

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

Tendering Committee: 4 August 2010

**Subject: Tender for the Supply and Delivery of the West Dunbartonshire
Employability Programme - Key Worker 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 - Key Worker 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 which has been approved in principle to extend the project activity within the West Dunbartonshire Employability Programme for the period from 1 December 2010 - 31 July 2011.
- 2.2** The Key Worker service is an essential element of the WDEP which invests in a programme of interventions for the workless residents of the most disadvantaged areas of West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.3** The Lennox Partnership is currently contracted by West Dunbartonshire Council to provide a key worker service as part of the WDEP until 31 July 2010.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The cost of providing the key worker service exceeds the European Threshold and therefore requires to be re-tendered through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
- 3.2** The Lennox Partnership will continue to provide the current level of service provision until a new contract has been awarded to ensure continuity of service delivery to clients.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** Staff currently employed by The Lennox Partnership through the existing key worker service contract will transfer to the successful contractor, unless otherwise determined by The Lennox Partnership, on their existing terms and conditions of employment as provided for in the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The anticipated cost for the delivery of the key worker service is in the region of £240,000. This service will continue to be funded through the CPP Investment Fund and European Structural Funds. It is proposed to award the contract for the period 1 December 2010 – 31 July 2011 with the option of a one year extension subject to continuation of funding.

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. Equalities Impact

- 7.1** The WDEP has targets relating to gender, age groups, ethnic origin, disability and health difficulties. This information is collated by projects and reported on a monthly basis for monitoring purposes.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1** A tendering exercise will provide a competitive, robust and transparent option for service continuation.
- 8.2** The committee is invited to consider and approve the initiation of an open tendering route for the supply and delivery of the West Dunbartonshire Employability Programme - Key Worker service.

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Date: 20 July 2010

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All