

**To: Jobs & Economy Board**

**On: 5 September 2016**

**Report by: Mary Crearie, Director of Development and Housing Services**

**Renfrewshire's Local Outcome Improvement Plan - Progress Against Year 3 Targets  
Jobs and the Economy Thematic Board**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1. Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership was established to deliver positive change for Renfrewshire and has a number of interconnected workstreams with associated performance measures allowing for full and transparent scrutiny to ensure resources are best allocated, progress is on target and that the agreed priorities clearly reflect the changing social, political and economic environment.
- 1.2. This annual report highlights the progress of the Jobs and the Economy Thematic Board against the agreed performance measures, highlights areas of achievement and areas where additional work may be required. This report also considers what work is being progressed by the Jobs and the Economy Board to prevent poverty and inequality as well as responsive and remedial work.
- 1.3. This annual report also provides the Board with an opportunity to consider any changes to impact measures – these are outlined in section 7.

**Summary of performance**

Impact Measure Status		Total
	On target	9
	Warning	3
	Alert	2
N/a	No data available	7
Total		21

**Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board
- Notes the year 3 progress of impact measures against targets
  - Agrees the revisions to the LOIP as outlined in section 7
  - Agrees that the thematic boards provide a further progress update in . . . .

## Background

- 3.1 The Renfrewshire Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement were developed during 2012/13 and approved by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board on 12 June 2013.
- 3.2 Taken together, Renfrewshire Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement set out agreed outcomes, grouped by thematic board with targets for each impact measure. This report provides an annual update on progress towards the agreed outcomes for the Jobs and the Economy thematic board.

### 4.1 Key achievements

The thematic board's key achievements include:

- Employment - Invest in Renfrewshire continues to deliver successful results with youth unemployment falling below the Scottish average for the first time during 2015. JSA figures sit at 1.9%, falling from 10.9% in June 2012 when the programme started. A new ambitious target of achieving full youth employment has been agreed. For the next three years the employability service will concentrate on new approaches to target some of the key poverty indicators for those looking for work including health issues, debt and money management, housing, energy and childcare
- Business survival - overall the Renfrewshire position is positive with more business births, than deaths, in every year 2009 -2014. June 2015 saw the launch of InCube, the Council's retail incubator (based on Paisley High St) which supports the growth and development of creative retail businesses. In October the InCube shop, a retail premises on Gilmour St, opened to support the InCube businesses (and other guest traders) to test trade from. The first cohort of businesses have recently graduated from InCube and the second intake started in July 2016. InCube is partnering with MakLab to bring a joint resource to the area which will help start up, other businesses and the wider community to be more enterprising.
- VAT PAYE registered businesses in Renfrewshire – the position continues to be positive, with an increase year on year in the number of VAT PAYE registered businesses in Renfrewshire. The increase in the business stock is a good indicator of an active entrepreneurship climate and reflects a combination of both the numbers of new businesses created (start-ups) and the survival of existing businesses. The provision of good quality business support and assistance in the form of advice, loans and grants continues to play an important role in business success.
- Glasgow airport recorded its busiest June on record (June 2016) with nearly 950,000 passengers. The average number of flights per day for 2015 was 250, which is significantly above the 220 target. The airport has extended its European connectivity and also introduced new transatlantic routes as well as

reporting increased demand for domestic travel. The airport was named Scottish Airport of the Year 2016 for the second year in a row.

- Continuing the focus on providing frameworks, plans, strategies and projects which facilitate and deliver sustainable economic growth across Renfrewshire's places, towns, villages and centres, has led to the continual reduction in the level of vacant and derelict land. Development continues at pace at Dargavel Village in Bishopton with over 500 new homes built and new infrastructure in place, with many more sections of the site taking shape. The introduction of a Simplified Planning Zone at Hillington has also seen the development of over 3.5 hectares of land, creating 15,667 sqm of new business floorspace, delivering over £17 million of investment at Hillington Park. Through joint working, the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy is identifying the key housing and regeneration outcomes. The Strategic Housing Investment Programme is providing a level of funding and resources to deliver some of these outcomes and the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan is identifying and directing development to previously built on land, again leading to a continued reduction in the level of Renfrewshire's vacant and derelict land.
- Affordable house completions – the actions in the existing Local Housing Strategy continue to be successfully delivered, including the progression of the regeneration and housing programmes. During 2015/16 there were a total of 132 affordable housing completions. Construction work continues on sites across Renfrewshire, with a further two new build projects delivering another 108 units which will be completed by the end of summer 2016. A new draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) to cover the period 2016 – 2021 has been prepared. Following consultation which took place between November 2015 and March 2016, and incorporating feedback from the Scottish Government, the new LHS will be presented to the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board for approval later this year.

## 5.1 Performance against year 3 targets

The table below highlights the year three performance against our targets:

Impact Measures	Current Status	Baseline	Year 1 Actual	Year 3 Target	Year 3 Actual
Reduction in the level of vacant and derelict land		956 hectares (2013)	Replace existing similar	4.5%	4.6% (912 hectares 2015 figures)
Increase the survival of businesses in Renfrewshire		475 births 425 deaths Net: 50 businesses (2011)	New measure	Net: 100 businesses	Net: 140 businesses (605 births 465 deaths 2015 figures)
Reduce levels of digital exclusion in Renfrewshire	NA	Baseline to be established during 2016 (from PSP survey)	New measure	To be established	

Impact Measures	Current Status	Baseline	Year 1 Actual	Year 3 Target	Year 3 Actual
Number of passengers using Paisley Gilmour Street per weekday	NA	13,000 (Office of Rail Regulator 2014)	New measure	14,000	Figures expected October 2016
Number of scheduled train services stopping at Paisley Gilmour Street station per weekday	NA	250 (weekday timetable October 2015)	New measure	260	Figures expected October 2016
Number of scheduled flights from Glasgow Airport per day		200	New measure	220	250
Increase the rate of VAT/PAYE registered businesses in Renfrewshire		4,445 (2011)	3.6% 4,605 (2013/14)	6%	9.2% (4855)
Reduction in the number of long term unemployed	NA	1520 people (1.4%) JSA figure March 2013	1140 25%	608 JSA Claimants 60%	From March 2016 the Nomis figures have changed and JSA and Universal Credit are measured together. Work is ongoing with Nomis to be able to access the data required for this measure.
Reduction in the number of unemployed young people (18–24 year olds)		1475 (9.6%) March 2013	1035 (28.9%) March 2014	590 (60%)	565 (61.7%) March 2016
Reduction the number of 16–19 year olds who are unemployed seeking work	NA	201 - February 2013	Baseline data available only	161 (20%)	Figures not currently available
Reduction in the number of unemployed people 50+		745 people (2.1%) JSA figures March 2015	New measure	15% JSA figures March 2016	720 (3.3%)* (see note below table)

Impact Measures	Current Status	Baseline	Year 1 Actual	Year 3 Target	Year 3 Actual
Reduction of the number of claimants in receipt of Out of Work Benefits (16-64 years)		Currently 18,600 (16.5%) DWP Benefit claimants at February 15 - working age client group	New measure	17,500 people (6% reduction) February 2016	Figures expected Sept 2016 * (see note below table)
Increase the number of people in employment/self employed		85,200 (73.8% of working age population) March 2015	New measure	1% (853)	84,500 (74.0% of working age population) March 2016* (see note below table)
Increase the number of Living Wage Accredited employers		5 formally registered March 2015	New measure	100 (October 2016)	26 (May 2016)* (see note below table)
Increase the median gross weekly earnings in Renfrewshire		£415.50 (All) Renfrewshire £415.60 (All) Scotland (ASHE 2014)	New measure	Maintain	£417 (0.4% increase) November 2015 provisional figures
Reduction in vacant retail space in Paisley Town Centre		24571 sqm (2012)	13.4%	19647sqm (20%)	20622sqm (16%) 2015/16
Increase the number of affordable house completions		2014/15 — 56 homes	Replace existing similar measure	New targets will be outlined in LHS 2016-2021	132 – 135% increase from baseline 2015/16
Increase the number of private house completions		2014/15 — 477 homes	Replace existing similar measure	500 annually from 2016 5.6% from baseline	580 21.6% from baseline 2015/16
Increase Renfrewshire's resident population		174,900 Census 2011	173,900 (0.5% decrease from baseline) 2013 mid-year estimate	178,470 2%	174,560 (0.2% decrease from baseline) 2015 mid-year estimate
Increase in visitor expenditure in Renfrewshire	NA	£155 million — calendar year 2011	£162.75m 5%	£186m 25%	Awaiting information from STEAM
Increase the footfall in Paisley Town Centre	NA	Investigate the feasibility of this impact measure during 2016	Potential new measure	To be established	

**\*Note :**The “Year Three Actual” column refers to the latest figures available three years after initial community plan impact measures and targets were established. As several Jobs and Economy targets were exceeded earlier than expected, some new targets were set in 2015 and some new impact measures were also established. For these impact measures, the figures in the “Year Three Actual” column are the latest available figures, but represent the progress achieved during the first year after the establishment of a new indicator baseline approved by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board on 9 December 2015.

## 6.1 Areas for Improvement and Improvement Actions

- Reduction in the number of unemployed people 50+ - although this number has reduced, it has not met the challenging target of 15%.

**Improvement action:** Initiatives are in place for next year aiming to replicate the success of the youth unemployment programmes, such as wage subsidies, traineeships and internships for older unemployed groups.

- Although the number of people in employment or self-employed has dipped slightly, the current figure of 84,500 represents 74.0% of Renfrewshire’s working age population. This is higher than the Scottish average which is 72.9% and the UK average which is 73.7%. In addition it represents a very slightly higher percentage of the working age population compared to March 2015 although the actual number has reduced slightly.

**Improvement action:** continue to monitor this measure and if this figure falls further in 2017 further interrogation will be carried out.

- Living wage employers - an event was held in February 2016 where local businesses were invited to hear from speakers paying the living wage; they spoke about the benefits and encouraged businesses to sign up. Invest in Renfrewshire have continued to promote (through their partnership agreements) the living wage and referring companies to the Living Wage Foundation to apply for accreditation.

**Improvement action:** Renfrewshire Council recently applied for Living Wage Accreditation, a process which included working with suppliers to ensure their employees are also paid the minimum wage. The associated press coverage of this campaign will promote Renfrewshire’s Living Wage further.

- Paisley Town Centre – the vacant retail space is currently measured as a total space in square metres. This shows a 16% reduction from 24,571sqm in 2012 to 20,622sqm in 2015/16 which is below the target of 20%. It is recommended that this indicator be changed to measure the vacant retail *units* which is a more robust and accurate measure. The current measure focuses on ground floor commercial units and relies on floorspace data from the assessor which is not always available for all types of commercial use within the town centre.

**Improvement action:** Revise measure to more accurate indicator; please see the table at 7 below.

- Resident population – at present the Renfrewshire population appears fairly stagnant. Although the mid-year estimates show a slight decline overall in population from 2011 (but rising since 2013) an accurate picture will not be formed until the census information is collected in 2021. In common with much of Scotland, Renfrewshire has an ageing population and this changing demographic requires effective planning to ensure our services fit with local needs.

**Improvement action:** a buoyant economy needs a growing population and labour market; this is reflected in strategic actions within Renfrewshire’s Local Housing Strategy, Local Development Plan, Economic Framework and underpins the rationale behind City Deal – to improve Renfrewshire’s attractiveness as a place to work, study and live, improve transport connectivity, grow local employment opportunities and to ensure that the right housing in the right place is available to meet residents’ aspirations so they move into, or chose to remain in, Renfrewshire.

## 6.2 Revisions to Renfrewshire’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan

It is proposed to amend the following impact measure:

Existing Measure	New Measure	Baseline	Actual	Year 10 Target
Reduction in vacant retail space in Paisley Town Centre	Reduction in vacant retail units in Paisley Town Centre	89 (2010)	73 (2015)	50%
<p><b>Reason for revision:</b>            When looking at Town Centre vacancy for the Local Development Plan the focus is on units rather than floorspace as this gives a more accurate picture in terms of change and also doesn’t rely on the accuracy of data from the assessor. Significant progress has been made on reducing the vacant retail units in Paisley and it is important that the Board are able to scrutinise a performance measure which most accurately reflects this.</p>				

## 6.3 Prevention

The major driver of the Jobs and the Economy Thematic Board is preventing unemployment and stimulating the local economy with the ultimate aim to reduce poverty and inequality. Addressing these issues remains a key priority of all the Community Planning Partners and is reflected in the range of multi-partner projects including the regeneration of Paisley Town Centre, the Paisley UK City of Culture 2021 bid and the City Deal programme all of which will create employment opportunities and significantly grow Renfrewshire’s economy.

Renfrewshire Draft Economic Framework pulls together the key strategies and plans relating to Renfrewshire’s economy; highlighting 10 strategic priorities for the local economy and coordinating activity to maximise impact. These priorities aim to tackle existing problems but also to help prevent against future disadvantage and deprivation by making Renfrewshire a more prosperous place for all; meeting housing, employment and educational needs and aspirations.

Digital Participation – over the coming months baseline information will be established on the levels of digital inclusion in Renfrewshire based on responses from Renfrewshire’s Public Services Panel. This will be reported to the Jobs and Economy Thematic Board. There is already a significant programme to increase digital participation with the ultimate aim that all Renfrewshire’s residents have equal online and digital access. Renfrewshire’s forthcoming Digital Strategy will be underpinned by an ethos of prevention – as we move towards an increasingly digital world, those already disadvantaged through poverty, age and disability most keenly will feel this digital access gap widening. Internet access is now widely considered the ‘fourth utility’, with employment opportunities, information, training, competitively priced goods and services all unlocked through effective digital access. In order to prevent a digital opportunity gap in future, work is underway now with Digital Participation as the driver and infrastructure as a key enabler, to reach digitally disenfranchised groups to support them to have the same access as any Renfrewshire resident would expect. The Digital Strategy includes an action to develop a ‘digital dashboard’ to ensure digital trends are measured over the coming years and to inform the preventative approach.