



Southampton Information, Training and Employment Services

**Report To: SITES Board**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

**Item 4**

**Report by: John Connelly, SCC Economic Development & Regeneration**

## **Future Jobs Fund Update**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Future Jobs Fund (FJF) was one of the measures announced in the 2009 Budget. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has identified funding for up to 10,000 apprenticeships/jobs in the South East region over 3 rounds (each 6 months). Unemployment will be uneven across the region and indications are that Southampton could reasonably expect funding for up to 600 'jobs' (there are currently 288 eligible young people in the City).
- 1.2 Each job attracts a maximum of £6,500 for a minimum 25 hour week over 6 months.
- 1.3 Funding is encouraged to be 'matched' with other sources, giving scope for cooperation between Southampton Skills Development Zone (SSDZ) and FJF to significantly enhance the 'offer' to apprentices in the city.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Government plans to deliver the jobs through partnerships with delivery agents in the Third Sector, statutory agencies and with Local Authorities. The government have expressed a preference for large integrated bids to be submitted and a county wide bid is being developed by Hampshire County Council, supported by PCC and SCC in their city-regions.
- 2.2 Criteria include;
  - Creating a significant proportion of the 'jobs' quickly (by late Autumn 2009)
  - Creating additional jobs for long term unemployed people
  - They should benefit local communities
  - Focussing in areas of high unemployment
- 2.3 Through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) the Future Jobs Fund will offer young people (at their 6-month gateway interview) access to meaningful job placements that offer;
  - 6 months work experience
  - Vocational training

- Community benefit

### **3. The Southampton City-region Bid**

3.1 Southampton City Council has adopted a partnership approach with prospective delivery agents for FJF in Southampton to deliver (by Spring 2011);

- 98 salaried (£12k - £14k) full time, 1 year apprenticeship jobs
- 176 6 month apprenticeship jobs

3.2 The bid comprises a partnership between;

- a. The Southampton Skills Development Zone – SSDZ (Southampton University Health Trust, Southampton City Primary Care Trust, Southampton Solent University and Southampton City Council) delivering 66 apprentices over two rounds of FJF
- b. Wearsheaf Trust who are proposed to employ and deliver up to 146 apprentices over the three FJF rounds. Delivery agents receiving apprentices include; Thornhill New Deal for Communities, Southampton City Council, Swaythling Housing Association, Hyde Housing Association, and local SME's
- c. Groundwork Solent delivering 30 apprentices over three rounds of FJF
- d. Southampton City Council. Delivering up to an additional 32

3.3 The work will involve;

- Improved community and public facilities
- Improved energy efficiency in rented dwellings
- Additional resources for day centres, care homes
- Support to emerging social enterprises, including Thornhill New Deal for Communities
- Supporting Adult and Community Learning programmes in deprived communities
- Supporting unemployed residents of Registered Social Landlords
- Increasing support to voluntary organisations
- Environmental improvements to public spaces and facilities that otherwise may not happen
- Developing the employability of the key target groups
- Supporting those with substantial barriers to employment:
- Giving a 'second chance' to former apprentices who have not been able to complete their apprenticeship due to redundancy

3.4 The 274 apprentice jobs are all new

**Total FJF grant applied for £1,763,400**