



To: **Jobs and Economy Thematic Board**

On: **16th November 2015**

Report by:
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Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum and Global Entrepreneurship Week

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the increased focus on entrepreneurship within the Invest in Renfrewshire programme a new local Enterprising Renfrewshire forum has been established to promote Enterprise and Self Employment across the area.
- 1.2 The forum will co-ordinate and influence local partnership working and, as an early action, aims to be one of the biggest Scottish contributors to Global Entrepreneurship Week which will be run during November 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that...
 - (i) The board note the establishment of the Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum and the plans across Renfrewshire for Global Entrepreneurship Week;
 - (ii) The board consider any additional events that could be included as part of Renfrewshire's contribution to Global Entrepreneurship week.

3. Background

- 3.1 Invest in Renfrewshire has a significant role to play in promoting and supporting enterprise and business start up. The West of Scotland traditionally lags behind the rest of Scotland in terms of the levels of start up and this was identified as a particular issue to be addressed in Renfrewshire over the coming years.
- 3.2 Over the last year an increased focus on this area has resulted in the development of the InCube Business Centre and Shop and there is currently an appraisal of the Business Gateway service to identify if there are improved ways of working.

- 3.3 A number of organisations work across Renfrewshire to promote start-up and enterprise in its widest sense.

4. Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum

- 4.1 The forum consists of all of the local agencies working in the local area bringing together business support agencies, education providers, government departments and businesses to broker more effective enterprise delivery.
- 4.2 The aim is to raise aspirations and levels of achievement by encouraging local people and local organisations to be more enterprising. A main focus will be to:
- facilitate and encourage collaboration
 - build a culture which values, promotes and nurtures enterprise
 - support, enable and influence the work of our members
 - make Renfrewshire a leading region in the UK for Enterprise
 - add value to the implementation and development of activity across the enterprise agenda
 - lead on regional initiatives
 - Create a pipeline of enterprising young people for years to come
- 4.3 At the first meeting of the forum it was agreed that key area of work would be to:
- Investigate and recommend ways in which existing gaps can be filled – and look for opportunities for partnership working
 - Reduce duplication across organisations
 - Identify and promote the implementation of good practice
 - Measure impacts and evaluate effectiveness
 - Ensure better communication and information flow between members and other organisations involved in enterprise education/ enterprise services
 - Promote and champion activities and events
 - Develop new initiatives
 - Encourage business involvement
 - Advise on regional and national enterprise education strategy

5. Global Entrepreneurship Week

- 5.1 Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) is the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators, who launch start-ups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. During one week each November, GEW inspires people everywhere through local, national and global activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators.
- 5.2 This year Global Entrepreneurship Week is from November 16th – 22nd and over 140 countries have registered to take part. Activities will range from large-scale competitions and events to intimate networking gatherings, connecting participants to potential collaborators, mentors and even investors—introducing them to new possibilities and exciting opportunities.

- 5.3 Over 100 partners across the UK are signed up to GEW and the Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum agreed to work in partnership to contribute to the week.
- 5.4 As a partnership we are aiming to be one of Scotland's largest contributors and the forum identified the opportunity to quickly establish and launch a range of events / activities for the area as part of Global Entrepreneurship week.
- 5.5 Currently one of the top contributors in the UK is Hull Enterprise Partnership. Enterprise Culture was a strong element of Hulls successful City of Culture 2017 bid and this is also planned for Renfrewshire's 2021 City of Culture bid.
- 5.6 The Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum are aiming for 20+ activities and events running as part of Global Entrepreneurship week and information on these can be found both on the GEW website and the Invest in Renfrewshire Website. Local marketing will promote all of the events.
- 5.7 The current events are listed below.