

## Press Release

### Fund Helps Boost Unemployed Young People

Dozens of long term unemployed young people across the Falkirk Council area are benefitting from a national fund that is helping to bring benefits to local communities.

A meeting of the Economic Strategy and Development Committee today (20 April) heard how the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) is helping to create up to 90 new jobs between October 2009 and March 2011.

The jobs are involved across a number of areas including grounds maintenance, housing, customer service, social care and clerical work and are all linked to providing community benefits.

Some examples include six months of environmental improvements in Grangemouth with housing provider Paragon as well as improvements to local parks and amenities including Kinneil Estate, Muiravonside Country Park and Bantaskine new Grandsable Cemetery.

Cllr Adrian Mahoney, Convener of Economic Strategy and Development said: 'Tackling long term youth unemployment is a big priority for Falkirk Council and by accessing these funds, we have been able to provide real jobs and career prospects as well being able to enhance local communities.

'Currently we have 70 out of 90 jobs identified and are well on track to meet our targets by 2011 and Falkirk Council is also playing its role where we have provided over 70% of the positions involved with the remainder in the third sector.

'We will be looking into trying to expand this programme in 2012 where we can bring forward even more employment opportunities for young people.'

Falkirk Council was awarded the Future Jobs Fund £585k contract from the Department of Work and Pensions in October 2009 and is required to meet certain specifications such as each job must last six months minimum, pay at or above the national wage and be for at least 25 hours a week.

- Falkirk Council (20/04/2010 )

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