



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

On: **Thursday 12th March, 2015**

Report by:

Director of Development and Housing Services

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY THEMATIC BOARD – YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT

1. Summary

- 1.1 At a meeting of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on 28th May, 2014 it was agreed that the CPP Board should have oversight of each of the Thematic Boards to monitor progress and to offer support and encouragement. The feedback from the Thematic Boards would in turn provide fresh ideas and help to inform the Board as they moved forward.
- 1.2 Each of the Thematic Boards was scheduled to present to the CPP on progress of their agreed outcomes and overall performance and a rolling monitoring programme was established.
- 1.3 The Jobs and Economy Thematic Board reported its progress to the CPP Board on 4th February, 2015 and a copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Thematic Board:
 - (i) Notes the progress report made to the CPP Board; and
 - (ii) Agrees that further consideration be given to the Performance targets.

To: **Community Planning Partnership Board**

On: **4th February, 2015**

Report by:

Director of Development and Housing Services

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY THEMATIC BOARD – YEAR 1 PROGRESS REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 The vision for Jobs and Economy as set out in the Community Plan is that “By 2023 Renfrewshire is recognised for its diverse, enterprising and thriving business base, creating new jobs and businesses within a growing local economy where they are supported by inclusive and sustainable communities and workforce.”
- 1.2 The Community Plan establishes the outcomes that we plan to achieve over the period to 2023 together with the actions that the partnership will undertake to ensure these outcomes are delivered and how progress will be measured.
- 1.3 The Jobs and Economy Thematic Board membership comprises representatives from Renfrewshire Council, West College Scotland, DWP Job Centre Plus, University of the West of Scotland, Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities, Scottish Enterprise, Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, Skills Development Scotland, SPT, Community Health Partnership, and Glasgow Airport.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership Board:

- (i) Note the progress made in the delivery of the objectives of the Jobs and Economy Thematic Group in 2014; and
- (ii) Agree that further consideration be given to the Performance targets of the Jobs and Economy Theme as set out in Appendix 1 and that this be delegated to the Jobs and Economy Thematic Board, and reported to a future meeting of the Partnership Board.

3 Progress and Activity

- 3.1 Significant progress has been made in meeting and in most cases exceeding the targets established in the Community Plan as detailed in Appendix 1. The progress that has been made can partly be attributed to an improving economic picture, however, some of the improvements in performance, particularly in the areas of employment and the labour market have consistently outperformed the national trend. Youth unemployment for example is now at its lowest level in 20 years reducing from 9.3% in 2013 to 3.9%.



New opportunities for economic regeneration locally have also developed in the period since 2013, these include:

- The Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal which includes £1.13bn of infrastructure investment and is expected to deliver around £2.2bn of net additional GVA pa and 29,000 new jobs to the city region, and improved access to an average of 45,000 jobs;
- The development of the Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy which includes an ambition to position Paisley to bid to become UK city of Culture in 2021;
- And, the adoption of the new Local Development Plan bringing with it the potential for a £200m investment in Braehead and associated employment opportunities.

These opportunities mean that there is a need to review the targets and outcome measures set out in the Community Plan. The Jobs and Economy Thematic Board held a development session in December 2014 to start the process of establishing a revised action plan for Jobs and Economy in the light of these new initiatives, and it is recommended that a new set of outcome measures and performance targets should be remitted to the Thematic Board for development.

3.2 **Priority Areas 2013/2014**

The Thematic Board established a number of priorities for action during its first year of operation. These included:

Improve Inter-agency coordination of employment services and support

Coordination has been strengthened through the local employability partnership which brings together all agencies who meet regularly to improve communication and coordination of services. A key deliverable has been the Youth Employment Activity Plan. Three Invest in Renfrewshire Conferences have also been held.

Improve School Leaver Destination Outcomes

The Board have received detailed analysis on School Leaver Destination outcomes for 2012/13. This indicated an improving position for Renfrewshire. Work is continuing through the LEP to focus on improvement actions, and the Board has agreed to review progress following analysis of the December leavers results. This is an area of cross over with the Children and Young People Thematic Board and it has been agreed that a joint meeting of the boards will be planned.

Support growth and sustainability of local businesses

A key opportunity in terms of promoting exporting was identified by the Board, and it was remitted to the Chamber of Commerce and Scottish Enterprise to increase awareness of support that is available for businesses who are interested in growth through Exporting. A new Renfrewshire Exporting Partnership was launched at an event on 21 March 2014. The launch event was formally opened by Humza Yousef MSP, Minister for External Affairs and International Development with key note speeches from the Leader of the Council and key agencies, as well as Glasgow Airport and two local companies who have successfully developed their businesses through exporting. The event was very well attended, and received excellent feedback. Monitoring of the success of companies who access support through the partnership will be undertaken by SE/SDI and shared with the Thematic Board



Improve Connectivity of Renfrewshire

SPT provided a presentation on Community Transport which provided an overview of the principles of community transport with examples of where this is successfully in operation. Further work on the feasibility of this model in Renfrewshire is required, and Engage Renfrewshire and SPT were remitted to bring together relevant partners for a further discussion on this. The Board also received presentations on the Council's involvement with the other Clyde Valley Councils on the development of a Greater Glasgow Area City Deal and the potential for this programme of work to assist with infrastructure issues.

Promote Renfrewshire as a great place to work, live, and do business

The Board received a presentation on both City Deal and the Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy. The work programme relating to both of these initiatives will be key drivers for achievement of this objective.

3.3 Growing the Local Economy

The most significant impact on the Jobs and Economy Group in 2014 was the creation of the partnership that brought together eight Councils and other Community Planning partners in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal, to share £1.13billion of public sector investment over the next decade.

Renfrewshire will be at the centre of three of the most important projects.

- Clyde Waterfront/ Renfrew Riverside – a new opening road bridge between Renfrew and Yoker.
- Glasgow Airport Investment Zone – will build on commitments to capitalise on the airport's economic and employment strengths including new investment in roads infrastructure.
- Glasgow Airport Access Link which aims to develop a light rail connection between Glasgow Airport/ Gilmour Street station and the national rail network.

A priority area identified by the Thematic Board was to encourage local businesses to grow through exporting opportunities. The thematic board through the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, and Scottish Enterprise, developed an exporting partnership and this was launched at an event in April 2014 Expo Ren.

3.4 Encouraging Investment

Another key outcome in 2014 was the formal adoption of the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan. The impact of this document which involves commitment from a range of Community Planning Partners includes;

- Braehead designated as a Town Centre releasing the potential for £200 million of investment.
- Guide significant investment opportunities to our strategic economic investment locations such as Glasgow Airport International Investment Quarter, Hillington and Erskine Riverfront.
- Innovative delivery mechanisms to build new homes on vacant and derelict land and regeneration areas.
- Private sector housing investment bringing over 800 new homes to Renfrewshire in the next 5 years.



- Certainty for communities and investors with an up to date Development Plan.

3.5 Town Centre Regeneration and Tourism Development

- Members of the Partnership Board have committed to the implementation of the Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy, the work on which will be a key driver for the physical regeneration of the town and the wider economic growth of Renfrewshire.
- The Paisley Business Improvement District was approved during 2014 and work has commenced on creating a Simplified Planning Zone covering Renfrew town centre; work on the £14million Johnstone Town hall has also progressed with completion due in March 2015..
- Work has progressed on the establishment of a Business Incubator Hub which will operate from premises in High Street, Paisley. This facility will be operational by April 2015.
- The Renfrewshire Tourism Framework was approved in November 2014 setting an action plan for work through to 2017 to maximise Renfrewshire's tourism potential through engagement with Visit Scotland and local private sector partners.

3.6 Supporting Local Businesses and Community

- The Jobs and Economy Thematic Group oversees the delivery of the Renfrewshire Employability Partnership Programme which is due to relaunch in January 2015. This Programme has exceeded its projected outcomes and, to date, 1633 people have secured employment and 4862 people have been supported.
- The Partnership also continuing to build on the success of the Invest in Renfrewshire programme to help tackle the economic and social challenges impacting on individuals and businesses in Renfrewshire. Over 750 companies have signed up to the initiative to date with 258 companies having been offered grants to pursue development, training, exhibition and ICT projects.
- Furthermore, through the Invest in Renfrewshire programme, 126 internships have been approved; 86 with the council and 41 with companies and, so far, 457 young people have started new jobs supported through the wage subsidy scheme.
- A new service level agreement with the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce has also been approved to further promote the Invest in Renfrewshire programmes of support to businesses.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 At a meeting of the Thematic Board in December 2014, Members discussed the implications of the projects and the impact upon the Board's targets and prioritisation of outcomes. In this context it was noted that the range of Targets set for the Board (see Appendix 1 below), had generally been exceeded and that as a result of a number of factors there was a need to have a further development session to forecast the impact of the new challenges and opportunities that are relevant to the Jobs and Economy Theme.
- 4.2 The details of this will be developed in partnership and reported to the Strategic Board in due course.



Appendix 1

Performance against year 1 targets

The table below highlights year one performance for our key performance indicators:

Jobs and the Economy Impact Measures	Current Status	Baseline	Year 1 Target	Year 1 Actual
Outcome 1. Renfrewshire will be one of the best locations in Scotland to invest, in terms of its people, businesses and local communities				
Reduction in the level of urban vacant and derelict land	✔	271 hectares (2012)	4 hectares	12 hectares
Outcome 2. Renfrewshire will have a growing local economy creating employment or a well trained, qualified and motivated workforce – where unemployment is reduced and employment opportunities are growing				
Increase in the value of development investment activity	✔	£127.03m (2012/13)	£139.73m	£189.19m
Increase in the rate of VAT/PAYE registered businesses in Renfrewshire	✔	4,445 (2011)	4,533	4,605
Increase in the Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Renfrewshire economy		£2,484.1m (2010)	Baseline data and targets to be reviewed	
Increase in visitor expenditure in Renfrewshire	✔	£155m (2011)	£162.75m	£186m
Increase in the number of Renfrewshire workers earning more than the minimum wage		Following investigation by the Jobs and Economy Thematic Board it was identified that a baseline couldn't be established		
Reduction in the number of long term unemployed	✔	1,520 – 1.4% (March 2013)	5%	1140 25%
Reduction in the number of unemployed young people (18-24 years)	✔	1457 – 9.6% (March 2013)	9%	1035 - 28.9%
Reduction in the number of 16-19 year olds who are unemployed seeking work		201 (February 2013)	Baseline data available only	
Outcome 3: Renfrewshire will be the best connected local economy in Scotland, internationally, nationally and regionally				
Increase in the Renfrewshire manufactured exports		Following investigation by the Jobs and Economy Thematic Board it was identified that a baseline couldn't be established		



Jobs and the Economy Impact Measures	Current Status	Baseline	Year 1 Target	Year 1 Actual
Outcome 4: Renfrewshire will have attractive environments and successful town centres created through successful area regeneration that contributes positively to local economic growth				
Reduction in vacant retail space in Paisley Town Centre	✓	24,571 sqm	10%	13.4%
Increase in the annual house completions (private and RSL)	✓	332 homes (2012/13)	10%	19%
Increase Renfrewshire's resident population		174,900 Census 2011	The next Census will be undertaken in 2021, however estimates indicate the Renfrewshire population as at 2013 as 173,900	