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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> May 2010</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director- Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>P&amp;R/10/05/01/ SJ/SL</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stuart Jamieson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715555</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Local Employment Partnership - Update</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to apprise members in regard to the implementation of the Local Employment Partnership (LEP) within Inverclyde.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Regeneration Committee approved Inverclyde Councils participation in a Local Employment Partnership with Jobcentre Plus on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

2.2 The aim of a Local Employment Partnership is to improve joint working and facilitate opportunities for local unemployed people, supported by measures that may include work trials, work placements, pre-employment training and flexible working practices.

2.3 Against a backdrop of economic decline Inverclyde Council implemented a number of measures to support the objectives of the Local Employment Partnership.

- 2009/10 – notified 162 Council vacancies to jobcentre plus.
- 2009/10 – arranged a total of 40 work placements for unemployed people with support from James Watt College, ENABLE and TRUST Employability Services.
- Reviewed all recruitment practices and procedures to ensure they are not discriminatory.
- Continue to offer flexible working practices and arrangements.
- Recruited 2 redundant apprentice joiners under the Adopt An Apprentice Scheme.
- Secured a Future Jobs Fund contract which has delivered 120 jobs across the Inverclyde area and will deliver a further 360 jobs in this financial year. These posts are created for unemployed people, delivered in conjunction with Jobcentre Plus and Trust Employability Services. The council manages the contract but also employs young people directly through the programme, indeed Jobcentre Plus have nominated Inverclyde for a national award in recognition of excellent partnership working.

2.4 Improving employability is a key objective of Inverclyde Council and is a specific target within the Inverclyde Single Outcome Agreement. Local partners are currently developing an Employer Engagement service supported through European funding and which will incorporate a seconded member of staff from Jobcentre Plus as further

evidence of partnership working.

**2.5** Improving employability is a key objective of Regeneration and Planning and of the Fairer Scotland Fund.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 Members approve the continued participation in the LEP and the excellent working relations with Jobcentre Plus.

Members remit to the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Environment to submit an annual report to Policy and Resources Committee on implementation and development of the agreement.

Stuart Jamieson  
Head of Regeneration and Planning

## 4.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 4.1 Finance: None

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	n/a

Personnel: Initial consultation has taken place and further discussions are required.

Legal: Consultation required.

Equalities: Local Employment Partnerships comply with and enhance Equalities and Diversification requirements.

Full consideration is given within employability programmes to equal opportunities which are non-discriminatory on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Programme design is undertaken with consideration of the diverse needs of target clients and to fully enable their participation on employability programmes.

The employability agenda is an integral component of promoting social inclusion and of geographical targeting at our most deprived areas.