

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 20 APRIL 2011

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION JOB ROTATION REQUEST FOR MATCH FUNDING

Report By Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet on the review of the Workers Educational Association (WEA) Job Rotation's request for match funding for their European Social Fund projects in 2011/12 and 2012/13.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet determined on 3 November 2010 that there be a review of the WEA Job Rotation project prior to agreeing to a continuation of Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) match funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- 2.2 The follow up review was requested by Cabinet to ensure there was no duplication of activities with the Council's own Skills Development and Employability Service (SD&ES) and the activities being proposed by the WEA.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Following the review, it is proposed to include the WEA activities in the East Ayrshire CPP Priority 5 Strategic Skills Pipeline for one year by agreeing to provide match funding from the former Fairer Scotland Fund and Economic Development Match Fund budget (held within the Planning and Economic Development's Service Revenue Budget) and which provides match funding for employability projects in East Ayrshire.
- 3.2 This conclusion was reached following scrutiny of the WEA proposal and the subsequent meeting with the WEA to discuss the details of their activities including financial requirements for delivery of a successful job rotation model in East Ayrshire.
- 3.3 The WEA activities are projected to secure 23 jobs and provide 30 vocational taster places across key employment sectors in East Ayrshire, all supported by ESF, as follows:-

- Care
- Hospitality
- Call centre
- Retail
- Security

3.4 The WEA proposal also includes working with and supporting 100 people already in employment to complete a full or partial qualification to help them sustain or up skill in their current job.

3.5 It is considered that the activities proposed by WEA will add value to the East Ayrshire CPP Strategic Skills Pipeline by securing more jobs and helping more employed people sustain their current employment.

3.6 Financial and performance monitoring of all partners' activities including the WEA will be carried out on a regular basis by the Council's Skills Development and Employability Service, ensuring compliance in respect of programme rules and finance and governance.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The request from WEA to the Council is for match funding to support their activities within the CPP Priority 5 project each year for 2011/12 and 2012/13 in the amounts detailed below:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Former FSF Fund | £ 53,755 |
| Economic Development (Match Funding) | £ 50,000 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>£103,755</u> |

- 4.2 The Economic Development Match Fund budget created to support employability projects by way of match funding and meeting expenditure deemed ineligible for external support e.g. European Structural Fund (ESF) or European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is set at £300K / year and for 2011/12 will be utilised as detailed below:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| ESF PRIORITY 5 MATCH FUNDING | |
| East Ayrshire Woodlands | £99,750 |
| Skills Development & Employability Service (SD&ES) | £40,000 |
| WEA Job Rotation | £50,000 |
| TOTAL | £189,750 |
| | |
| NON-ELIGIBLE ESF P5 EXPENDITURE | |
| East Ayrshire Woodlands | £19,131 |
| Skills Development & Employability Service (SD&ES) | £56,590 |
| TOTAL | £ 75,721 |
| | |
| OVERALL EXPENDITURE TOTAL | £265,471 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | £300,000 |
| | |
| SURPLUS | £34,529 |

- 4.3 It is proposed that the surplus be held by the SD&ES to meet any unforeseen expenditure or additional ineligible expenditure identified throughout the year.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The East Ayrshire CPP Priority 5 Strategic Skills Pipeline will contribute to the achievement of the East Ayrshire Community Plan through the Developing Community Regeneration Action Plan.

6. LEGAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet :

- i. Notes the request for funding from the WEA
- ii. Approves funding at the requested level for one year only (2011/12)
- iii. Requests the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to advise the WEA accordingly; and
- iv. Otherwise notes the content of this report.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/ Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

8 April 2011

FV-AN

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

**Any person wishing further information should contact Alan Neish, Head of
Planning and Economic Development**