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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>2nd May 2013</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director – Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>E+R/13/05/05/SJ/IB</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>National Training Programmes</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the outcome of the bidding process required by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) in securing the Council's 2013-14 contracts to operate National Training Programmes (NTPs) and to advise of the considerable change to the Get Ready for Work Training Programme which has been subsumed into the new initiative of the "Employability Fund".

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 On submission of the proposal bid to SDS, new Provider Contracts, covering the operating period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, confirmed a total funding support for the Modern Apprenticeship Training Programme to be £69,031. In addition, the residual GRfW and the new Employability Fund contract amounted to an overall estimated financial schedule of £114,374. This confirms an increase in value for the current contract year across the individual training programmes.
- 2.2 With the successful bid securing funding contribution from Skills Development Scotland, the Modern Apprenticeship Training Programme will recruit a minimum of 8 new Modern Apprentices at Level 2 and 3 to complement the existing 2012-13 programme of 50 young people at SVQ qualification Levels 2, 3 & 4 within a range of occupational areas and employers. Of those currently in training, all are on track to achieve the required VQ and complete their planned programme of training.
- 2.3 The Employability Fund contract schedule confirms the volume/value awarded is within the age group of 16-17 years for 20 x Stage 2 candidates and 20 x Stage 3 candidates. A further 20 residual GRfW trainees are currently being trained (on an average 26 week training programme) within Inverclyde Leisure Trust.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Environment & Regeneration Committee note the successful proposal bids in securing 2013-14 contracts with SDS, securing additional funding support to enhance the Council's National Training Programmes, at an increased financial level from 2012-13.
- 3.2 That the Committee note the change from Get Ready for Work Training Programme to that of the Employability Fund.
- 3.3 That the Committee note the ongoing recruitment process for the 2013-14 National Training Programmes.

Aubrey Fawcett  
Corporate Director – Environment, Regeneration & Resources

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

### Modern Apprenticeship Training Programme

- 4.1 During 2012-13 occupational areas covered by the Modern Apprenticeship Training Programme included: Business Admin; Customer Service; ICT Service Desk Technician; Construction; Sport & Leisure; Trainee Accountant and Life Science, i.e., School Laboratory Technician with 50 young people benefiting from the Council's MA Training Programme. Although not all sector areas received SDS funding contribution, Inverclyde Council piloted two additional areas of Customer Service and Life Science, which resulted in SDS acknowledging the experience gained in delivery, funding support was approved within the new contract term and the Council can once again offer this training as an additional MA opportunity during 2013-14.
- 4.2 In order to streamline contract management greater flexibility has been introduced in terms of redistributing starts within the contract volume/value for this year, therefore should the Council's business needs change throughout this contract year, SDS has recently reviewed its terms and conditions for National Training Programmes and is hoping to have simplified the contracts which should facilitate more streamlined contract management for the providers.

### Employability Fund

- 4.3 This is the inaugural year of the Employability Fund which has been developed to bring together a range of previous employability funding streams, including GRfW, supporting activity through key elements/stages and represents an opportunity to achieve the overall aim of improving outcomes to participants. Contracts awarded are the result of a co-decision making process with representatives of Local Employability Partnerships (LEPs) in line with identified need for starts by age and stage.
- 4.4 The aims of the Employability Fund fit well with the wider post-16 education and training reform aims of economic growth, improving life chances and sustainability, putting learners at the centre.

## 5.0 FINANCE

### 5.1 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	N/A

## 6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 Consultations regarding the Modern Apprenticeship Training Programme and Employability Fund have included all appropriate partners.