

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services

Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee: 2 August 2006

Subject: New Deal Environment Task Force (ETF)

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To update the Committee on the performance of ETF in 2005/2006 and the revised arrangements put in place to deliver the service within West Dunbartonshire.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Economic Development Section within Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services has managed the contract to deliver the Government's New Deal Environment Task Force Option since 1998/1999 and has successfully arranged training places for young unemployed people using a number of providers throughout East and West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.2** A total of 160 trainees started on ETF in the year from April 2005 to April 2006. The option runs for 13 weeks with trainees placed in a real work situation with a sub provider. These placements are in construction, gardening, white goods recycling and house insulation. They are provided in the main by not for profit social economy companies, which include Greenlight, Lomond Training, Addapt Limited and Solas. The trainees have been unemployed for more than 6 months before entering the programme. Young offenders are also referred to the programme. The trainees receive both work experience and other employment skills such as CV writing and interview skills. Some trainees are employed by the training providers, others move onto jobs elsewhere or into other training. Out of 150 leavers last year, 56 (38%) went into jobs.
- 2.3** The Council has one training project which is run by the Housing and Property Services Section and draws additional funding from New Deal, the Council's Economic Development budget and European Funds. This project is training for construction and keeps the trainees employed for up to one year in which they learn a mixture of trade skills in both a workshop setting and on site. Past projects have included renovation of a community education centre and refurbishment of communal areas of elderly accommodation. There are 10 trainees on the project at present. An application for European Funding to assist the project in 2007 has recently been submitted.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** At November last year Job Centre Plus announced that the New Deal would now be delivered with all options under one umbrella and be delivered across the larger area of Argyll & Bute and West Dunbartonshire.
- 3.2** As a result a partnership was formed to bid for and deliver the New Deal. It was confirmed in April that the partnership bid for delivery was successful. The partnership is led by Argyll & Bute Council, who have the legal contract with Job Centre Plus. It has been confirmed that West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to deliver the ETF option. Other partners include Argyll Training and Tell Training who will deliver the Further Education and Training Option and Management Introductions who will deliver the Intensive Activity Period for age 25+ unemployed. This partnership is one of the few led by a local authority which was awarded a New Deal contract in Scotland. The contract runs to April 2008.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1** Delivery of ETF by the Council is funded by payments arising from contractual arrangements with Job Centre Plus and this income will continue to be generated notwithstanding the revised arrangements.

5. Personnel Issues

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1** The Economic Development Section continues to manage the ETF effectively and to deliver successful outcomes. The changes to New Deal have been successfully achieved through partnership working resulting in a smooth transition to the new contractual arrangements.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1** **The Committee is invited to note the continued successful co-ordination of New Deal 18-24 Environment Task Force and the positive outcomes achieved.**

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Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services
Date: 13 July 2006

Wards Affected: All Wards

Appendix: Nil

Background Papers: Nil

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