

To: Council
On: 20 April 2017

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Renfrewshire Economic Leadership Panel

1. Summary

- 1.1 The proposal to set up an Economic Leadership Panel for Renfrewshire was approved by the Council's Leadership Board in November 2016, in its consideration of the Economic Framework 2016-2018.
- 1.2 This report notes that following consultations with some local businesses that the first meeting of the Panel is now being scheduled for June 2017 and seeks approval for the Leader of the Council to be formally appointed as a member of this new Panel. Meetings of the Panel are proposed to take place on a quarterly basis.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:-
 - (i) Note that the Panel's first meeting is being planned for June 2017;
 - (ii) Approve the appointment of the Council Leader to the Panel;
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3. Background

- 3.1 Renfrewshire has a relatively strong economy and is fortunate to have representation locally from some large businesses and firms with national and international presence. However, there has also been no formal recent mechanism for the Council, and its public sector partners, to gather and understand the views of local companies on the future of Renfrewshire's economy, and to gather support for shared objectives for the local area.
- 3.2 The recently approved Renfrewshire Economic Framework (November 2016) set out the importance of strong engagement with the private sector to drive forward local economic development. Recent engagement with OECD in

Renfrewshire has emphasised that this is a missing element from existing arrangements and partnership structures.

- 3.3 The proposal is for a relatively small Leadership Panel (12-15 members) to be formed to meet quarterly and assess and agree on key issues and actions to accelerate the economic fortunes of Renfrewshire. They will effectively act as a “critical friend” and sounding board to the authority to allow the Council to understand the views of locally based businesses. They will play a key advisory role in the development of the next Economic Strategy for Renfrewshire.
- 3.4 Representation is being sought from across the key sectors of Renfrewshire’s economy, including transport, manufacturing, tourism, creative industries, technology and food & drink. Other stakeholders who will be invited to join the Panel include UWS, West College Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce which will complete the make-up of the new Panel. It is anticipated the Panel will be chaired by the private sector.
- 3.5 Terms of Reference will be considered at the first Panel meeting. The Chief Executive and the Council’s Head of Regeneration will act as advisors to the Panel.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None beyond existing approved budgets.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None. Any officer time resources to administer the Panel will be delivered from within the Regeneration and Economic Development Teams of the Council.
3. **Community Planning**
Jobs and the Economy – This new Panel will link with the reviewed Community Planning governance once agreed.
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. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council’s website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None

- 10. **Risk** – None
 - 11. **Privacy Impact** - None
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List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Leadership Board; 30th November 2016 'Paisley Town Centre – 10 Year Action Plan Renfrewshire Strategic Economic Framework post consultation update'
 - (b) Renfrewshire Council Economic Framework; November 2016
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