

Overview & Scrutiny
Economic Development & Enterprise
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Future Jobs Fund

Overview

Copeland Borough Council has recently been successful in a bid to the Future Jobs Fund. The Future Jobs Fund is a new £1billion Government initiative that will help to generate jobs for those in greatest need who live in areas of high unemployment.

The aim is to create 48 'quality' jobs that are 'additional' and demonstrate 'community benefit'. Jobs will be for a 12 month period and will be created across the following four job growth strands areas: Public Sector (apprenticeships), Business (small to medium), Third Sector (including Social Enterprises) and the Nuclear supply chain. Key partners linked to these job growth areas include Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service, Sellafield Ltd, Copeland Chamber of Commerce along with Copeland Borough Council.

Most of the 48 jobs will be created for young people (18 – 24 year olds) who have been unemployed for around 10 months, although other individuals such as those from older age groups and those claiming Incapacity Benefits are likely to benefit from the scheme. Young people from unemployment hotspots in Copeland will be targeted.

Referrals will be drawn from existing caseloads held by Job Centre Plus. Running alongside all jobs created will be a menu of learning opportunities such as basic skills (numeracy & literacy), vocational training and accredited training (NVQs) to ensure each individual has a complete experience and improve their chances of long term employability. In addition to this, Phoenix Enterprise Centre will deliver a Mentoring scheme that aims to provide one to one support to clients over the duration of the Programme.

Copeland Borough Council will act as lead for the Programme and will also be the employer for the most of the jobs except those linked to the Nuclear Supply Chain. The cost to the Future Jobs Fund will be £6,500 per job. . This will contribute solely to the salary (not on-costs) of each individual involved. The approved amount secured from the Future Jobs Fund is £312,000.

Copeland will align additional funding to the Programme and this will come from the Working Neighbourhood Fund, Train to Gain (Lakes College) and the Local Area Business Growth Initiative (LABGI). The total cost of the programme is £782,187

Potential Impact and Benefits of Delivering the Programme

The proposed Programme will deliver 'additional' community benefits over and above those jobs created for those who had been long term unemployed.

The Programme will benefit 48 individuals and their respective families, and especially those residing in unemployment hotspots in Copeland. In addition to individuals being better off financially, it is hoped they will have new-found confidence and motivation. This in turn will inspire others around them, and help to bring those individuals into the mainstream of community life.

In addition to wider community benefits such as economic growth, environmental and social cohesion, it is felt there will be a number of specific benefits to the community and these are as follows:

- Individuals will have confidence to engage with people from other places, cultures, lifestyles and beliefs
- Individuals will believe they can succeed in their chosen endeavours
- Individuals will engage in the local community and take part in community life
- Copeland will retain individuals (especially young people)
- Individuals will have equal access to worthwhile jobs and social opportunities

Economic Benefits

A significant benefit will be a decrease in the number of young people who leave Copeland to find opportunities which aren't offered here. Reversing this trend is important for the future of our communities. By supporting job growth strands such as small businesses and the third sector will help improve the skills of the Copeland workforce as well as maximising employment opportunities for young people growing up in Copeland. This will help to stimulate economic regeneration across Copeland through the creation of job and learning opportunities that meet current needs, and also by helping to grow future economic opportunities.

Environmental Benefits

It is the intention to create opportunities in job growth strands such as the Nuclear Supply Chain and the Third Sector. Such jobs will add to the

longstanding strengths, and contribute to the progress in sectors linked to energy, open spaces management and recycling. Through this bid there is scope for Copeland to benefit from these job opportunities and to continue the tradition of developing its expertise further and adding value to the Cumbrian economy.

Social Benefits (including health)

This bid aims to tackle inequalities, especially those faced by young people, and to improve the quality of life for those involved. Through recruiting local individuals, will ensure stronger and more vibrant communities, improve mental well being, self confidence and increase the influence people have on their lives and surroundings – a major contributor to health & well being.

Personal Benefits

There will be significant benefits to Copeland communities at a more personal level. The jobs and additional support mechanisms that will be provided over a 12 month period will provide salaried employment to individuals who are currently excluded from mainstream economic activity.

Benefits at a more personal level have been identified as follows:

- opportunities for all, including those who suffer from post code discrimination
- opportunities for unqualified people or those with outdated skills
- to work in a safe supportive environment
- to work in sectors where opportunities were once previously limited
- opportunities for career progression
- opportunities for additional learning, e.g. basic skills + accredited qualifications
- increased income within families and local neighbourhoods

It is the aim that some of those barriers to employment, e.g. lack of qualifications, will be overcome, and those families entrenched at the bottom of the heap will feel the benefits of not only returning to the labour market but also working for a year in quality jobs. This initiative aims to ensure that long term unemployed young people and adults are engaged with and obtain a meaningful work experience, long enough to break the existing cycle of short term interventions and give the individual the best opportunity to move into continued work. An expected outcome is that this will have a fundamental knock on effect on other family members, in particular family based work aspirations.