
Report to Resources & Audit Sub-committee

Date of Meeting: 18 February 2015

Subject: Q2, 2014/15 Performance Report, Business Jobs and Skills Partnership Team

Report by Head of Strategy & Customer Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This report presents to Committee information relating to Quarter 2, 2014/15 performance for the Business, Jobs and Skills Partnership Team.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee notes, challenges and comments on the Business, Jobs and Skills Partnership Team report for Quarter 2, 2014/15, provided at Appendix 1.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The information at Appendix 1 was provided to the Head of Strategy & Customer Services by the Business, Jobs and Skills Partnership Team for the purposes of scrutiny at the Resources & Audit Sub-committee.
- 3.2. The Business, Jobs and Skills Partnership Team report was considered by the Clackmannanshire Alliance when it met on 5 December 2014.
- 3.3. There are no unbudgeted financial implications for Clackmannanshire Council

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. There are no direct sustainability implications for Clackmannanshire Council.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate.

Yes

5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.4. *Staffing* - no implications for Clackmannanshire Council.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Not applicable

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses

Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive

People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment

Our communities are safer

Vulnerable people and families are supported

Substance misuse and its effects are reduced

Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing

The environment is protected and enhanced for all

The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Not applicable

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No Not applicable

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none"

11.0 Background Papers



11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

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Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Stuart Crickmar	Head of Strategy & Customer Services	
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Key Highlights

Business Development. A Business Needs survey has been undertaken and is due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Partnership Team on 20th February 2015. This will inform the 2015/16 Action Plan as well as the delivery of business support activities by the Council, Scottish Enterprise, Ceteris (Business Gateway contractor) and other partners.

Getting People Ready for Learning and Employment. The Employability Strategy for Clackmannanshire has been reviewed recently and has highlighted a number of potential areas for action. These include developing better links with the Community Well-Being Partnership Team, improving labour market information, encouraging a higher take-up of Modern Apprenticeship opportunities and developing more integrated working between partners to take forward the Wood Commission Report recommendations.

Promoting Clackmannanshire. A Tourism Strategy and Action Plan have been drafted.

BUSINESS, JOBS AND SKILLS ACTION PLAN 2014/15				
SOA OUTCOMES:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clackmannanshire has a positive image and attract business and people ▪ People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment 				
Action Themes/Areas	Partnership Actions/Priorities	Leads	Timescales	Status
Business Development; Supporting and growing local businesses; attracting new business to Clackmannanshire	Undertake a mapping exercise to understand local business base and dynamics, growth sectors and opportunities.	Council/TSI	Mar-14	Business needs survey undertaken in Sept / Oct 2014.
	Conduct a review of local and national developers to gain understanding on barrier to development (hsg and commercial) and implement an action plan which will aim to promote new development.	BJSP Chair	Dec-13	In progress

	Engage with local traders, property owners and communities to draw up blueprints to revitalise our high streets.	BJSPT Chair, BIDS	Mar-15	5-year Business Plan to revitalise Alloa Town Centre developed, inc family events, grants, free re-cycling for business, shop front design support.
	Conduct a mapping/audit of available external funding and develop a funding strategy which will aim to attract external funding.	Council / Scottish Enterprise	Mar-14	There is currently an EU funding bid being worked on in SE, that will include certain SE products of support from the SE framework being expanded for companies that are not account managed or in the pipeline. It is expected that this new route of funding to these companies will be delivered by each local authority across Scotland. As part of this exercise, SE has developed a 'tube map' that identifies what external funding is currently available for companies at various stages of the journey- this includes account managed, growth and others.
	Develop integrated business support activities focussing on business start-ups, business development and social enterprises. This work will include: Ongoing Liaison and support with local businesses on growth aspirations and provision of integrated business property advice (Council lead - extract as sub point).	Ceteris / Scottish Enterprise	Dec-14	<p>2 x surveys of local businesses on Business Needs completed (Ceteris & Imagine Alloa). The results have been reported and will be further analysed.</p> <p>Engagement between Ceteris & the Council on the future of the Business Gateway contract and how it can better reflect the needs of businesses is on-going.</p> <p>In May 2014 Business Gateway managed company Little Doone Foods Ltd received a RSA award of £20,000, creating 2 new jobs and safeguarding one. This will allow the food and drink business to expand into new premises.</p> <p>There are currently 23 account managed companies in Clackmannanshire, two of which are deemed important to the economy. There are a further 11 growth pipeline companies and 1 growth prospecting company. All of these companies can access a range of support from Scottish Enterprise and SDI. Through the support offering, in the first half of 2014/15 SE supported account managed companies on 13 new projects and growth companies on 15 new projects. These projects were in various areas, but primarily in market development and strategy support. SDI also supported 9 companies in Clackmannanshire on international projects.</p>

Action Themes/Areas	Partnership Actions/Priorities	Leads	Timescales	Status
Getting people ready for learning and employment	Support development of partnership bid to DWP's Flexible Support Fund for an enhanced digital literacies programme. Develop better links with the Community Well-Being Partnership who co-ordinate service provision on IT skills, literacy and numeracy piloting and evaluating community based learning approaches.	LEP	Mar-15	Forth Valley College is co-ordinating the partnership bid due to be submitted to DWP in January. Links to CWPT highlighted as recommended action in Report on Employability Strategy.
	Integrate relevant actions derived from the new LEP Employability Strategy into current and future business plans Improve labour market and travel information in the travel to work areas with a particular focus on the Forth Valley Improve and update mapping of local employability services, eg, debt and money advice, and develop an easy reference format for those requiring and referring to employability services"	LEP	Mar 15	Scheduled for BJSPT workshop Feb-15. LEP to agree lead partners to take this forward. On schedule to complete by Mar-15
	Understand the skills requirements of employers and align with schools/college and community based learning curriculum/programme to ensure that young people are employable when leaving school (Pipeline approach).	SDS/ Education	Dec-14	Implementation of the Wood Report recommendations instigated (link schools to employers, vocational education, work-based learning)
	Develop local transport initiatives to support local people accessing employment in and outwith Clackmannanshire via the creation of a Clackmannanshire Community Transport Association and support this new organisation to access funding for a feasibility study	CTSI	April 15	The Clackmannanshire Older Adults Forum were supported by CTSI to create the new Community Transport Association and this came into being on 1 April 2014. CTSI further supported the new organisation to secure feasibility funding of £10,000 in September 2014. The brief for the feasibility study is currently in creation.
	Review uptake of Modern Apprenticeship places locally and develop strategies to increase uptake.	SDS	March 15	The October 2014 LEP Strategy report showed that in Clackmannanshire, the number of 'Starters' and 'Leavers' each year over the last 3 years (2011/12 to

				2013/14) is around 300, with around 400 in training at any point in time. This is around 0.3% lower than the national total. The Clacks LEP will be putting actions in place to increase the number of MAs in its new action plan.
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Action Themes/Areas	Partnership Actions/Priorities	Leads	Timescales	Status
	Support employers to create sustainable volunteer placements to prepare registered volunteers for employment should the individual volunteer express an interest in using volunteering as a potential route into employment.	CTSI	April 15	<p>CTSI has registered 112 volunteers since April 2014, advertised 72 placement opportunities and placed 26 people into organisations. CTSI has recently registered to deliver the Volunteer Friendly Awards with 2 local groups; The Gate and Play Alloa. Achieving the award and Clackmannanshire International Learners nearing completion.</p> <p>CTSI has organised and hosted a Volunteer Fayre in June 2014 with 17 organisations.</p> <p>CTSI is developing a volunteer managers practice forum. This Forum will give people working with volunteers in Clackmannanshire an opportunity to share ideas, discuss volunteering related issues and to network in further volunteering in Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>CTSI continues to promote the need for volunteer placement opportunities through a volunteer monthly newsletter / e-bulletin, linked to Volunteer Scotland website designed to stimulate interest from organisations / employers from all sectors in volunteering.</p>
	Prepare partnership bid for new European structural funds to deliver employability programs.	Council	TBA	Awaiting Scottish Govt notice on when funds open.
Promoting Clackmannanshire; Making the best use of our environment	Develop a tourism infrastructure which will encourage more people to do business, visit and live in Clackmannanshire. Key activities are;	Clackmannanshire Business	Dec-14	Tourism Strategy and action plan completed.

<p>a) Developing an events plan to maximise tourism potential from 2014 events (Homecoming, Commonwealth games, legacy, Speirs Centre and Arts and Heritage).</p> <p>b) Maximise the benefits of the OLP Partnership.</p> <p>c) Evaluate the Invest In Clackmannanshire initiative</p> <p>d) Work with communities and the Local Community Planning Partnership Group to make the best use of vacant land; deliver improvements to public open spaces to make them more attractive places to use.</p>			<p>Two key events planned for 2015: a whisky event in May and a food and drink event in Sept as part of the national 2015 theme of food and drink</p> <p>An OLP festival is being planned for June 2015 and work is ongoing on an OLP legacy.</p> <p>The current Imagine Alloa is ongoing and will be evaluated in due course.</p>
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