



To: Jobs & Economy Thematic Group

On: 16 June 2015

Report by

Mary Crearie, Director of Development & Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council

PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members of the Thematic Group will be aware that significant progress has been made in the delivery of the Action Plan originally agreed under the Jobs & Economy Theme.
- 1.2 In this respect, there is also recognition that the activity and work programme to be delivered under this theme has been significantly affected by the establishment of the £1.13bn Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal Infrastructure Fund which will support continued growth in the City Region over the next 10 to 15 years.
- 1.3 As such, having discussed the implications of the City Deal, members of the Board agreed there was a need to consider the impact upon the Board's targets and prioritisation of outcomes and it was agreed that a consultation and development sessions would be held in order to forecast the challenges that faced the Board and refresh the priorities going forward.
- 1.4 An initial "development session" was held on 12th December, 2014 within Abercorn Conference Centre and consisted of:
 - The Lead Officer setting the scene and giving a presentation of evidence/key facts followed by scrutiny of the Jobs and Economy performance dashboard;
 - An overview of future opportunities;
 - Each Partner organisation giving a presentation on their plans for the future and possible opportunities;
 - The creation of a partnership "timeline" for each organisation's strategies/initiatives.
- 1.5 Subsequent to this consultation and peer review activities have been undertaken to identify and review future challenges, and to establish appropriate indicators to measure the effectiveness of partner activities and the overall successes of the Board as a partnership.

2. Emerging Issues

2.1 A range of issues and themes have merged from the discussions between partners which in turn will require to be fed into a refreshed Action Plan. These include but are not restricted to;

- Skills shortage in construction projects;
- The need to provide support for the most disengaged and priority groups to enable them to get back in to the workforce;
- Greater emphasis needs to be given to link volunteering into employability activity;
- In work poverty continues to be a major issue and Partners need to consider activities to ameliorate the negative impact of this problem;
- City Deal provides an opportunity to re-profile the skills required across Renfrewshire and the City Region;
- There is a need to 'sell' Renfrewshire and to encourage businesses to locate in this area;
- There is a need to develop the International Investment Quarter;
- Developing procurement opportunities for local companies;
- Identification of Paisley ambassadors for UK City of Culture.

3. Targets and Ongoing Activity

3.1 While the issues and tasks above reflect some on the work required of the partnership in light of new opportunities and changes in demand, it is noted that the Community Planning Partnership Board previously agreed amendments to the Single Outcome Agreement.

3.2 This recognised that thematic boards require to undertake an exercise to develop new targets and/or amend existing targets. It is proposed that over next few months, an exercise will be carried out by the Lead Officer in consultation with Partners and the Convenor to agree a suite of relevant targets for the Jobs and Economy Thematic Board within the context of the new SOA Targets and anticipated outcomes.

4. Recommendation

It is agreed that in order to bring reporting in line with revised SOA Targets and the new and emerging work of the Partners, a report will be presented to the next meeting of the Jobs & Economy Thematic Board seeking approval for a range of new targets that will guide the ongoing work of the Partnership and the objective to grow and develop the economy of Renfrewshire.