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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: Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum**

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**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 the biggest Scottish contributor to Global Entrepreneurship Week which will be run during November 2015.
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**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
    - (i) Note the establishment of the Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum and the plans across Renfrewshire for Global Entrepreneurship Week;
    - (ii) Agree that further updates on progress be provided to the Board.
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**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.
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#### **4. Enterprising Renfrewshire Forum**

- 4.1 The forum is open to 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
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#### **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 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Scotland's largest contributor 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. Activities planned for Renfrewshire can be found in Appendix 1.
- 5.5 Currently the top contributor 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.

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## Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** – No implications, any events or services through the forum will be met from existing budgets and partner activities.
- 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** – None
- 5. **Property/Assets** – None
- 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

9. **Procurement** – None

10. **Risk** – None.

11. **Privacy Impact** – None

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### **List of Background Papers**

None

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Time	Monday 16/11/2015	Tuesday 17/11/2015	Wednesday 18/11/2015	Thursday 19/11/2015	Friday 20/11/2015	Saturday 21/11	Sunday 22/11
9:00				Business Gateway 9:30-12:30 Business Start Up: Advertising & Promotion Hillington Innovation Centre <a href="#">book here</a>	UWS/Renfrewshire Council 9am – 4pm Schools into University Interactive workshops for primary schools UWS		
10:00	Renfrewshire Council 10am-12 Into Enterprise - a Story of the Lows & Highs InCube floor 1	Renfrewshire Council 10am – 12noon Social Enterprise Workshop InCube Floor 1	Business Gateway 10:15 – 11:30am Launching a Successful New Business Session1: Getting Your New Business Noticed - Hillington Innovation Centre - <a href="#">book here</a> BG 11:45-1pm Launching a Successful New Business Session 2: Getting Your Finances Set up for Launch – Hillington Innovation Centre – <a href="#">book here</a>	9 – 10am InCube Shop official opening			
11:00			Renfrewshire Council Twitterfest: A Twitter chat hour #tips for start-ups (online)	Renfrewshire Council 12– 1pm How IIR Can Help your Start-up Business - InCube Floor 1			
12:00				<b>Renfrewshire Council</b> <b>1 – 6pm</b> <b>Start it! InCube Open Day</b> <b>InCube</b>	Business Gateway 13:30-16:30 Business Start Up: Improve Your Search Engine Rankings Hillington Innovation Centre <a href="#">book here</a>		
13:00							
14:00		Renfrewshire Council- 2pm-4pm Growing your Company ... recruitment support and employer incentives to employ additional staff InCube Floor 1 (Darren and Therese)	Renfrewshire Council a Successful New Business Session 3: Getting Your First Website – Hillington Innovation centre – <a href="#">book here</a>				
15:00			Renfrewshire Council InCube Inspirers – Successful entrepreneur webcast (online)				
16:00			Bridge 2 Business 4-6:30pm Pathway 2 Entrepreneurship, Abercorn Conference Centre				
17:00							
18:00		Business Gateway 6 – 8.30pm			Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce 6:30pm – late		
19:00		Business Start Up: Business Planning Hillington Innovation Centre <a href="#">book here</a>			ROCCO Awards - Normandy Hotel Renfrew		
20:00							
All day	<b>Wall of ideas:</b> An electronic wall of tips/ideas for start-ups. Visual post-its Hosted on InCube /IIR websites - content moderated						

Business Gateway – 1 Ainslie Road, Hillington, Renfrewshire G52 4RU, InCube – 27 High Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 2AF, UWS – Paisley campus, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 2BE,  
Bridge 2 Business - Abercorn Conference Centre, WCS, Renfrew Road, Paisley PA3 4DR

