

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2016

REPORT ON: DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE – EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 159-2016

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval for running a rolling programme of European Social Fund (ESF) employability funds that have been awarded to the Dundee Partnership from mid 2016 to December 2018.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the request to award ESF on a grant basis for organisations that can provide match funding for ESF as per Structural Funds rules and note that a further report will be brought back to Committee advising on projects that have been successful.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has approved an allocation of £1.9m of ESF to the Dundee Partnership for Dundee Employability Skills pipeline provision to be spent by December 2018. ESF will fund up to 40% of eligible activities and match funds must be secured for the remaining 60%. Deducting the amount of ESF that will remain once Dundee City Council match funded activities are taken into account, this will leave a balance in excess of £1m that can be opened up to organisations who can bring their own match funds. In running a rolling programme of ESF grants, this will enable:
- a Dundee City Council, on behalf of the Dundee Partnership, to lever in additional funds to be able to utilise as much of the ESF allocation to Dundee as possible;
 - b make more employability provision available to jobless citizens; and
 - c ultimately achieve a greater volume of jobs and other positive outcomes.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The funds will be targeted at people in Dundee that most require support in moving into work, that is, unemployed and inactive people aged 16+ who reside in a Dundee City postcode area and who have/are at least 2 additional barriers (See Appendix A).
- 4.2 DCC services can access the funding to deliver employability services and to resource better linkages with the Dundee Employability Service that is currently being developed in response to the Dundee Partnership employability service review.
- 4.3 The opportunity to access the ESF funding will be highlighted and promoted to all DCC services.
- 4.4 The assessment of projects will, in line with the recommendations made in the review, take into account the findings of the review, in particular the recommendations that proposals for funding should demonstrate responsiveness to the individual needs of workless citizens and responsiveness to the needs of employers.
- 4.5 ESF funds will be openly advertised as per Scottish Government ESF requirements - including local media, Dundee City Council and Dundee Partnership websites.

4.6 Proposal forms, guidance and the scoring framework will be devised by the Policy and Funding team. Eligible organisations will be able to apply at any time up to the end of December 2018 and awards will be made on a grant basis.

4.7 All evaluation and scoring will be done by the Dundee Partnership Employability Assessment Group (DCC, DWP, SDS, Third Sector Interface) chaired by DCC.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

6 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

6.2 Significant consultation with Scottish Government, Third Sector suppliers, and Departmental Service Managers has taken place. From this, officers have ascertained that there is interest in taking up the opportunities, if approved.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 There are no background papers of relevance to this report.

Mike Galloway
Executive Director of City Development

Gregor Hamilton
Head of Planning and Economic Development

GH/RR/MG/KM

7 April 2016

Dundee City Council
Dundee House
Dundee

APPENDIX AAdditional Barriers

- Suffering from a long term (12 months plus) physical illness or a condition;
- Disabled;
- Suffering from a mental health problem;
- Low qualificational attainment;
- Lone parent or residing in a workless household;
- Long term unemployed (1 year plus);
- Homeless;
- Have an unspent criminal record;
- Asylum seeker or refugee;
- Migrant worker or have a foreign background or minority
- No work experience;
- Primary carer;
- Looked after young person;
- Substance issues;
- Armed Forces veteran; and/or
- Age 54+.