

Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date:	7th May 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director - Regeneration and Resources	Report No:	RC/09/05/09/SJ/SL
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 715555
Subject:	Inverclyde Construction Plus		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to apprise members in regard to the current position regarding the development of Inverclyde Construction Plus.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following successful pilot activity of a community benefits from construction programme, Inverclyde Council has played a lead role in establishing the local Construction Plus Partnership to secure employment and training opportunities for the community arising from large scale construction projects.
- 2.2 Inverclyde Council has supported both Riverside Inverclyde and Riverclyde Homes in meeting the technical and legal requirements of additional community benefit clauses within tendering documentation. Both have been successful and community benefits is a key requirement of both organisations when releasing contracts. The company building the Riverside Business Centre have recruited 6 local groundsmen, 1 Heating Engineer and 1 Quantity Surveyor. Riverclyde Homes have recently completed a tendering process for new build homes which includes a significant percentage of community benefit requirements.
- 2.3 Community Benefits requirements have been a key element of the Inverclyde Schools Programme. As a result, the successful consortium E4i, are required to provide 15 apprenticeships, 33 General Building Operative posts plus a range of other training and work experience opportunities for the local community over the next four years. The apprentices will be across a range of skills including 3 Bricklayers, 3 Joiners, 3 Electricians, 2 Plumbers, 2 Painter & Decorators and 2 in associated professional trades. The first stage of recruitment has commenced and positions in security, groundworks and bricklaying have been secured.
- 2.4 To ensure an effective supply of suitable labour, Inverclyde Community Development Trust was appointed as a single point of contact by partners, with the support of Fairer Scotland Funds and Inverclyde Council. Other key partners and providers are Jobcentre Plus, James Watt College, Construction Skills, Careers Scotland, Action for Children, Skills Development Scotland.
- 2.5 Simultaneously, the partners have established a Construction Forum for local employers interested in opportunities for sub-contracting on the main construction projects. This is an important aspect in developing the local business base to meet the challenges of securing opportunities within the marketplace.
- 2.6 This is set against a backdrop of an economic recession, when the construction industry

generally is under severe pressure. Inverclyde Construction Plus is working with local employers and partners to ensure that the effects of recession are minimised as far as possible, additional reporting will follow on support to local apprentices.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee is recommended to:

(a) Remit to Policy and Resource Committee to approve the participation and adherence to a Partner Agreement, as listed at Appendix 1.

(b) Remit to Policy and Resources Committee to adopt a Community Benefits policy for the future letting of appropriate contracts by Inverclyde Council.

(c) Approve a formal launch of Inverclyde Construction Plus, within existing financial resources and with the support of Corporate PR Team.

4.0 Implications

4.1 Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	None

5.0 Consultations

5.1 Consultations regarding the Inverclyde Construction Plus partnership and this report have included

Inverclyde Council – Legal

Inverclyde Council – Procurement and Central Purchasing

Inverclyde Council – Education and Social Work

Riverside Inverclyde

Riverclyde Homes

Partner Agencies

Stuart Jamieson
Head of Economic and Social Regeneration

Inverclyde Construction Plus Partnership Agreement.

Background

On the basis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, Inverclyde has the second highest concentration of deprivation amongst Local Authorities in Scotland with 33% of its population living in the worst 15% of data zones for deprivation. The key contributing elements to this deprivation are health, unemployment, education and income.

The above statistics form the basis upon which the Inverclyde Alliance has developed a Single Outcome Agreement (Tackling Poverty, Sustaining Growth 2008-2011). A key component of this Agreement is to reduce unemployment through linking opportunity and need, which will be most evident in the accrual of community benefits from large scale construction projects across the area. Accordingly, partners have worked together to develop Inverclyde Construction Plus as the vehicle for delivery of community benefits.

The objectives of Inverclyde Construction Plus are to:

- secure the maximum number of job and training opportunities from the increased construction activity current underway in the district for those disadvantaged in the Inverclyde labour market who want to work and ;
- co-ordinate existing provision in Inverclyde;
- develop a strategic framework for community benefits from procurement;
- create additional training opportunities at all levels from General Building Operatives (GBO) to Modern Apprenticeship;
- promote an increase in local skills pool for construction activity;
- develop and assist local people into employment opportunities;
- support the development of a recruitment mechanism for construction companies;
- promote opportunities for local school and college students to be involved in and influence the design and construction of new schools;

Inverclyde Construction Plus is a partnership based around key agencies that have an input to supply and demand.

Lead Partners

Inverclyde Council (Economic and Social Regeneration) supported by Skills Development Scotland agree to the following and will –

- manage the Inverclyde Construction Plus partnership;
- resource and provide support to the Single Point Of Contact;
- facilitate and arrange regular meetings of Inverclyde Construction Plus forum.
- Collate and report on the delivery of the programme including outputs to the Inverclyde Alliance and across Inverclyde Council.

Demand-side

The organisations that are involved in the demand-side of the construction activity; Inverclyde Council, Riverside Inverclyde and River Clyde Homes agree to utilise similar methodologies to:

- include targeted recruitment and training requirements in contracts and agreements that relate to new build activities that will require a workforce;
- promote further community benefits to contractors and sub contractors;
- set targets and measures and measures of outputs;
- engage with the Single Point Of Contact including the notification of all associated vacancies and opportunities;
- attend regular meetings of Inverclyde construction Plus;
- participate in marketing and positive PR opportunities for the community benefits programme.

Supply side

Jobcentre Plus, Careers Scotland, Construction skills, James Watt College and Action for Children agree to the following and will-

- work in partnership to ensure a supply of suitable trainees, with the appropriate skills and knowledge, to meet local labour requirements placed upon contractors;
- engage with the Single Point Of Contact as the source of vacancies from contractors;
- engage with the Single Point Of Contact where additional trainee needs are identified;
- participate in the monitoring and delivery of the programme through the use of the Hanlon database and information system. (This may not be appropriate to all organisations where national information and client tracking systems are in place).

The Single Point of Contact

The lead partner and first point of contact for Contractors is Trust Employability Services, who will-

- be the first point of contact for companies requiring construction staff.
- receive notification of vacancies.
- identify appropriate training and pre-recruitment screening
- liaise with partners and share vacancies as appropriate
- monitor uptake of training and employment opportunities
- report on achievements and outcomes.

Principles

All partners agree to work with the single Point Of Contact and use this mechanism for filling vacancies and linking opportunity to need.

Name	Organisation	Date