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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>3 September 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director – Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>RC/09/09/06/SJ/JH</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>European Structural Funds Update</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to apprise Members in respect of the current position with regard to the performance of the Inverclyde Community Planning Partnership (CPP) European Bid, as part of the regular reporting regime and to inform Members of an application for further European funding to support employability services.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 ESEP Ltd awarded Inverclyde Council an ESF grant of £950,683 and an ERDF grant of £241,771 for the delivery of the Inverclyde Integrated Employability Programme in the financial year 2009/10.
- 2.2 This report provides Members with information on the performance of the Inverclyde Integrated Employability Programme to date.
- 2.3 In relation to the ESF application, progress to date shows that:
- 960 participants have received support (Target for year – 1700)
  - 149 participants have entered employment (Target for year – 490)
  - 284 participants have gained a partial or full qualification (Target for year – 54)
  - 99 participants are in employment 6 months after leaving the programme (Target for year – 380)

Activities have been delivered by Inverclyde Community Development Trust and Community Renewal. Both projects have undergone monitoring and are on target in terms of spend and activity levels.

It should be noted that the economic situation has changed radically since the European application was submitted and this can be evidenced by the low number of participants either entering or sustaining employment during these difficult times.

In relation to the ERDF application, progress to date shows that:

- Progress is being made on the purchase of I.T. equipment for the Employability Hubs
- Work is underway on the refurbishment of Community Renewal premises in Port Glasgow
- Preparatory work is underway on the refurbishment of the Trust's Westburn Centre.
- James Watt College have completed work on the new I.T. Suite and Beauty Salon at Finnart Campus.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the performance of the Inverclyde Integrated Employability Programme and to agree, retrospectively, to the submission of applications to European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund to continue delivery of employability services within Inverclyde.

Stuart Jamieson  
Head of Economic and Social Regeneration

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The costs of the Inverclyde Integrated Employability Programme total £3,361,345. ESF programme costs total £2,756,874 and ERDF programme costs total £604,471.
- 4.2 Ring-fenced funding for CPP bids is no longer available. Therefore, a first stage application was required to be submitted to the European 'Challenge Fund' by 14 August for a further year's funding to continue to deliver our employability services. This will be a highly competitive process.
- 4.3 Recently, the Economic & Social Regeneration Service was awarded £1.56 million under the Future Jobs Fund (FJF). FJF has a strategic link to the Inverclyde Integrated Employability Programme and therefore a separate Stage 1 application will be submitted to the Challenge Fund to seek European funding that, if successful, will allow us to extend the period of a job for those clients under FJF from 6 months to one year.
- 4.4 Due to delays in ESEP Ltd sending the offer of grant letter, the programme did not start delivering until October 2008. Nevertheless, this means that activity is in line with the start date of the Fairer Scotland Fund which is providing match funding of £1,806,191 to the ESF element and £54,000 to the ERDF element. The programme is due to end on 31 March 2010, unless further funding is secured.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Finance:

#### Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Fairer Scotland Fund		2010/11			Match funding contribution to Inverclyde Integrated Employability Programme

#### Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments

- 5.2 Personnel: There are no personnel implications.
- 5.3 Legal: There are no legal implications.
- 5.4 Equalities: Equality and diversity processes comply with EU requirements. Equal Opportunities; Issues of Gender & Disability and Social Inclusion have been addressed in the design of the funding bid.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation with Strategic Employability Group.