

**To: Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board**

**On: 5 September 2016**

**Report by:  
Nick Shields, Location Director, Scottish Enterprise**

**TITLE:  
SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY IN RENFREWSHIRE 2015/16**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 Scottish Enterprise update on activity with Renfrewshire businesses for financial year 2015/16.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board notes the report. A further update will be submitted in 12 months.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Scottish Enterprise works across the 27 local authority areas of lowland Scotland, including Renfrewshire. This report is not an exhaustive account of our work – to find out more contact your location coordinator [stephen.frew@scotent.co.uk](mailto:stephen.frew@scotent.co.uk)

- 3.2 SE contributes to Scotland's long term economic growth by helping our companies to compete, supporting globally competitive sectors, attracting new investors, and creating an open and responsive business environment. We aim to ensure our assets and companies are as internationally competitive as possible by being outward looking and focusing on innovation, investment, and inclusive growth.

**3.3 *Renfrewshire Key Facts***

Renfrewshire is home to around 4,300 enterprises, or just under 3% of Scotland's total business base and 76,500 employees. 86% of these firms employ fewer than 10 people.

In 2015/16 there were 109 SE account managed companies in Renfrewshire, the highest number for several years. 51 companies were in Business Gateway's Growth Pipeline, working on growth plans.

### 3.4 **Supporting innovation**

SE wants to help transform Scotland's innovation performance so it equals that of the best performing nations by 2020, because our evidence shows that innovative companies – be they producing new products and services or investing in marketing, skills, and new technology – perform better.

Over the last year, 15 companies in Renfrewshire benefited from an innovation support grant. 1 firm received a SMART grant.

In addition, 12 companies have also undertaken manufacturing reviews with the support of the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS), leading to reduced waste and improved cost, quality, and delivery performance through an additional 10 completed projects.

### 3.5 **Championing internationalisation**

We recognise the importance of continuing to building Scotland's presence and visibility in overseas markets in an increasingly competitive, globalised economy.

In 2015/16 Scottish Development International (SDI) helped 58 Renfrewshire businesses to capitalise on global opportunities and we plan to do even more over the coming 12 months. This will include reaching out to potential new exporters, via our recently refreshed ScotExporter programme. We will also continue to work with new and existing account managed companies to explore emerging opportunities, both at home and abroad, that will enable them to meet their growth aspirations.

### 3.6 **Enabling investment**

Our approach to investment is threefold: helping companies to secure the funding they need to unlock their growth potential; attracting international investment; and investing in the quality business infrastructure that is essential to the high wage, high productivity economy we want Scotland to have.

*Regional Selective Assistance:* 1 Regional Selective Assistance grant offer was made in Renfrewshire firms, representing an investment by SE of around £90k and 9 new jobs are expected to be created as a result.

*International investment:* In the last year SDI has secured two inward investments in Renfrewshire, helping to create 60 jobs and safeguard a further 130

### 3.7 ***Delivering inclusive growth***

The Scottish Government has tasked SE with delivering growth for Scotland's economy as a whole. However, we remain alive to the diverse nature of our communities in order to maximise that growth and unlock new opportunities, and to ensure that our businesses develop the motivated, well trained workforce they need to succeed.

SE continues to support and promote the Scottish Business Pledge amongst the companies we work with. We will help to push forward an agenda amongst local firms to become Living Wage Employers wherever possible. SE has taken the lead as a partner by being accredited as a Living Wage employer itself.

### 3.8 ***Working in partnership***

At the heart of SE's approach is a recognition that working in partnership with industry, business, and public sector partners helps to deepen the impact of what we can deliver. SE remains a committed member of the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership's Jobs & Economy Board.

#### *Paisley 2021*

SE has been working locally to support Renfrewshire Council's bid for UK City of Culture 2021. As well as being part of the Council's project board and an economy sub group. SE has also established an internal working group to ensure we work across sector and project teams to support the Paisley bid and drive tourism development.