
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	30 April 2015
Report By:	Corporate Director – Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	E+R/15/04/05/SJ/SL
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	Ext. 2402
Subject:	Youth Employment Initiative – YEI Scotland		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the Youth Employment Scotland Initiative (YEI Scotland).

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 YEI Scotland is a Scottish Government Programme. The focus of YEI Scotland is to provide training opportunities for young people by providing packages of interventions to facilitate a young persons' transition to the labour market. YEI Scotland is results focused, and it is expected that young people receive a quality offer of employment, education/training, full qualification, apprenticeship or traineeship.
- 2.2 On 9th March, Inverclyde Council submitted an application for funding to deliver further youth employment initiatives under the YEI Programme – resources made available and jointly funded by Scottish Government and the European Commission.
- 2.3 The Council have bid to deliver a 3 year programme, with total project costs of £1,380,000. The budget is composed of an external grant of £920,000 and the Council is required to provide match funding of £460,000 – the latter from existing employability activity and identified resources.
- 2.4 If successful, the programme will commence in May 2015 for 3 years – delivering employability support to 300 young people aged 16-29, including advice, training, wage subsidy and employer engagement.
- 2.4 If the application is successful, Inverclyde will seek to procure service provision through Public Contracts Scotland.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Committee note the progress being made with YEI Scotland.
- 3.2 That Committee note the associated finance and outputs for YEI Scotland.
- 3.3 That Committee grant delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Environment, Regeneration and Resources to receive the funding and proceed to securing service delivery through tendering for the activity on Public Contracts Scotland.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Tackling Youth Unemployment is a key objective of Government at all levels and is a key aim for Inverclyde – as evidenced in the Single Outcome Agreement and the Youth Employment Activity Plan.
- 4.2 In 2014, Scottish Government announced that they were providing additional resources to tackle youth employment issues through a joint package of Scottish Government and European funding. A total of £40m was made available, to be channelled through Local Authorities and subject to rigorous application procedures.
- 4.3 In January 2015, notional allocations by Local Authority areas were issued and Councils were invited to bid in for funding by the closing date in March 2015.
- 4.4 Inverclyde Council submitted an application to deliver support to 300 young people over the 3 years of the programme – with a range of support and services to enable positive transitions and progressions in the labour market.
- 4.5 The YEI programme will deliver to a specific cohort of young people, a range of options from engagement, learning, participation and progression – tailored to the needs of individual clients. Clients will benefit from detailed assessment of needs, support with removal of barriers, access to training, work experience and support to progress to positive outcomes in employment, training, education or traineeship.
- 4.6 The programme provides complementary services to the mainstream ESF provision to Inverclyde's Employability Pipeline, the funding for YEI will enable an enhanced package of support and opportunities for young people in Inverclyde, replace activity previously delivered in successfully piloted programmes under the Youth Employment Scotland Fund (YESF), and provide specific support to clients that Inverclyde Council funding alone would not be able to provide.
- 4.7 Scottish Government has not put a specific timescale on responses to Local Authorities, but it is anticipated that the response will be urgent given the stage of the funding and at that point Inverclyde Council will move quickly to implementation.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Good progress has been made, the funding application has been submitted and the Council awaits feedback from Scottish Government before moving to implementation – should the application be successful.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A	Employability	2015-2018	£120,000.		Employability budget – match funding.

Legal

6.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

6.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

Equalities

6.4 There are no equalities implications arising from this report, other than to highlight that the service provision will facilitate diversity and equality in recruitment.

Repopulation

6.5 The allocation of £980,000 and the delivery of the agreed workstreams will provide key information in respect of the initiatives the Council can undertake to invest in to reverse the population decline and begin to grow Inverclyde's population. It is recognised, however, there is no quick fix to this issue and continued investment in the most successful initiatives will be required to ensure continued progress.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 This activity has been discussed with the Inverclyde Regeneration and Employability Group.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None