

To: Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board

On: Monday 5 September 2016

Report by:

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TITLE:

OIL & GAS TRANSITION TRAINING FUND

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Government launched an £12M Oil & Gas Transition Training Fund in February 2016 help maintain the highly skilled energy workforce in the North Sea region by offering training and grants to individuals to support their redeployment through retraining or further education.
- 1.2 West College Scotland has successfully secured funding from the fund to deliver a number of courses to re train, upskill individuals impacted by the downturn in the Oil & Gas sector or its supply chain

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board notes the report and that a progress update report will be submitted to the Board in 12 months.

3. Background

3.1 Oil & Gas Downturn

Oil prices have fallen from \$115 per barrel in June 2014 to below \$30 at the start of 2016 with a gradual recovery, increasing to around \$50 in May 2016. The lower price over this period has created challenges for the oil and gas industry and sectors associated with its supply chain. There are indications from a range of labour market information that this has had a particularly negative impact on employment in both the industry and the North East region of Scotland in which it is concentrated.

Between January 2014 and May 2016, around 25,000 jobs (on shore and off shore) have been notified as at risk of redundancy and it is expected that a further 25 000 jobs will be lost between 2016- 2020.

Although the focus of the Oil & Gas sector is the Aberdeen and the North East there is significant supply chain for the sector across Scotland and a Scottish wide travel to work pattern for particularly off shore posts.

3.2 Oil & Gas Transition Fund

The Scottish Government's Transition Training Fund managed by Skills Development Scotland will help maintain the highly skilled workforce in Scotland Oil and Gas sector and its associated supply chain offering training and support to individuals affected by redundancies or threat of redundancy to support their redeployment through retraining or further education. It will also help people with the costs of maintaining any licences they need to work in the sector.

The Transition Fund is supported by Skills Development Scotland, in conjunction with the Energy Skills Partnership and Energy Technology Partnership, to provide practical training and education that will help people meet the demand for other specialist jobs in the wider sector.

As part of the Transition Training Fund Skills Development Scotland has contracted with 5 training providers across Scotland to deliver 340 places on a range of training courses.

West College Scotland has been contracted to deliver 189 places during the year from September 2016.

The other training provider are:

- Ayrshire College
- Inverness College UHI
- Maersk
- Tullos Training

3.3 Eligibility

The criteria for eligibility is :

- People who have lost their job or are at threat of redundancy since January 2015 in the Oil & Gas Sector or its supply chain.
- Must be resident in Scotland.
- Must be actively seeking employment and be able to show the training will help find a new job.

3.4 **West College Scotland TTF Provision**

West College Scotland will be delivering 189 places across the following provision:

- Occupational Health & Safety.
- 17th Edition / Inspection & Testing certification for new or existing electricians.
- Teacher Training.
- Domestic Gas – For career changers wanting to work in the ‘downstream gas industry.
- Domestic PV – Up-skilling for electricians wanting to work in the micro renewables sector.
- Domestic Energy Assessor / Green Deal Advisor qualification & registration.
- CISCO CCNA – Nationally recognised computer networking qualification allowing candidates to work with companies who run and maintain CISCO networks.
- Microsoft Vendor Qualification MTA – Introduction to software development

3.5 **Contact Details**

For more information on eligibility and opportunities please contact Gordon Stewardson at West College Scotland on:

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