

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services)

Community Safety & Environmental Services Committee : 6 December 2006

Subject: New Employment Apprenticeship Training (N.E.A.T.): Engineering

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to bring the Committee up to date on the progress of the N.E.A.T. Engineering Project which has provided access for 12 young people to gain an opportunity to commence training towards an engineering apprenticeship. This programme is delivered in partnership with Colleges, Private Sector Training Companies, the Skillseekers and Economic Development Sections.

2. Background

- 2.1** The aim of N.E.A.T. is to increase the number of vocational traineeships for young people within West Dunbartonshire. The programme offers financial support to companies who give young people between the ages of 16 and 23 years, both on and off the job training, thus enabling the young person to achieve an apprenticeship within that company's industry.
- 2.2** The level of grant is dependent on upon the sector, the apprentice and their circumstances. Participating apprentices must be residents of West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.3** The key objective of this programme is to remove the barriers holding companies back from offering young people apprenticeships and subsequently employment.
- 2.4** The key focus of the programme has, on an ongoing basis, provided opportunities within a variety of service sectors.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Consultations with the engineering sector in West Dunbartonshire during 05/06 indicated that very few apprenticeships would be created within the foreseeable future. The main reason identified, was companies could not afford the initial cost of first year training, which is totally college based, with no return for the company.

- 3.2** To alleviate this situation an engineering pilot commenced in August 2005 in partnership with the Economic Development Section, Tell Training, Anniesland College and Local Employers. Six young people commenced and successfully completed the first year at Anniesland College with 5 of the 6 joining local companies as engineering apprentices, with one continuing further education at Glasgow Nautical College studying towards a qualification in Naval Engineering.
- 3.3** In August this year 6 young people commenced full time training at Clydebank College working towards the achievement of a SVQ Performing Engineering Operations at Level 2 and a National Certificate in Engineering. All 6 trainees have settled into the College routine and are performing well.
- 3.4** The partners involved, Clydebank College, MI Technologies Limited and staff from the Skillseekers and Economic Development Sections will over the next few months commence marketing local engineering companies to take forward the next phase of the project and find suitable employment opportunities for the trainees.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** The marketing exercise will be carried out with existing resources and will not otherwise impact on service provision.

5. Financial Implication

- 5.1** The project is funded from existing Economic Development and Skillseekers section revenue budgets. Trainees are paid £85.00 per week plus travel expenses. College fees are paid through monies drawn down from Scottish Enterprise by MI Technologies in respect of progress and completion of the level 2 SVQ.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1** The engineering pilot proved to be a success in its first year and progress is being made on consolidating the programme in its second year. Eleven young people from West Dunbartonshire are now in apprenticeship training in engineering who otherwise may not have been.
- 6.2** The Economic Development and Skillseekers sections continue to work in partnership with Employers, Careers Scotland, private Training Providers and Colleges to identify and address gaps in training and employment provision.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to note the success of partnership working in this initiative, which has resulted in 12 young people from West Dunbartonshire commencing apprenticeship training in engineering over the past 2 years.**

Irving Hodgson

**Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services
(Housing & Regeneration Services)**

Date: 8 November 2006

Wards Affected:

All

Appendix:

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Background Papers:

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