West Sussex serving West Sussex residents.

County Council Leader Louise Goldsmith said: “We are thrilled that we can now share some of our apprenticeship funding with other organisations across the county. Apprenticeship training is a fantastic way for employers across West Sussex to train and upskill staff that they currently employ or new staff joining them.”

One local business, Global Technologies Racing Ltd based near Arundel, has recently been awarded the apprenticeship funding, which will financially support four apprenticeship composite technicians.

Managing Director, Mark Bullen said, “For GTR, this funding will go a long way in supporting us in sustaining our workforce and maintaining high level engineering within our company. Development sits at the heart of our ability to grow as an organisation, the funding will future proof our position as a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) leader in West Sussex.”

The deadline for applications is 31 October 2019.  For more information and guidance on completing the application email apprenticeships@westsussex.gov.uk

**- ends –**