

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Lifelong Learning Committee****4 November 2015****COMMUNITY PLANNING ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP
BRIEFING PAPER****Joint Report by Depute Chief Executive (Sustainability, Strategic and
Entrepreneurial Development) and Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality,
Community Planning & Public Service Reform)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This briefing provides an update on the activities of the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Outcome Delivery Group.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The group is tasked with delivering the following Community Planning Local Outcomes outlined in the Single Outcome Agreement:

- People are Ready for Life and Work
- Thriving, Expanding Economy
- Employment Opportunities for All

1.2 The refreshed action plan was presented to the ODG meeting in May 2015. The plan contained a number of new place based actions and a stronger focus on inequality issues.

2. UPDATE

2.1 The group last met on 11 September 2015 where the following items were discussed:

Joint Resourcing

The Joint Resourcing pilot in Blairgowrie and Rattray has completed its research phase, and the ODG agreed that practical actions should now commence. The research identified strengths in:

- Joint planning and delivery
- Support for young people

The research identified areas for improvement in:

- Support for people aged 25 and over, and especially for those 50+
- Access and information
- Using the “employability pipeline” approach to align services

City Plan

The City Plan was presented to the group, outlining our vision that Perth will become one of Europe’s great small cities, and highlighting the 5 year delivery plan. The group recognised that individual elements of the plan alone will not deliver change, and partners will have to consider carefully their contributions to making the plan work.

Developing The Young Workforce Regional Group

A Young Workforce regional group is to be established in response to the final report of the Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce (Wood Commission). Young Workforce groups are being led by the private sector, with groups in Glasgow and Aberdeenshire now established. Perth & Kinross have the opportunity to bid for funding to establish a group.

In addition the College reported that new Foundation Apprenticeships in Care and Engineering have been introduced at Perth College UHI; this means that young people can undertake the first part of an apprenticeship whilst still at school.

Performance Highlights/Action Plan Monitoring

Members of the group were asked to highlight any progress with key actions in the plan. These included updates on:

- The proposed Creative Industries Innovation Hub (Creative Exchange Perth) which is currently bidding for funding from various sources. Potential partners include WASPS, Perth College UHI and Elevator/Business Gateway.
- PKAVS provided a brief update on progress in promoting the benefits of volunteering to employers and employees, with 82 new young people registered and numbers expected to increase.

The group agreed to monitor and report on the actions within the refreshed Outcome Delivery Plan.

Employability Fund Co-Commissioning

The group heard that the annual commissioning process is underway for Employability Fund training provision. Local Partnerships have the opportunity to specify the type of training provision required, and a group comprising Council officers, Skills Development Scotland and Job Centre Plus will coordinate the commissioning process.

European Social Fund: Update On Bid Progress

The group heard an update on our application for European Social Fund (ESF) funding could provide a significant opportunity, with a provisional allocation of c.£4,000,000 to the year 2020. Feedback from the initial strategic application had been received and the next stage involves submitting a more detailed operational application. The Convener requested that a progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the update from the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Outcome Delivery Group.

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