

Present: Gordon McNeil (*Chair*), Gillian Ballie (Scottish Enterprise); Margaret Mary Rafferty (Ceteris); Graham Struthers (FSB); Ian Fraser, Julie Hamilton, Jane Adamson, (Clackmannanshire Council); Ann Floyd, (Education); Zak Stark (Forth Valley College); Katie Reed (Job Centre Plus); Liz Buchanan (Visit Scotland).

Apologies: Malcolm McArdle (CTSI); Martin Nowakowski, represented by Katie Reed; Colin Lynch (Clacks Business); Val Ormiston (Skills Development Scotland); Susan White (Clackmannanshire Council).

ACTION

1.0 Welcome and Introduction

Gordon McNeil welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. Due to positive developments with his business, Colin Lynch is now unable to take up the position of Chair. Gordon McNeil will chair meetings until an alternative Chairperson is forthcoming.

2.0 Minute of the meeting of the 21st August 2015 & Matters Arising

2.1 Item 4.4 was amended to read " the Opportunities for All Co-ordinator has been appointed". Subject to that amendment, the minute of the previous meeting was approved.

2.2 Matters Arising:-

Item 3.2 - The invitation was issued and the Team is awaiting a response.
Item 4.2 - A definitive answer is still being sought.

3.0 Alliance Update

3.1 In Cherie Jarvie's absence, there was no update.

4.0 Action Plan - Progress and Discussion on Priority Actions

4.1 Each lead gave an update on action plan development under their respective priorities:-

4.2 Priority 1 (DSYW 3-18) - Education

Further development of the actions to be taken forward by Education and SDS. An application for funding for a team of staff to improve communication between employers and schools has been submitted.

AF
VO

4.3 Priority 2 (DSYW 19-24) - Job Centre Plus

The process of identifying the appropriate actions is ongoing. DWP and Education to develop the action under this priority further.

AF
KR

4.4 Priority 4 (Clacks Works ESF) - Council Ec Dev

Actions are defined and progress will be reported to BJSPPT meetings

4.4 Priority 5 (Key Sectors & Growth) - SE

Data-gathering ongoing. SE will contact other Partners for outstanding information. Glasgow University research paper and Visit Scotland research to be circulated to SE and all Partners. Timescales are too tight for the Clacks Business data-gathering exercise.

GB
IF
LB

4.5 Priority 6&7 (Business Needs & Support) - Clacks Business

Definition of actions is underway.

5.0 LEP Update on Employability and Business Growth workstream

5.1 Zak Stark reported that the Local Employability Partnership has created a sub-group to look at employer engagement.

5.2 The Employer Support Toolkit on Clacksweb is being updated and now includes an interactive component. The link will be circulated and the 'hit' count will be recorded. Up-to-date FSB and Business Gateway contacts will be forwarded for inclusion. It was noted that it is now possible to include the Chamber of Commerce. Visit Scotland and Business Gateway will take steps to establish a working link. Wider sectoral representation in the matrix was noted as a possible development for the future.

JA
GS
MMR
LB

5.3 An event is planned on the 8th of December for public and third sector organisations which provide support to employers. The Chamber of Commerce and Visit Scotland will be invited. The Council will arrange for media publicity.

ZS
GMcN

6.0 Clackmannanshire ESF Employability Pipeline Programme - Presentation

6.1 Ian Fraser gave a presentation on the ESF's priorities and on the Programme it is funding in Clackmannanshire which engages the wider Community Planning Partnership. He will report results and the inspiring success stories behind the statistics to a future BJSPT meeting.

6.2 It was noted that Armed Forces Veteran is recognised as a barrier and Graham Struthers will forward a contact for a source of support for Armed Forces veterans.

GS

7.0 Clackmannanshire Council Budget Consultation

7.1 Gordon McNeil reported on the Council's budget position over the next 3 years and detailed the format of the main public consultation, beginning next week. There will also be a specific consultation with businesses.

8.0 Longannet Closure

8.1 Partners are represented on the Task Force set up ahead of the plant closing on the 1st of April 2016 to devise an economic recovery plan in light of the expected negative impact on Clackmannanshire's employment levels, local contractors, local spending and the supply chain generally. As well as welfare and business support elements, the Task Force will also look at the long-term opportunities for the site.

8.2 Scottish Enterprise has contributed towards the employment costs of a dedicated Task Force Adviser for the Longannet closure. The Task Force is due to meet again in February 2016 to consider a finalised plan.

9.0 Forward Programme of Agenda Items

- 9.1
- Economic Performance Indicators
 - DSYW Development Officers
 - Update from Clacks Business (standing item)
 - Report on Employer Support Event (8th Dec)
 - Action Plan update
 - Regional Skills Assessment - when available
 - Regional Investing in Young People Group

GMcN,
AF, JH,
ZS

10.0 Dates of Future Meetings (all at 10 am)

- 10.1
- 29th January 2016 - 29th April 2016 - 17th June 2016 - 28th October 2016

Next Meeting: 10.00 am 29th January 2016, Tower Suite, FVC, Alloa

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.