

## Apprenticeships Video Transcript

[Text: Durham County Council logo]

[Text: John Hewitt Chief Executive Director, Durham County Council]

Hello everyone, John Hewitt Chief Executive Director of Durham County Council. I am going to talk to you a little bit about the council's apprenticeship programme, but before I do that just going to give you a little bit of history as to how I came in to be Chief Executive of the council where I started my career, which was pretty much through an apprenticeship programme which is similar to what we have got available in the council today.

I suppose looking back when I left school I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do. But I thought at the time the youth training scheme, as it was called then, which is very similar to the apprenticeship programmes that are in place offered the opportunity for some on the job training, and still could progress with vocational qualifications and an opportunity just to get some experience of the world of work in an organisation where it gave us the opportunity to look at other jobs look at other opportunities, and get some real on the job experience as I went through my working life.

So back in 1988 when I joined what was an apprenticeship scheme I worked at various different departments of the council, also got lots and lots of different experiences and I think apprenticeships offer you that, they give you the on the job training, the ability to move around the council and to see how councils work and lots and lots of real life experience.

And I think that is really invaluable when you are coming into an apprenticeship to be able to get that breadth and depth of experience as you go through your working career, and I suppose looking at me as a case in point. I started off I think in housing repairs and maintenance on the apprenticeships scheme. Then moved on to work in Accountancy, passed a accountancy qualification, did general business qualifications, and eventually worked my way up through being Senior Manager, Corporate Director and currently Chief Exec of Durham County Council.

So, the opportunities are fantastic you know. If you have got the will and the drive you really can come in and work your way right through the careers structure of the council if that is what you want to do. As I say we have got lots and lots of fantastic opportunities at the council so if you are looking for an apprenticeship opportunity look at the website, look at the jobs all those that we have got available and the council is a fantastic place to work we have really do look after people we take you through a career path, ultimately looking to try and find you a job at the end of your apprenticeship programme.

So, lots of opportunities, take a look at the website and Durham County Council, a great place to work and if you are thinking about an apprenticeship contact the team and will give you some further information.

Thank you for listening.

[Text: Durham County Council logo]