

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee
8 March 2017****Lifelong Learning Committee
22 March 2017****COMMUNITY PLANNING ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP
BRIEFING PAPER****Joint Report by Depute Chief Executive (Sustainability, Strategic and
Entrepreneurial Development) and Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality,
Community Planning & Public Service Reform)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This briefing provides an update on the activities of the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Outcome Delivery Group (ODG).

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The group is tasked with delivering the following Community Planning Local Outcomes outlined in the Single Outcome Agreement:

- People are Ready for Life and Work
- Thriving, Expanding Economy
- Employment Opportunities for All

2. UPDATE

The group last met on 10 February 2017 where the following items were discussed:

2.1 Economic and Community Intelligence

Laura McIntyre, Enterprise Manager, Planning and Development, Perth and Kinross Council provided a briefing note on progress on the Economic and Community Intelligence survey. The note highlighted linkages between education centres and businesses and the Tay Cities Deal would help in this regard, with four Universities in the Tay Cities Deal region. The information in the Briefing Note will be shared with Secondary Schools to help young people think about career paths and different employment sectors. Challenges with regards to the persistent low wage economy; carers falling out of the labour market; talent & graduate retention and increase in youth unemployment were also noted.

2.2 City Deal

Tom Flanagan, Interim Head of Service Economic Development, Perth and Kinross Council provided a verbal update on the progress of the Tay Cities Deal, and discussed the Tay Cities Deal document. The Tay Cities Deal is a once in a generation opportunity, and will provide opportunities for employment and economic growth. The Tay Cities Deal was unanimously agreed at a Special Council Meeting of 9 February 2017.

2.3 Fairness Commission

2.3.1 David Stokoe, Service Manager Communities presented a report highlighting the relevant economic issues in Perth and Kinross which have been identified by the Fairness Commission.

2.3.2 Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2015/16 highlighted its commitment to building a Fairer Scotland through tackling stubborn inequalities and poverty. Within this context, a Fairness Commission has been established by the Perth & Kinross CPP to learn more about how people living in the area experience poverty and inequality in their everyday lives, and the circumstances which prevent them from reaching their full potential. The Commission are developing a series of recommendations for public organisations, employers and communities across Perth & Kinross to collectively address the challenges, and in doing so, transform people's lives.

2.3.3 The following were identified as emerging economic inequality issues:

- The cost of public transport in rural areas.
- Organisational processes, judgement and stigma involved in accessing services which can inadvertently mean people requiring support are left in a state of flux awaiting decisions.
- Control, continuity and progress where feelings of uncertainty about personal or financial situations contribute to poverty and inequality.
- Temporary employment, low pay, access to welfare and benefits can all contribute to inequalities and poverty.
- Access to affordable and local childcare which enables parents to work.

2.3.4 The Outcome Delivery Group agreed to consider the recommendations from the Fairness Commission and identify appropriate actions it can take forward.

2.4 Employability Strategy Update

Laura McIntyre Enterprise Manager, Planning and Development, Perth and Kinross Council provided a verbal update on the Employability Strategy. The Employability Strategy has now been to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with a focus upon those who are underemployed. Further work with employers is still required but it was noted that Perth and Kinross was performing well compared to the national averages for youth unemployment.

2.5 Annual Progress Report for CPP Board

The group received a written report and short video detailing key progress by the ODG from April – December 2016. Significant progress was noted in employability and skills including progress on the regional development of Scotland's Young Workforce and a successful bid for European Social Funding (ESF) funding to create an Employability Pipeline. City and regional economic development strategies are gaining momentum with the City Plan being rolled out and the Tay Cities Region Deal taking shape. LEADER funding is also now available to further develop the Perthshire rural economy.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the update from the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Outcome Delivery Group.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
David Stokoe	Service Manager (Communities)	Tel: 01738 475000 Email: ecscommittee@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Jim Valentine	Depute Chief Executive (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development)	27 Feb 2017
John Fyffe	Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning & Public Service Reform)	27 Feb 2017

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