



To: Economy and Jobs Policy Board

On: 18 November 2015

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Labour Market Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides the Policy Board with the most recent labour market statistics for Renfrewshire (end of September 2015). Where the data is available a comparison is made with the Scottish and UK figures.
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2 Recommendations

Board members are asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report and the improving unemployment figures across Renfrewshire.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The report provides the current Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) claimant figures for the end of September 2015.
- 3.2 The attached newsletter also outlines the latest performance statistics for Invest in Renfrewshire and recent economic developments across Renfrewshire.
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4. Labour Market Statistics for the month of September 2015

- 4.1 Renfrewshire's overall JSA figure for September 2015 is 2.1%. While this is still higher than the Scottish and UK average figures it represents a significant fall from 2.8% at the same time last year.
 - 4.2 Renfrewshire's reduction in youth unemployment has seen the biggest fall over the last year from 6.2% in July 2014 to 2.2% currently. This month the rate has decreased by 0.9% which is greater than the Scottish average.
 - 4.3 For the first time ever Renfrewshire has a youth JSA rate which is below the Scottish average.
 - 4.4 Adult unemployment for JSA Claimants aged 25 – 49 has decreased by 0.2% since last month to 2.5% and now sits at 1,435 people claiming JSA. The rate was higher this time last year at 3.1%.
 - 4.5 The adult JSA rates for those aged 50+ have remained static from last month.
 - 4.6 The newsletter also contains information on the most up to date statistics on the Invest in Renfrewshire programme.
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Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** - None
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
- 3. **Community Planning – Jobs and the Economy** - Labour market intelligence is vital to informing future policy and service delivery decision making across the Community Planning Partnership.
- 4. **Legal** – None
- 5. **Property/Assets** – None
- 6. **Information Technology** – None
- 7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only.
- 8. **Health & Safety** – None.

- 9. **Procurement** – None
- 10. **Risk** – None
- 11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

- (a) None

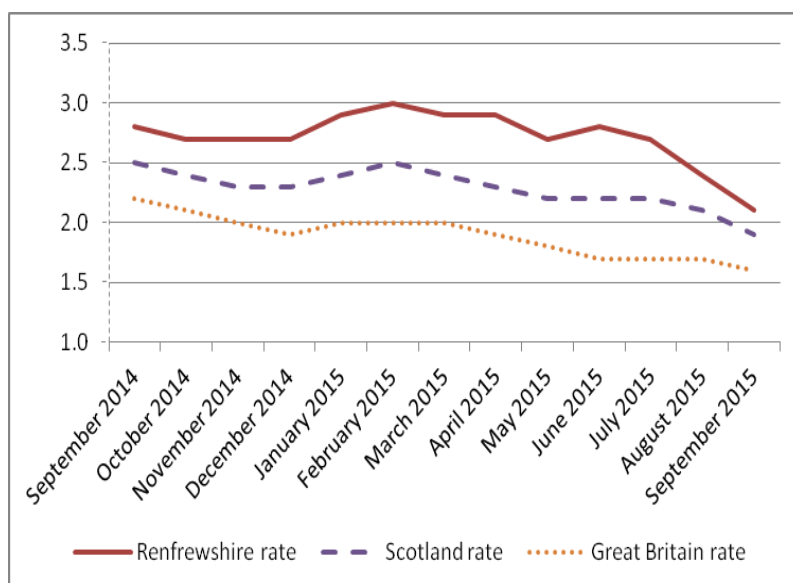
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Renfrewshire Economic Development Newsletter – October 2015

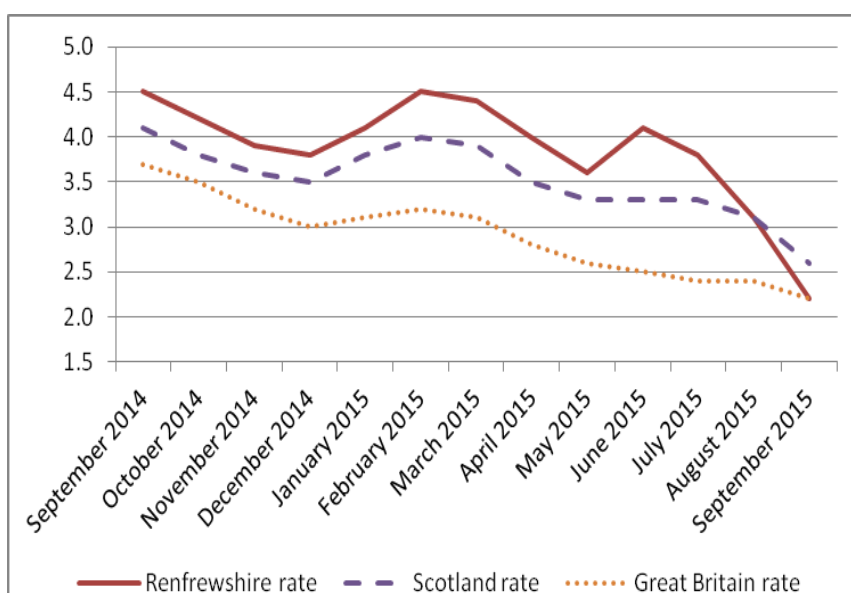
JSA Claimants: All Ages (16-64)

- The Job Seeker's Allowance rate for September 2015 was 2.1%, with jobseekers totalling 2,410.
- This month the rate has decreased by 0.3%
- The rate this time last year was higher at 2.8%.



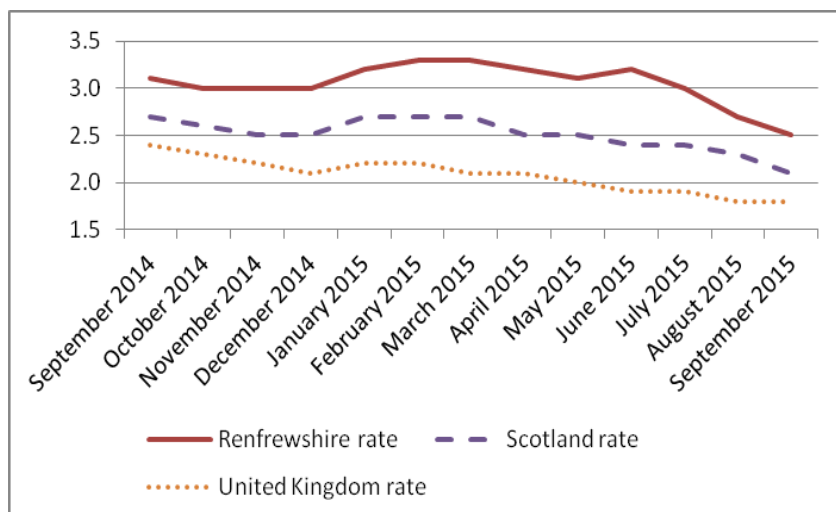
JSA Claimants: Aged 18-24

- The Job Seeker's Allowance rate for September 2015 was 2.2%, with jobseekers totalling 330.
- This month the rate has decreased significantly, dropping by 0.9%.
- The rate this time last year was more than double the current rate at 4.5%.



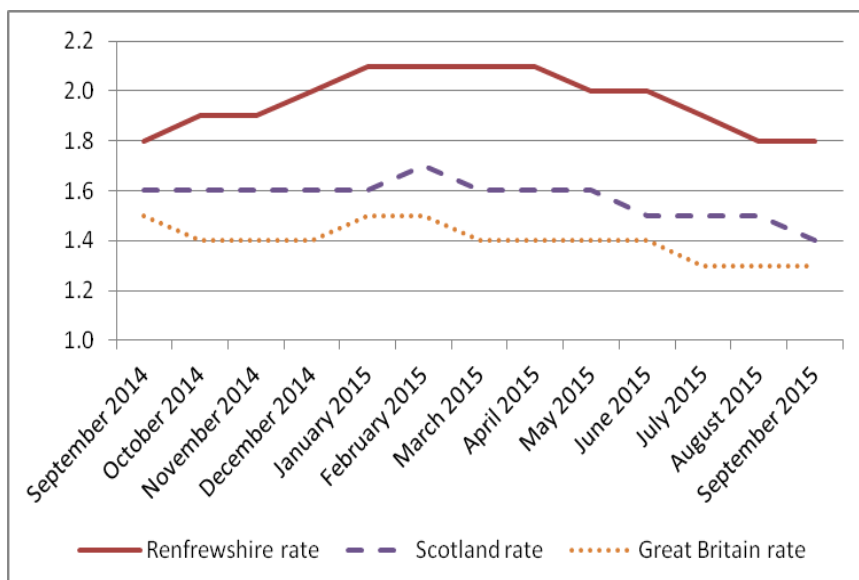
JSA Claimants: Aged 25-49

- The Job Seeker's Allowance rate for September 2015 was 2.5%, with jobseekers totalling 1,435.
- This month the rate has decreased by 0.2%.
- The rate this time last year was higher at 3.1%.



JSA Claimants: Aged 50+

- The Job Seeker's Allowance rate for September 2015 was 1.8%, with jobseekers totalling 640.
- This month the rate has remained constant/the same.
- The rate this time last year was the same at 1.8%.



Source: ONS claimant count - age duration with proportions

Note: % is number of persons claiming JSA as a proportion of resident

Local Economic Development Update

Renfrewshire's **youth unemployment rate** is now **lower** than the Scottish average. Figures released by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) illustrate that in the three years since Invest in Renfrewshire was launched, the percentage of people aged 18-24 and not in education, employment or training has fallen by nearly 80%. In Renfrewshire, overall unemployment has also fallen to 2.1% against an overall increase in adult unemployment in Scotland.

The first of the **City Deal** employability programmes commenced in September. The "Working Matters" programme supports unemployed people on health related benefits to retrain and secure employment. The programme operates from the Councils Employability Hub at Assurance House.

The **InCube Shop** at 9b Gilmour Street opened during October. The shop will showcase and sell the products and services offered by the **InCube** businesses. Two paid traineeships have already been appointed for the first phase, providing opportunities for 2 young unemployed people. The full retail academy will operate from the new year and is anticipated supporting around 40 unemployed people each year to train for, and move into, retail work.

The new **Enterprising Renfrewshire Network** have organised a wide range of business start up and enterprise events during **Global Entrepreneurship Week** which runs from 16th- 22nd November. Information can be found in the events section of the Invest in Renfrewshire Website.

The **Creative Renfrewshire Grant Fund** re-opened in July 2015 for the remainder of this financial year. This year's budget is £50,000. The maximum award is £5,000. The fund is for cultural events and exhibitions, and funding can support equipment hire or purchase, marketing and promotion and events infrastructure costs. All applications must be for future projects. To date, 4 new awards have been made totalling £9,820.

Development on the site of Paisley's former **Arnotts** store received a further boost when the Cardosi brothers recently agreed to take the entire ground-floor unit in what will be called "The Pendulum Bar and Grill". Due to open next summer, the new 120-seat restaurant covering the entire ground-floor unit in the former Gauze Street store will complement the Cardosi family's existing Italian restaurant in Storie Street.

Krispy Kreme recently announced that it is to open by the end of the year at Braehead and 150 jobs will be created for local people. The premium doughnut retailer is now on the hunt for enthusiastic and passionate individuals that love delivering the best possible service.

M & Co are in the process of recruiting 30 workers to be based at their Renfrewshire headquarters. The 30 part time warehouse assistants will be based in the Inchinnan distribution centre and will be brought in over the Christmas period to help with the increased demand.

As part of the ongoing campus development work the **University of the West of Scotland** recently opened a vibrant, technology-rich reception area at the University's High Street entrance. The project includes a larger and more welcoming reception; new social learning and meeting spaces; and a coffee shop, which is open to the public. Externally, new landscaping and street furniture creates a more inviting approach to the University from the town. New social spaces and touchdown points on campus in one of the main student thoroughfares; with bold, vibrant graphics and striking interior design, have also recently been completed.

GLASGOW Airport has become the first Scottish airport to be named UK airport of the year in the National Transport Awards - beating rival Edinburgh. The airport, which is Scotland's second busiest, joins past winners Heathrow Terminal Five, Gatwick and Birmingham. The judges said the airport had won 20 new routes, including attracting Ryanair, and had completed a £20 million terminal upgrade, including new heating and ventilation. It has trailed Edinburgh in passenger numbers since 2007 but is now growing faster, with passenger numbers increasing by 11 per cent to 8.4 million in the year to August.

Invest in Renfrewshire Update – October 2015

INVEST IN EMPLOYMENT

Since the launch of Invest in Renfrewshire in June 2012 **966** new paid posts have been created:

- **712** new jobs have been created through the wage subsidy / Employer Recruitment Incentive programmes.
- **187** Graduate Internships have been created, **128** within the Council and **59** with local companies (approved).
- **67** people have started traineeships with the Council (started).

In addition:

- **6,722** unemployed people have registered and received support from the Invest in Renfrewshire employability service.
- **2,153** additional people have been supported to move into wider employment opportunities.

INVEST IN COMMUNITIES

The Invest in Renfrewshire Social Enterprise Small Grants Fund, launched in December 2014, with a budget of £100k has now:

- Dealt with enquiries from **47** social enterprise companies and organisations.
- Approved **15** awards totalling **£50,282**.

INVEST IN BUSINESS

820 local companies have signed up to the Invest in Renfrewshire initiative of which:

- **684** have created new jobs and internships for young people
- **345** companies have been offered grants to pursue development, training, exhibition and ICT projects, amounting to combined funding of over **£1,543,172**.
- Funding of **£86,600** has been provided through the micro loan fund.
- The Retail Improvement Scheme has received **140** formal applications. The applications to hand are 21, but are currently at an early stage, and no payments have been made. The amount of grant support remains at **£700,000**.

In the last 36 months, since the start of the new Business Gateway contract:

- **944** new companies have been established with Business Gateway support.
- **406** businesses have demonstrated growth aspiration and been given a dedicated business adviser.
- **258** start-up workshops and **189** business growth workshops have been delivered.