
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	27 October 2016
Report By:	Corporate Director – Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	E+R/16/10/02/SJ/SL
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712402
Subject:	Update on Employability Fund – Skills Development Scotland Contract		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Inverclyde Council is contracted by Skills Development Scotland to deliver the Employability Fund, with a range of training opportunities for local unemployed residents.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In March 2016, Inverclyde Council received notification from Skills Development Scotland that its bid to deliver training placements for young people was successful. A contract was issued to deliver 49 training placements with a contract income of £89,415.
- 2.2 Delivery of the programme commenced in April 2016 and at 30th September is slightly ahead of schedule, with 28 trainees of whom 14 have completed and moved into employment. A further one completer moved into further education.
- 2.3 Inverclyde Council will continue to deliver the contract with local partners to fulfil the contract requirement and ensure participants get the best possible range of support to progress towards sustainable employment.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Committee note the progress being made with programme delivery.

Aubrey Fawcett
Corporate Director – Environment, Regeneration & Resources

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Tackling Youth Unemployment is a key objective of Government at all levels and is a key aim for Inverclyde Council – as evidenced in the Single Outcome Agreement and the Youth Employment Activity Plan.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council has a strong track record in securing contracts and delivering on the Scottish Government Employability Fund – administered by Skills Development Scotland. In April 2016, Inverclyde Council commenced the activity for this current financial year with a contract to deliver 49 work placements at a value of £89,415. Traditionally these have been in the area of Business Administration but in recent years the programme has expanded to offer a wider range of occupational areas.
- 4.3 The Employability Fund replaced the former Get Ready for Work programme, traditionally the participants have been individuals with significant barriers to participation. Of the current 2016 cohort, individuals have been assessed with barriers relating to mental health, disability, addictions, homelessness, a care leaver and experience of the criminal justice system.
- 4.4 In addition, the age categories for the activity have been expanded, whereas in previous years the programme was for disengaged 16-19 year olds, there are now a significantly higher number of participants of an older and more long term unemployed aged group, including those aged 50 plus.
- 4.5 During their period of training, participants have access to a range of training including the Certificate of Work Readiness, First Aid and Health & Safety.
- 4.6 Positive outcomes for the programme are good and Inverclyde Council year on year deliver higher employment outcomes than other providers, which is achieved with the support of local partners and organisations.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Delivery of the programme commenced in April 2016 and at 30th September is slightly ahead of schedule, with 28 trainees of whom 14 have completed and moved into employment. A further one completer moved into further education.
- 5.2 Inverclyde Council will continue to deliver the contract with local partners to fulfil the contract requirement and ensure participants get the best possible range of support to progress towards sustainable employment.
- 5.3 Good progress has been made, contract has been secured and delivery is ongoing.

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) – **The budget is 100% external contract.**

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

6.3 All posts are recruited with the support of HR.

Equalities

6.4 Service provision will facilitate diversity and equality in recruitment, all procedures will fall within the policy and practice of Inverclyde Council.

Repopulation

6.5 The delivery of the programme will provide key opportunities that will contribute to a reversal in population decline. 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 Consultations with Departments have included all Heads of Service and appropriate Finance Officers.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.