

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Department**

**Tendering Committee: 18 June 2008**

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**Subject: Tender for the Supply and Delivery of the West Dunbartonshire  
Employability Programme - Neighbourhood Outreach Service**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report seeks Committee approval for the Council to initiate a tender on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for the supply and delivery of the West Dunbartonshire Employability Programme - Neighbourhood Outreach service.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Council as lead partner of the Community Planning Partnership has submitted a European Structural Funds application to ESEP for the West Dunbartonshire Employability Programme (WDEP).
- 2.2** The WDEP invests in a programme of new and proven employability interventions for the workless residents of the most disadvantaged areas of West Dunbartonshire and has been approved in principle by ESEP.
- 2.3** The Neighbourhood Outreach Service is one element of the WDEP. This service will establish bases in those neighbourhoods experiencing the highest levels of worklessness and teams of outreach staff will utilise community development approaches to engage with the hardest to reach groups.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The cost of providing the Neighbourhood Outreach service exceeds the European Threshold and therefore requires to be tendered through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
- 3.2** The Neighbourhood Outreach service is an essential element of the WDEP and this tender seeks to provide continuity of service delivery to clients.
- 3.3** The Community Planning Partnership board have given approval for Community Renewal to provide this neighbourhood outreach service until 30 September 2008. The Council will therefore require initiating a tender on behalf of the CPP with a start date of 1 October 2008.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** Staff previously employed to deliver the Neighbourhood Outreach service through Building Better Futures (BBF) currently carry out these services with our current provider. Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 may apply to this contract.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The anticipated cost for the delivery of the Neighbourhood Outreach service is in the region of £700,000 per annum. It is proposed to award the contract for the period from 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2010. The cost of this service will be met through match funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund and European Funds.
- 5.2** Although ESEP have confirmed that our European Structural Fund application has been approved in principle, the amount of grant to be awarded has still to be determined and may reduce which may in turn lead to a reduction in the anticipated cost of the tender. This possibility will be reflected in the Tender documentation.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** Failure to initiate a tender exercise is regarded as a risk to continued service provision and would result in a de-commitment of European Funding.

#### **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1** A tendering exercise will provide a competitive, robust and transparent option for service continuation.

#### **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1** **The Committee is invited to consider and approve the initiation of an open tendering route for the supply and delivery to the Community Planning Partnership of the West Dunbartonshire Employability Programme - Neighbourhood Outreach Service.**

**Elaine Melrose**

**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Date: 5 June 2008**

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**Appendices:**

Nil

**Background Papers:**

None

**Wards Affected:**

Leven (2), Dumbarton (3), Clydebank Central (5),  
Whitecrook (6)