

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel Committee - 21 June 2004

REPORT ON: Economic Development Department - Working for Families Fund - Establishment of Temporary Posts

REPORT BY: Director of Economic Development and Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

REPORT NO: 422-2004

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report outlines the background to the new Working for Families Initiative, supported in Dundee, by the Scottish Executive, and the services that will be provided by the funding, including those provided directly by Dundee City Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the establishment of the following temporary posts until 31 March 2006:-

- 1 post of Working for Families Co-ordinator, graded AP5, £22,398 - £24,396;
- 1 post of Working for Families Finance/Administrative Officer, graded AP2, £15,582 - £16,866.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The costs, including employer's costs, of these temporary posts amount to £27,907 for the current year and £50,720 for the financial year 2005/06. These costs will be met from funding from the Scottish Executive.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The initiative addresses the following key theme related to Local Agenda 21 - "access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society". By its very nature the Working for Families Fund seeks to develop services to help people in disadvantaged areas and groups who find childcare a barrier to employment or training and will offer opportunities to many who currently are disadvantaged as a result of childcare barriers.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The initiative will address a number of issues that impact on equal opportunities. For example, the initiative will make Dundee a more family/parent friendly city offering opportunities to reduce barriers to parents participating in the labour market and actions will improve access to information and services.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1 In December 2003, the Social Justice Department of the Scottish Executive announced funding for 10 local authorities in Scotland from the Working for Families Fund to develop services to help people in disadvantaged areas and groups who find childcare a barrier to employment or training. Dundee City Council has been awarded £1M in 2004/05 and a further £1M in 2005/06.
- 6.2 The Scottish Executive stated that Economic Development Departments play the lead role in developing services and to this end the Economic Development Department established a Steering Group of key local players (Communities, Social Work, Childcare Partnership, DVA, SET, Careers Scotland, JobCentre Plus, Dundee College) to discuss and develop project ideas. A final Proposal Document was submitted to the Scottish Executive at the start of April 2004 and approval for our proposals was received on the 28th of April 2004. The Steering Group will act as the Monitoring Group for the Fund when projects start operating.
- 6.3 The funds will support and deliver a number of projects aimed at enabling parents to move towards the workplace and at addressing issues of flexible and affordable childcare. The projects include Link Workers to provide adult guidance and childcare mentoring and to "link" parents to other existing services that could support them in their progression towards work, the development of money advice for the target clients group and support for those seeking to enter a voluntary position to gain skills and experience to help them enter the workforce. In order to address the childcare barriers and other barriers to entering employment and training, a number of family support funds will be established:
- Childcare Subsidy Fund
 - Childcare Crisis Fund
 - Barrier Free Fund
- 6.4 In order to manage the Working for Families Fund effectively and to ensure that it delivers effective and efficient support to parents in the City and addresses the aims of the Scottish Executive, additional management will be required to support the projects funded through it and oversee the Childcare Subsidy, Childcare Crisis and Barrier Free Funds. As a result, the Economic Development Department is seeking to employ a Working for Families Co-ordinator and a Working for Families Finance/Admin Officer. The Co-ordinator will support project development activity and projects once they are operating, co-ordinate with the Link Workers, oversee the applications and approval processes for the 3 family support funds and undertake monitoring and evaluation activity. The Finance/Admin officer will provide administrative support to the fund. The Co-ordinator will support projects liaising with the Finance Department and the Scottish Executive with regard to financial monitoring.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the trade unions have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 No background papers, as defined in Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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14 June 2004

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14 June 2004