
Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date:	1st September 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director - Regeneration & Environment	Report No:	RC/11/05/02/SJ/SL
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712401
Subject:	Future Jobs Fund – Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update on the final phase of the Future Jobs Fund programme and future delivery led by Inverclyde Council.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Future Jobs Fund recruitment completed in March 2011, a total of 480 participants obtained a job through this programme.
- 2.2 Inverclyde Council achieved 100% contract compliance in participation and secured £3.12 million in employability funds for the area.
- 2.3 As a result of the success of the programme, Inverclyde Council has approved an additional Future Jobs Fund programme incorporated within end to end employability services, at a cost to the Council of £550,000 for a single year commencing in April 2011.
- 2.4 The new Inverclyde Council Future Jobs Programme will deliver a total of 100 posts, within the same framework and using the same employer engagement as the previous programme, having completed the appropriate tender exercise within the Regeneration Fund. Currently, 31 posts have been recruited with an additional 39 currently advertised with the local job centres.
- 2.5 A development within the previous programme was the creation of specific graduate posts and a total of 25 graduates were recruited on enhanced Future Jobs. This will continue with the new programme and a total of 10 graduate posts will be created offering additional support to the careers of the participants.
- 2.6 Simultaneously, the Scottish Government has announced a national Future Jobs Fund programme. This will be delivered across Scotland by Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, despite high expectations it has emerged that the national programme will create only 34 posts within Inverclyde. The Leader has written to the Finance Minister on this subject, however, he is still awaiting a response.
- 2.7 Discussions are ongoing with SCVO about the cohesion of programme activity as it appears that the Organisation is unwilling to work with the local employability providers and thereby are creating a two tier Future Jobs programme.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Regeneration Committee note the successful delivery of Future Jobs Fund including the impact on individuals and the economic benefits which accrued to the Inverclyde economy.

- 3.2 The Committee note the excellent partnership working that has been established including Inverclyde Council, Jobcentre Plus and Inverclyde Community Development Trust. The latter in particular have successfully engaged a significant number of employers and ensured a wide range of community benefits.

Aubrey Fawcett
Corporate Director – Regeneration and Environment

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Future Jobs Fund programme has been delivered in Inverclyde since October 2009 and has met the contracted performance target of employing 480 people.
- 4.2 The Future Jobs Fund continues to perform well in terms of retaining employees throughout the full 6 month term, with over 90% of employees completing their full employment period.
- 4.3 Final recruitment has been completed, currently there remain 64 active participants on the programme and this will reduce until full completion of the programme in September 2011.
- 4.4 Work remains ongoing to further support those who have completed their 6 month placement, with employability services. There is a natural progression from Future Jobs Fund to Trust Employability Services on completion of the six month period of employment.
- 4.5 Simultaneously, the Scottish Government has announced a national Future Jobs Fund programme. This will be delivered across Scotland by Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, it is hoped that Inverclyde will benefit substantially and it is anticipated the national programme will commence in October 2011. Officers are continuing to try to establish how the SCVO programme will be rolled out in Inverclyde.

5.0 FINANCE

- 5.1 Overall, £3.12 million in employability funds secured for the Inverclyde area over the course of the whole contract period.
- 5.2 In total, £2.92 million has been paid from the Department of Work and Pensions to date.
- 5.3 Payments will be on going on a monthly basis until October 2011. The final FJF employees complete their employment on 24th September 2011.
- 5.4 The dedicated Inverclyde Council Future Jobs programme 2011/12, will create 100 additional posts at a cost of £550,000. This was tendered as part of the regeneration Fund and is delivered in partnership by Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Inverclyde Council, Jobcentre Plus and local voluntary sector organisations.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 Consultations regarding the Future Jobs Fund have included all appropriate partners.
Inverclyde Council – HR and all Departments
Inverclyde Community Development Trust
Jobcentre Plus
Voluntary Sector
Strategic Employability Group