

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

**Lifelong Learning Committee
2 November 2016**

**Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee
9 Novemeber 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 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 23 September 2016 where the following items were discussed:

2.1 Tay Cities Deal

The Group heard a presentation by A Graham, Business Development Team Leader, Perth and Kinross Council which updated the group on the process for the submission of the bid for the Tay Cities Deal. The bid will focus on both infrastructure and people with clear alignment to wider Scottish and UK Government economic priorities. The strategic partnership and vision for the deal has been agreed by the senior management in Dundee, Angus, Fife and Perth and Kinross Council's. The bid will need to be submitted to both governments in February 2017.

2.2 Capital Plans Project

J Valentine, Depute Chief Executive (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) provided a verbal update to the Group on Capital Plan projects.

The Council announced its Capital Plan on 20 June 2016, which is one of the largest of any Scottish local authority. Key elements of the Capital Plan are linked to the City of Culture 2021 bid, including: the refurbishment of Perth Theatre, Perth Museum and Art Gallery and accompanying public realm works. In addition Perth Academy and Perth Grammar School will be refurbished and there will be various road improvements across the city centre. In order to encourage increased shipping use Perth Harbour will be dredged. Options to improve Wi-Fi access across the city are also being explored.

2.3 LEADER

S Rice-Jones, LEADER Project Officer delivered a verbal update to the Group on the LEADER project.

LEADER is a grassroots way of supporting communities with rural development from 2014-2020. Support is awarded through 21 Local Action Groups (LAG) across Scotland; the Perth and Kinross LAG has received 107 expressions of interest, and approved 15 applications to date, totalling support of £87,000. The programme covers the whole of the rural Perth and Kinross area, with the exception of the Cairngorms. There are 24 independent LAG members, from both the public and private sectors. Both public and private sector organisations can apply for support. The LAG priorities are: community capacity building, enterprise, youth initiatives, rural future leaders, and open challenge fund.

2.4 Business Survey and Economic Review

The Group heard a presentation by M Styczen, Project Officer, Perth and Kinross Council on the business survey and economy review.

The rationale for the survey and review was outlined which, including the expiration of the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Economic Partnership's Economic Strategy 2014, the Tay Cities Deal, and the need to have a Tayside-level strategy for economic development. Data is currently being collated and contact has been made with other local authorities for advice on how they have conducted their own surveys.

2.5 **Annual Progress Report on the Perth and Kinross Developing Our Young Workforce Action Plan**

There was submitted and noted a joint report by the Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and the Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) providing an update on progress on the Developing our Young Workforce Perth and Kinross Plan which was approved by the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Community Planning Partnership in June 2015.

Within Perth and Kinross good progress has been made across all five of the Developing Our Young Workforce action work streams, mainly as a result of enhanced partnership working across organisations. Locally we need to ensure that we align the offering within our schools and Perth College University of Highlands and Islands to meet the needs of our current and future employers. With a number ambitious projects highlighted with the Perth City Plan and a number of others being developed through the ongoing work on the Tay Cities Deal, this provides an opportunity to better align skills demand and supply.

Additional funding from the Scottish Government has allowed the Council to provide additional support in all ten secondary schools' to take forward the implementation at a local level. The Schools/College Strategic Group has maintained momentum and has developed a wider range of vocational opportunities for senior phase pupils, and this has resulted in a significant rise (+45%) in the number of pupils undertaking vocational courses whilst still at school.

The numbers of school pupils experiencing Work placements has also increased, with numbers up from 373 in 2013/2014 to 621 in 2014/2015. This is due to an increased focus on employer engagement and additional schools now participating in the Career Ready programme.

There has also been an expansion in the numbers of young people participating in Modern Apprenticeships within Perth and Kinross. The total number of MA's has increased from 747 (2014/2015) to 880 in 2015/2016; with the majority targeted at the 16-24 age group (674). The Council have contributed to this increase with the numbers of annual Modern Apprenticeship opportunities rising from 55 in 2013/14 to 86 in 2015/16 and providing a total of 303 opportunities in total since 2012

Further progressing this work will be the focus of the partnership throughout 2016/17.

2.6 Community Planning Update

D Stokoe (Service Manager Communities) gave a verbal update on Community Action Partnerships. Community Action Partnerships have begun to meet in 5 localities covering Perth and Kinross, with a membership of elected members and community representatives, chaired by a senior manager from the Community Planning Partnership. The Community Action Partnerships will identify key inequality issues, build community capacity and resilience and reshape local service provision to address these inequalities.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

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

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