

FINANCE COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

SUBMISSION FROM PERTH AND KINROSS

1. Perth and Kinross Council has recognised that it has a significant role to play locally in providing employment opportunities and has increased its efforts recently to ensure that more young people in particular have access to employment and work experience opportunities within the Council.

2. Perth and Kinross Council has several projects and arrangements in place to create training and employment opportunities for both young people and those more marginalised in our communities.

3. We recognise the challenges experienced by individuals furthest from the employment market, especially in the current economic climate and have, therefore, increased the number of Modern Apprenticeship employment opportunities by investing an additional £250K annually for the next 5 years.

Modern Apprenticeship Programme

4. Perth and Kinross Council provides a range of apprenticeship opportunities for 16 to 19 year olds via its contract with Skills Development Scotland. In recent years a significant attempt has been made to widen the range of opportunities away from the traditional Business Administration opportunities to include opportunities in Sport and Leisure, Customer Service, Horticulture, and Motor Mechanics. We have made the commitment of generating 250 modern apprenticeships over the next 5 years, which we are on track to do, recruiting over 25 apprentices in the first 3 months of this year's contract.

5. Our Modern Apprenticeship Programme has a very high achievement rate, with over 80% achievement of apprenticeship qualifications in 2011/12 and 78% securing sustained employment.

Link to Get Ready for Work Providers

6. We are currently in discussions with local Get Ready for Work providers to identify access routes to our apprenticeship programme for young people that are not currently ready to enter the world of work. Get Ready for Work experience and placements will enable these young people to gain the valuable skills and knowledge to then apply for apprenticeship vacancies.

Professional Traineeships

7. Perth and Kinross Council is committed to provide funding for 30 graduate traineeship posts over the next 5 years in specific occupational areas with the prospect of continued employment for those completing their professional training.

8. We are currently in the process of recruiting 8 trainees within roads, civil engineering, building engineering, Human Resources and Legal.

Work Placements

9. Perth and Kinross Council have entered into an agreement with JobCentre Plus to provide unpaid work experience placements to help people within our community, undertake work experience which may help them find a job.

10. As you can see the Council are committed to providing direct employment opportunities where possible, and have recently increased its commitment, and we are now providing additional opportunities for both Modern Apprentices and graduates. In addition we support a wide range of employability programmes with our Community Planning partners which help to prepare individuals for employment.

11. I trust that provides you with an overview of the actions the Council are currently undertaking to offer direct employment opportunities.