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**To: Economy and Jobs Policy Board**

**On: 18 November 2015**

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**Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services**

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**Heading: Local Enterprise Developments and InCube**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This paper outlines the opportunity to further expand the range of services and support offered by InCube through collaboration with creative specialists.
  - 1.2 Two separate companies have expressed serious interest in working alongside InCube to strengthen the local entrepreneurial offering and thereby bringing significant resources to the centre of Paisley.
  - 1.3 Further negotiations are required with the aim of bringing in a range of new enterprise services to support increased entrepreneurship and employability across Renfrewshire, contribute to the Town Centre regeneration plan and support the City of Culture bid.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
  - (i) Note the opportunity and intention to bring two new companies to Paisley to work alongside InCube to promote local enterprise and entrepreneurship;
  - (ii) Agree that a further update on the progress of these negotiations and potential service level agreements are brought back to Board.

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### 3. Background

- 3.1 Since the opening of InCube in July 2015 additional work to grow the local enterprise agenda and to establish a creative entrepreneurial network to support local businesses has been gathering pace.
- 3.2 As part of the Invest in Renfrewshire enterprise agenda, and the forward planning for InCube, some new and additional services have been identified that would add value to the current enterprise services available. These are:
- **Resources and facilities to support innovation and excellence in design and making across the area:** a proposed “Maker Space” would complement the business base offered at InCube to provide a full package of support to allow creative businesses to have the best opportunity to fully establish, and grow their company, in Renfrewshire.
  - **Access to equipment, specialised knowledge and advice:** to support wider businesses and potential entrepreneurs in Renfrewshire and providing opportunities for skill sharing by fostering a dynamic and inclusive community of makers across Renfrewshire.
  - **Promoting wider access to learning:** skills, confidence building, intergenerational working and collaboration with others through the delivery of entrepreneurial workshops and outreach events.
- 3.3 Discussions have recently taken place with 2 companies, outlined below, who have expressed serious interest in working alongside InCube to strengthen the entrepreneurial offering across Renfrewshire and bringing significant resources to the centre of Paisley. Both companies would lease key town centre properties as their Renfrewshire base.

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### 4. MAKLAB

- 4.1 MAKLAB is a social enterprise, founded in 2012, delivering a network of creative spaces across Scotland with access to specialist equipment and technologies. They deliver teaching workshops, community outreach programmes, professional development and accredited learning for a wide demographic.

- 4.2 MAKLAB are Scotland's first open access digital fabrication studio providing a wide range of digital fabrication tools, offering low cost access to equipment and knowledge for designers to advance what they make.
  - 4.3 MAKLAB assists business entrepreneurs by reducing the expense associated with prototyping and manufacturing. They also provide business support through access to an existing network of advice, previous experience and potential collaborative opportunities to deliver an innovative learning environment for the people of Renfrewshire. MAKLAB are currently expanding their operations and moving into new areas across Scotland.
  - 4.4 Working alongside Invest in Renfrewshire and InCube, MAKLAB propose to lease 2 shop units in the centre of Paisley as a base to use design and physical making to develop skills and enterprise. Their programmes will reach a wide audience across education, employability, skills development and social inclusion.
  - 4.5 It is proposed that the premises will be shared with InCube to provide the design and "makers space" required for some of the creative businesses. MAKLAB will take responsibility for the lease / premises costs and InCube will provide the furniture, fittings and equipment required within the premises.
  - 4.6 MAKLAB will deliver a range of services to local businesses, unemployed groups and community events through a service level agreement with Invest in Renfrewshire.
  - 4.7 MAKLAB will additionally deliver a wide range of commercial workshops and training during evenings and weekends, bringing groups of people to their premises and contributing to the town centre economy.
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## **5. Vanilla Ink**

- 5.1 Through discussions with MAKLAB the InCube team were introduced to Vanilla Ink, a unique Jewellery business incubator.
- 5.2 In 2012, Vanilla Ink opened its doors in Dundee and since then, 16 jewellers have passed through the workshop and taken part in the Vanilla Ink programme.
- 5.3 Vanilla Ink offer access to a 24 hour workshop space, monthly professional development classes with industry experts and one to one mentoring with successful designers.
- 5.4 Vanilla Ink closed its doors in Dundee in January 2015 and travelled to Glasgow where they have now established a new workshop in MAKLAB at Charing Cross.

- 5.5 Vanilla Ink is now looking to open a national Jewellery school in a separate location and is interested in Paisley.
- 5.6 Discussions with Vanilla ink have identified the opportunity for collaboration with InCube where the jewellery businesses could receive business accelerator support, e-commerce support, retail space in the InCube shop and retailing skills from InCube alongside the practical workspace and expertise in jewellery design from Vanilla Ink.
- 5.7 Again, this package of support would allow new businesses to thrive in Renfrewshire and would provide a national focal point for innovative jewellery design and training.
- 5.8 Invest in Renfrewshire are working with Vanilla Ink to find a suitable premises in Paisley and are discussing areas of potential collaboration and service level agreements.

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## Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** – No additional funding is required. Business support is available through the Invest in Renfrewshire Programme and potential service levels agreements will be within agreed and approved budgets.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none.
- 3. **Community Planning – Jobs and the Economy** - contributes to the themes of the Jobs and Economy community planning theme.
- 4. **Legal** – legal advice will be sought in the development of any service level agreement or grant funding offer by the council.
- 5. **Property/Assets** – None, in both cases the companies will take the lease of premises.
- 6. **Information Technology** – None.
- 7. **Equality & Human**  
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
  - 8. **Procurement** – None
  - 9. **Risk** – a risk assessment for the proposal will be undertaken.
  - 11. **Privacy Impact** – None
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### **List of Background Papers**

None

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