

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE : **Housing and Environment** DATE: 13 April 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Pete Leonard

TITLE OF REPORT: Environment Services – Future Jobs Fund Bid

REPORT No. H&E/10/055

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval from the Committee for Environment Services to complete a Future Jobs Fund bid.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- (i) approves the steps being taken by Environment Services in making a Future Jobs Fund bid.
- (ii) instructs officers to provide an update on the progress / success of the bid to the 28th September Housing and Environment Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs for this project are covered by the Future Jobs Fund.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This report links to the Aberdeen City Council's Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan in terms of the following National Outcomes:

- (1) We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe:
- (6) We live longer, healthier lives.
- (10) We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need:
- (11) We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- (12) We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations; and
- (14) We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

This report also links generally to the Council's policy statement, Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking, by promoting the city as a better place to live and work.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Staff training required. This will be dealt with in house and at no additional cost to the council.

6. REPORT

6.1 Future Jobs Fund

The Fund was announced in 2009 and the money is to be spent between October 2009 and March 2011. As the Future Jobs Fund is a challenge fund, not all organisations that submit bids will be successful. The fund is run by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and with input from Jobcentre Plus Regional Government Offices in England and Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

The Fund aims to create 170,000 additional jobs, primarily aimed at 18-24 year olds who have been out of work for nearly a year to deliver real benefits to communities. The Future Jobs Fund is a part of the Young Person's Guarantee. From early 2010, everyone in between the ages of 18 and 24 who has been looking for work for a year will get an offer of a job, work experience, or training lasting at least 6 months, specifically targeting 50,000 jobs in unemployment hotspots and expect around 10,000 of the 170,000 jobs created to be green jobs.

Bids are made from organisations with the capability to create real jobs that deliver community and/or environmental benefit and are suitable for young people who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for approaching a year.

The Future Jobs Fund is open to any organisation from the public, private or third sector from across Great Britain (England Scotland and Wales). In the majority of cases bids are expected to come from partnerships led by upper tier Local Authorities or Third Sector organisation but this does not exclude other organisations from applying.

As part of the 2010 Budget the Chancellor has extended the Future Job Fund initiative for another year.

6.2 Environment Services Bid

There are criteria set down by the bid that Environment Services must follow -

- Jobs created must be additional jobs, lasting at least 6 months for each individual.
- Job must deliver work that benefits local communities.
- Job must include support for employees to move into long-term sustained employment.
- The jobs must not replace existing vacancies and must not lead to another individual losing or reducing their paid employment.
- The work must be for at least 25 hours a week paid at least the national minimum wage.

Environment Services have made a long term commitment to their bid and will look to support as many jobs as possible through the scheme.

The jobs created within Environment Services will be a job defined in the fund as a 'green job'. This type of job provides a good or service that leads to environmental improvement.

The jobs will be involved in work including green space projects, clean ups, grass cutting, graffiti removal, street sweeping, tree squad works, winter gardens and partnership working with voluntary groups i.e. Aberdeen Greenspace.

The jobs created through the bid will deliver work that provides direct benefit to the local community.

7.REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Future Jobs Fund: Guidance Notes