



To: Economy and Jobs Policy Board

On: 20th May 2015

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Invest in Renfrewshire Operating Budget 2015-16

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper summarises the broad range of activities and programmes which will be undertaken to deliver the Invest in Renfrewshire Programme in 2015/16 in pursuit of the Council's key objective of creating jobs and growing the local economy.
 - 1.2 Invest in Renfrewshire provides a business and employment focussed support programme designed to improve employment opportunities for Renfrewshire's residents and in doing so boost the performance of Renfrewshire's businesses and social enterprises. "Invest in Renfrewshire" is now the overarching brand for all economic development activity in Renfrewshire.
 - 1.3 This operating programme 2015/16 reflects the commitment made by the Council in allocating a total of £10.5M to Invest in Renfrewshire for the 2012 – 17 period and also seeks to allocate the significant levels of external funding that have been secured from a variety of sources including EU funding from the new Scottish programme 2014-20.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - (i) Approves the operating programme for Invest in Renfrewshire Economic Development activity in 2015/16 as set out in the Report below,

- (ii) Note the continuing requirement to maximise outcomes from the Invest in Renfrewshire programme and authorise officers to work in conjunction with the Director of Finance & Resources to realign and re-profile the programme, as necessary, within the Councils overall requirement to maintain sufficient reserves, and apply for external funding to augment the programme,
 - (iii) Agree that regular reports on initiatives and projects will be brought to future meetings of the Economy & Jobs Policy Boards as a means of monitoring performance and agreeing funding submissions.
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3. Background

3.1 Invest in Renfrewshire is an integrated economic development programme which brings together the full range of economic development functions under a single and recognised brand. There are 3 specific strands that are subject to regular and ongoing reports to the Economy & Jobs Policy Board:

(i) **Invest in Business** - Engaging with and supporting the growth of local businesses; helping businesses to find, keep and develop their local workforce, and providing financial support to increase the capacity of Renfrewshire companies.

(ii) **Invest in Employability** - Helping unemployed and under-employed people become employable, get and keep a job, and progress within work; and

(iii) **Invest in Communities** – supporting community economic development through community based approaches and third sector development.

4. Invest in Business

4.1 A primary focus of Invest in Renfrewshire is to support business to start up, grow and provide increased local employment. A range of programmes, development incentives and support are available to new and existing companies across Renfrewshire:

4.2 **Business Advisory Support:** Individual advice and support to companies is available through the Invest in Renfrewshire Business Team at the Council and through the Councils Business Gateway service. Businesses can get access to a range of support from experienced and qualified staff. The Business Gateway service is managed by Renfrewshire Council for the delivery of support in the East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde areas.

4.3 **Business Growth Support:** A range of flexible grant funds are available to support local businesses looking to grow. Up to £20,000 per company is available (at maximum 50% grant rate) for new and additional company

developments including: Business Innovation, new product development, ICT, Feasibility Work, Tourism development and exporting and exhibitions.

- 4.4 Renfrewshire Council are strong partners in and promoters of **The Supplier Development Programme** which supports small local businesses to develop their understanding and capabilities in securing public sector contracts. Local companies are encouraged to take part in programmes that allow them to prepare for and bid for contracts on Public Contracts Scotland.
- 4.5 Export support is now available to Renfrewshire Companies through **Expo-Ren**, a partnership between Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Enterprise and the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce. The main purpose of Expo-Ren is to make it easier for local companies to explore export markets and to grow internationally.
- 4.6 Funding is available through the **Renfrewshire Business Training Scheme** for specific company training needs which allows the company to grow and develop.
- 4.7 **Retail Improvement Scheme:** A key element of Invest in Renfrewshire, this fund continues to assist small business, with a presence in retail areas, to improve or repair the fabric and appearance of qualifying properties.
- 4.8 **Business Start-Up Support:** Start up advice and support is provided through the Councils Business Gateway service with staff, workshops, access to professional advisors and business mentoring available. A new-start growth fund provides up to £1,000 towards the start-up costs of a new business and the young company development fund can provide grant finance of up to £10k.
- 4.9 **InCube: Retail Incubator:** The Councils new Creative Retail Incubator opens this summer with specialist support, advice and nurturing to young companies looking to establish a growing creative retail business in Renfrewshire. Specialist support includes: e-commerce advice; a test trading shop in the centre of Paisley; a business base in Paisley High Street and business mentoring and training from experienced and qualified staff.
- 4.10 **Business Loan Financing:** The West of Scotland Loan Fund supports SMEs, providing loans for working capital, plant and equipment and business property. Loans are available of up to £100,000 for businesses trading for more than two years and up to £30,000 for businesses trading for two years or less. The Invest in Renfrewshire Micro Loan and Invest in Renfrewshire Investment Funds aim to support the creation of new enterprises and the growth of existing micro and small businesses that have potential to create jobs and generate additional value. Interest free loans of up to £5k are available.
- 4.11 **Business Initiatives:** The Council supports a range of local business initiatives including a service level agreement with the Renfrewshire Chamber

5. Invest in Employability

5.1 Invest in Renfrewshire provides the focus for the Council's Employability activity. This integrated programme provides support to anyone in Renfrewshire aged 16 – 65 who requires support into work and delivers services alongside the main statutory providers DWP / Jobcentre Plus and Skills Development Scotland.

The Council uses existing resources to bring in a range of EU funds and is currently applying for a range of 3 year ESF programmes to support the Council's approach. These applications were presented to the previous Economy and Jobs Policy Board and final programmes, services and contracts are being developed but incorporate a wide range of training, personal support and job creation initiatives.

The Council Programmes fall under 3 EU Applications:

- Employability Pipeline programme including City Deal ESA Programme
- Youth Employment Initiative for 16 – 29 year olds
- Social Inclusion and Poverty ESF Employability Support Programme

These programmes collectively provide a range of integrated and flexible services, programmes, finances and staff support to around 2500 local people per year. The programmes have been designed to offer a continuum of employability support to help people along the employability pipeline and incorporate a range of programmes to support the creation of jobs, traineeships, apprenticeships and internships.

The full breakdown of the applications will be provided to future Policy Board once applications are approved.

5.2 City Deal ESA Programme “Working Matters” – as part of City Deal a new approach to support the employability of local people on health related benefits (Employment Support Allowance) is being piloted. The “Working Matters” programme will be delivered over 3 years, supporting over 450 unemployed people across Renfrewshire. The programme will be delivered as part of the overall Invest in Renfrewshire Employability Programmes detailed in 5.1.

5.3 Employability Support in schools: Invest in Renfrewshire continues to support Education Services to increase awareness and experience of the world of work to young people at school. The main aim is to improve contacts between businesses and education providers, to increase opportunities to gain work experience and to promote the use of SVQs in employability – especially in high schools as a subject option in S4-6. Invest in Renfrewshire

resources are used to fund additional support in terms of employability and to build capacity in schools.

- 5.4 Employability Fund Programmes (Training Opportunities in the Public Sector)** – Renfrewshire Council is one of the top delivery providers for the Skills Development Scotland Employability Fund programme. This contract provides the finance to support (during 2015-16) 65 work experience placements with training and qualifications for unemployed young people and adults across Renfrewshire. These placements are delivered through the participation of a wide range of Council services.
- 5.5 YEI Wage Subsidies and Apprenticeship Grants:** Alongside the Councils intention to deliver a range of wage subsidy / job creation programmes to generate new and additional jobs for local unemployed people the Scottish Government are also looking at providing a new Employer Recruitment Incentive for young people. Final details of this are still under discussion however it is anticipated that the programme will be rolled out over the summer period and an estimate of the Renfrewshire element of this has been made.
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6. Invest in Communities

- 6.1 Funding and Development Support:** local communities can receive support through the Councils Funding and Development Officer to support the development of new local projects and funding applications. This officer also supports Council Departments to grow local services.
- 6.2 Social Economy Development:** as part of Invest in Renfrewshire, the Council has made a significant commitment to increase the capacity of the Social Enterprise Sector. £700,000 has been committed to provide a range of grant and investment funding to Renfrewshire based organisations and a new Community Traineeships Renfrewshire programme will be launched next year as part of the Invest in Employability approach.
- 6.3 LEADER, Rural Development Programme:** The EU LEADER programme has made a significant contribution to social, economic and environmental improvements to Renfrewshire's rural areas over the last 4 years. The new programme for the rural areas for 2014 – 20 is expected to be launched in the summer 2015.
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7. Economic Development Programmes 2015 - 16

- 7.1** The anticipated outcomes from each strand of the programme outlined above are being compiled for the EU applications and will be presented to Board once these are finalised. Thereafter activity will be closely monitored and reported to Board on a regular basis.

- 7.2 In order to ensure that the impact of the Invest in Renfrewshire budgets are maximised it may be necessary to reallocate budgets within the programme or to re-profile the programme across financial years. Officers will work with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services to ensure that any request to re-profile resources is consistent with the policy on the use of General Fund balances and the requirement for the Council to maintain sufficient reserves over the course of any financial year.

8. Proposed Operating Budget 2015/16

Invest in Renfrewshire	2015/16 Programme
Management, Communications & Partner Engagement	£170,000
Invest in Business	£1,851,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Advisory and Start-Up / Staff • Support / Expo-Ren • Business Growth Support through Company Grants • Supplier Development Programme • Renfrewshire Business Training Scheme • Retail Improvement Scheme • InCube: Retail Incubator • Business Loan Financing • Business Initiatives 	
Invest in Employability	£4,585,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability Pipeline (Adult) programme including City Deal ESA Programme • Youth Employment Initiative (16 – 29 years) • Social Inclusion /Poverty ESF Programme • ERI Recruitment Incentive Programme • IIR Schools Employability Support • Employability Fund Programmes 	
Invest in Communities	£700,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Economy Grant Programme • LEADER • Funding & Development Support 	
TOTAL	£7,306,000
2015/16 Funding Sources:	
Economic Development Mainline Budget (inc Business Gateway)	£1,870,000
Invest in Renfrewshire	£2,630,000
European Funding (ESF / ERDF)	£1,906,000

LEADER (estimated)	£500,000
Scottish Government	£130,000
DWP (City Deal)	£170,000
SDS (Employability Fund)	£100,000
TOTAL	£7,306,000

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Invest in Renfrewshire budget is likely to be augmented over the year through additional applications for contracts and funding, most notably from the EU structural funds.
 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – additional posts will require to be created over the coming year in line with service requirements and within any budget restrictions.
 3. **Community Planning – Jobs and the Economy** – the Invest in Renfrewshire Programme makes a significant impact on the targets and aspirations within the Community Plan.
 4. **Legal** – None
 5. **Property/Assets-** none
 6. **Information** - 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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The contact officer within the service is Ruth Cooper, Economic Development Manager, 7868