

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee 25 May 2016
Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee 1 June 2016

**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 Perth and Kinross Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Group.

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 29 April 2016 where the following items were discussed:

2.1 Economy and Lifelong Learning Group Outcome Delivery Plan

The Outcome Delivery Plan had been updated following the February 2015 meeting of the group. Contributors were thanked for their input and updates and advised that the Outcome Delivery Plan will be updated ahead of every ODG meeting and be a standing item on the agenda.

2.2 Economy and Lifelong Learning Group 6 Month Progress Report

The group was asked to review and comment on the 6 month progress report which is to be considered at Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on 10 June. The group was told that there has been significant progress in employability and skills including progress on the regional development of Scotland's Young Workforce, a successful bid for European Social Funding (ESF) to create an Employability Pipeline and a partnership with Perth College UHI to deliver on STEM. City and regional economic development strategies are gaining momentum with the City Plan being rolled out, the Tay

Cities Region Deal is also taking shape. LEADER funding is also now available to further develop the Perthshire rural economy.

2.3 Opportunities For All Update

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) provided an update on Opportunities for All for 16-19 year olds. In Perth and Kinross there were 1489 school leavers in 2015 with 91.8% moving into a positive destination. Since the start of 2016 the Opportunities for All partnership has used the data available to them as a major focus for ensuring that young people are supported into a positive and sustained destination. This work is taking place across all localities.

The partnership is intending to introduce a process where the statuses of all young people aged 16-19 are determined on an ongoing basis, as part of normal service delivery and data sharing instead of seeking to confirm school leaver destinations at two fixed points in the year. SDS reported that new partnership arrangements were working well, particularly the support from the Council's Services for Young People.

2.4 Perth City Centre Update

The group received a presentation on Perth City Centre. Key discussion points included:

- There is a need for investment to unlock growth potential across the city and city region – estimated at 9,000 houses, 80 hectares of Employment Land, 1 Secondary School, 5 Primary Schools, 5000 job opportunities.
- Retail unit vacancy rates are lower than the Scottish and UK average and Dundee and Stirling. New businesses continue to open.
- Maintaining and enhancing quality of place and cultural diversity a prerequisite to attracting talent and investment.
- Aligning education, skills and research with existing and growing business needs will be critical to encouraging innovation and supporting growth.
- Collaboration between cities, across business and public/private sectors required.

2.5 DevelopingThe Young Workforce Regional Board

The group received a report which provided a brief update on progress with the establishment of the Developing the Young Workforce Regional Board, and with the development of its bid for funding to the National Employer Group.

The Developing our Young Workforce shadow Board for Perth and Kinross is now established and has held two meetings in March, with a third planned for mid-May. The membership comprises a cross section of local business

leaders from small to large employers, and in a number of key local sectors. It is Chaired by Steven Stewart from the Stagecoach Group and the Vice Chair is Liz Jackson from Fairways Recruitment. Over the next couple of months it is hoped to recruit board members from the NHS and from a micro employer to complete the team.

The Perth and Kinross Youth Employment Strategy being developed by the new Regional Board aims to:

- Support employers to engage directly with schools and colleges
- Encourage the recruitment of more young people, including through Modern Apprenticeships
- Equip young people with the skills local business needs
- Give young people access to better and more flexible work experience opportunities
- Encourage more young people to set up their own business or become self-employed
- Focus in particular on young people who need extra support, come from disadvantaged backgrounds, have a disability or face other barriers in getting into work

To help deliver this the private sector led Board will employ a small Executive Team comprising a part-time DYW Manager, two Employer Engagement Executives plus a Modern Apprentice. The Team will be based either within Perth College UHI or Business Gateway premises in Perth.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the update from the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Group.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
David Stokoe	Service Manager (Communities)	Ext 76375

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Jim Valentine	Depute Chief Executive (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development)	10/05/2016
John Fyffe	Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning & Public Service Reform)	10/05/2016

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.