

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 24TH SEPTEMBER 2007

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME FUND
ALLOCATION 2007/2008**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 487-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report details the background to the establishment of the Dundee Partnership Employability Programme Fund 2007-2008 and makes recommendations on allocation to projects.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- 2.2 Notes the process for allocating grants through the Assessment Panel established by the Employability Group of the Dundee Partnership.
- 2.3 Endorses the recommendation to mirror the Community Regeneration Fund processes in the management of the Employability Programme Fund.
- 2.4 Endorses the funding proposals contained in Section 4.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This report recommends the allocation of £367,427 of the Employability Programme Grant Fund.
- 3.2 Dundee City Council has agreed to act as the accountable body for Workforce Plus funds and Disadvantaged Areas Fund on behalf of the Dundee Partnership (Dundee Partnership Employability Plan 2006-2009). The Partnership has amalgamated these funds into the Employability Programme Fund. There are no direct financial implications for Dundee City Council arising from this report.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 On 10th October 2006 the Scottish Executive made a formal offer of Closing the Opportunity Gap Fund for Workforce Plus to Dundee City Council on behalf of the Dundee Partnership.
- 4.2 The purpose of Workforce Plus is to reduce worklessness in Scotland by improving the employability infrastructure and improving the support that is given to workless people and to employers.
- 4.3 In accepting Workforce Plus the Dundee Partnership has committed to contributing to the Workforce Plus target of reducing worklessness in Scotland by 66,000 between 2006 and 2010.
- 4.4 The partnership has been allocated funding of £1,022,000 for 2006-2008 to assist in the implementation of Workforce Plus Activity.

- 4.5 During 2006 the Dundee Partnership approached the Department for Work and Pensions with the aim of becoming a City Strategy Pathfinder area. City Strategy is a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) initiative designed to test out the effectiveness of devolution of strategy from DWP to local Partnerships.
- 4.6 The Minister for Welfare Reform and Employment approved the Dundee Partnership Employability Plan during May 2007. This enabled the Partnership to access DWP Disadvantaged Areas Fund (DAF). £1,029,460 DAF for the period 2007-2009 was accepted by Dundee City Council on behalf of the Dundee Partnership on 11th July 2007.
- 4.7 MANAGING THE EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME FUND
- 4.7.1 The Partnership has chosen to align Workforce Plus and DAF funding in order to:
- Promote a Dundee wide approach to employability.
 - Promote wide access to employability programmes.
 - Create efficiency by merging application and administrative processes.
- 4.7.2 In order to streamline processes for the allocation of funds it is recommended that the mechanism for the allocation of the Employability Fund mirrors the mechanism for the allocation of the Community Regeneration Fund and that:
- a) Dundee City Council acts as the accountable body reporting to the Dundee Partnership.
 - b) The overall responsibility for decisions on the Employability Programme Fund will be taken formally by the Dundee Partnerships Employability Group.
 - c) Allocations to employability projects, initiatives and activities will be taken by an Assessment Panel comprising representation from Partnership bodies including City Council (Economic Development Department), the Employability Programme, the NEET Partnership (young people Not in Employment, Education or Training), Jobcentre Plus and the Working For Families initiative.
- 4.7.3 A commissioning letter requesting proposals for employability focused activity was sent to a range of organisations who had expressed interest in contributing to Dundee's Employability Programme during seminars and consultations held as part of the Employability Plan planning process or had been identified through research.
- 4.7.4 As a result 30 applications for funding were received and have been considered by the Assessment Panel.
- 4.8 FUNDING ALLOCATION
- 4.8.1 All proposals have been considered by the Assessment Panel in relation to outcomes, value for money, how proposals build on and add value to the existing infrastructure, past performance and how well the proposals meet the needs of customers and employers.

- 4.8.2 In this allocation round funding is limited to assisting projects until 31 March 2008 in line with the Workforce Plus Budget.
- 4.8.3 The Employability Programme Fund aims to reward success and where providers exceed the outcomes in terms of moving people toward and into work. It is proposed to set aside a Performance Budget heading of £15,656 to reward providers where they exceed the performance which has been agreed. Where provider's delivery falls significantly short of their proposed outcomes the partnership will withhold funding.
- 4.8.4 The partnership recommends funding of the projects, initiatives and activity detailed in the table below.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Funding Allocated</u>
Apex	Inside out Project	£27,157
Claverhouse	Lone Parent Project	£63,000
Claverhouse	Workless Families Project	£42,000
Craigowl Communities	Skills for Success	£59,422
Triage	Workconnect	£117,267
Barnardo's	Youthbuild	£38,657
Volunteer Centre Dundee	Promotion of Volunteering as a Route to Employment	£3,130
Volunteer Centre Dundee	Volunteer into Work Event	£1,138
Employability Programme	Performance Budget	£15,656
Total		£367,427

- 4.8.5 There are proposals which the Assessment Panel considers to have merit but require further development and the partnership will work with these in order to develop them to a stage where they can be funded and implemented.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty and Equality Impact Assessment.
- 5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance.

7.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS

- 7.1 Article III of the Minute of Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 11th September 2006.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 13TH SEPTEMBER 2007