

ANGUS COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE – 19 AUGUST 2014

INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 MAY 2014 – 19 AUGUST 2014

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members with regard to services in the Chief Executive's Unit, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees.

1. BACKGROUND

Angus Council, at a special meeting on 19 November 2013 took a number of decisions which changed the way the Council conducted its committee business. Fundamental to this was the streamlining of processes with a focus on key strategy and policy matters.

One element of this was the production of "Information Reports". These information reports summarise information that would in the past have gone to a council committee for "noting".

The information attached to this report is in accordance with that principle.

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION - SCHEDULES

Attached to this report are schedules which contain key background information related to services delivered in the Chief Executive's Unit for the period 27 May 2014 to 19 August 2014].

Where there are references to other documents (eg: consultation documents/audit reports) that are associated with the relevant schedule a link to that document has also been included.

3. REPORT AUTHOR

This report and associated schedules has been compiled by Alison Smith, Service Manager – Economic Development who can be contacted by emailing ecdev@angus.gov.uk.

List of Appendices:

- Schedule 1 – Report on new business and investment activity from 27 May – 19 August 2014**
- Schedule 2 – Report on Towards Employment Team and their contribution to delivery of Employability Services in Angus and proposed developments in 2014/15**

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This report provides a brief overview of business support and investment activities supported by economic development officers since 27 May 2014.

1. ARBROATH

- 1.1 Further to report 159/14 submitted to the Development and Enterprise Committee on 27 May 2014, a lease was concluded with Journeycall Ltd for the company to move into the long time vacant 20,000 sq ft call centre building at Kirkton Industrial Estate, Arbroath. The company will invest a significant sum of money to upgrade the building to meet its specific operational needs and the new centre will allow the company to expand. Currently operating from two bases, in Brechin and Laurencekirk, Journeycall is moving its 200+ employees to the new site with the creation of a further 100 full time jobs anticipated. Officers have been working intensively with the company for around 12 months to identify and secure a suitable property in order to retain the company in the north east of Scotland.

2. BRECHIN

- 2.1 The Hydrus Group, a specialist engineering service company supporting the oil and gas sector, has submitted a planning application for the development of new engineering workshops at Brechin Business Park on a development site owned by the Council.
- 2.2 The 'Crazy Castle' children's indoor play centre opened in Brechin in June. The company received a £30,000 East of Scotland Investment Fund loan to fund the development and start-up of this new business which has created 6 new jobs.

3. MONTROSE

- 3.1 DIB Aberdeen Ltd, a dry ice cleaning and dry ice manufacturing company, has leased Units 6 & 12 at Montrose Business Centre to establish a new support hub in the north east of Scotland with the creation initially of 2 full time jobs.
- 3.2 Safety Kleen UK Ltd has taken on an additional 1,300 sq ft unit at Broomfield Industrial Estate, in Montrose with creation of 10 jobs.
- 3.3 All Oceans Engineering Ltd, an Aberdeenshire based specialist marine engineering company, has submitted a planning application for the development of an engineering workshop at Forties Road Industrial Estate, Montrose on a development site owned by the Council which if successful could create 20 new jobs.
- 3.4 Ian Tudhope and Donald Wilson have been granted planning permission to develop an engineering workshop at Forties Road Industrial Estate, Montrose on a development site owned by the Council, with the potential to create 20 new jobs.

4. SOUTH MONTROSE

- 4.1 Further to report 198/14 submitted to and approved by the Development and Enterprise Committee 15 April 2014, officers have finalised and accepted the offer of a financial contribution of up to £1.5 million from Scottish Enterprise towards the delivery of the spine road. Subject to property acquisition and co-ordination with developments proposed by Rix (Scotland) Ltd it is anticipated works on the section of road from Caledonia Street through to Barrack Road will commence in October 2014.
- 4.2 At the end of May, Swedish owned lifting equipment and steel wire rope supplier Certex UK Ltd confirmed the lease of a newly developed 36,000 sq ft production and warehousing facility from Rix (Scotland) Ltd. This is a major expansion for the company and will see Certex create up to 35 new jobs over the next two years.
- 4.3 Rix (Scotland) Ltd has submitted a planning application for the demolition and redevelopment of its offices and warehousing at Meridian Street. This has the potential to create modern facilities with easy quayside access.
- 4.4 Origin Fertilisers (UK) Ltd has submitted a planning application for the part demolition and part redevelopment of its River Street facilities.

5. OTHER BUSINESS SUPPORT

- 5.1 Officers are co-ordinating an 'Angus Business Week' with partners. This is a new initiative and scheduled to take place week commencing 29 September. It will feature a number of events to promote enterprise and assist businesses.
- 5.2 In the months of April and May 2014, Business Gateway supported the creation of 49 new businesses in Angus. The target for the current financial year 2014/15 is 205.
- 5.3 In the period April through to the end of June officers have awarded new business start-up grants to Evonsch (1 new job created), Echo Dental Solutions (1.5 new jobs created), Scott Peters Electrical (1 new job created) and Montrose Pet Shop (1 new job created and 1.5 jobs safeguarded): a first employee grant to Montrose Pet Shop; and market development grants to Skea Organics (attendance at Potato Europe 2014 in Germany) and Simpsons Golf Shop (visit to China).
- 5.4 Economic Development has a portfolio of 105 commercial properties available to let. At the end of June occupancy level was at 91%. This is currently in line with 2013/14 average occupancy rate of 91% and an increase on the previous year's i.e. 2012/13 – 87% and 2011/12 – 83%

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This report seeks to inform the Committee of the outcomes achieved by the economic development Towards Employment Team (TET) and their contribution to the delivery of employability services in Angus and note the proposed developments for 2014/15.

1. ADULT SERVICES

- 1.1 TET (Adult) continues to offer services to provide help and assistance to low income individuals and families across Angus delivering frontline employability services to assist clients overcome barriers into employment. This includes Key Worker support; working in partnership and the Employability Fund Programme. The information below outlines the variety of support available.

2. KEY WORKER SUPPORT

- 2.1 Key Workers provide a one to one holistic approach to barriers faced by clients. This can range from advice and support in employability matters to assisting clients make a complete career transformation, including the provision of vocational training support, grants and childcare costs.
- 2.2 Key Workers have also further developed their job brokerage role by meeting with local employers to ensure that their workforce needs are fully taken into account. They have been involved in recruitment on behalf of local employers by providing the initial advertisement, filtering of applications and pre-interviews so that the most suitable candidates are presented for interview. Recruitment has taken place across a range of sectors including security, childcare and retail.

3. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- 3.1 The team has continued to work closely with other employability partners as part of the Angus Employability Partnership. This close working has prevention work at the core to ensure that clients are supported through their barriers at the outset to prevent long term unemployment with all the additional stresses such as debt and illness that frequently accompany long periods of unemployment.
- 3.2 The team recognise the importance of responding to local labour market needs. An innovative response to this is the delivery of a number of employability academies throughout the year. These are short programmes aimed at delivering core employability skills required by local employers. The academies present local people with an opportunity to gain real employability skills coupled with work experience with local employers.
- 3.3 An example of this was the delivery of the Hospitality Academy in conjunction with Carnoustie Golf Hotel. Twelve local unemployed candidates, selected from an initial referral number of 35 by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), took part in a 4 week academy encompassing a range of skills including the REHIS certificate in Food Hygiene delivered by our partners in Communities, to a varied one week work placement and interview with the hotel at the completion of the course.
- 3.4 This proved to be a very successful academy with all participants successfully completing the course. Two of the candidates were immediately employed by the hotel, four secured permanent employment in other sectors and two became full time carers for family members. This course was then repeated due to its initial success

- 3.5 This innovative approach to service delivery was recognised in 2014 with the team receiving a Silver CoSLA award under the category of 'Achieving Better Outcomes'. TET is determined to build on the success of this award and continues to review and adapt the academy programme to meet the needs of the Angus economy.

4. EMPLOYABILITY FUND

- 4.1 In 2013/14 TET was awarded a total of 30 places from Skills Development Scotland to deliver local Employability Fund places. All of the contract places were filled with an additional two places being awarded due to early success of contract number completion. Following on from this success the team have been awarded a new contract of 40 places for 2014/15.
- 4.2 Both Carnoustie Golf Hotel Hospitality Academies were run as part of the Employability Fund provision. In addition to the academies, TET also offer a number of short vocational courses funded through the programme to assist individuals back into employment in sectors where employment opportunities and demand from local employers are required.

5. TARGET OUTCOMES FOR 2013/14

- 5.1 The table below provides a report against key targets for the period of 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
- 5.2 The team have surpassed their targets for registrations and number of clients entering employment. They have also exceeded the initial contract numbers through the Employability Fund. The percentage of those entering a positive destination is above last year's performance (44.7%) and represents the value to the local economy of early intervention and preventative spend.

5.3 Towards Employment Team Outcomes

Adult Key Worker Service Key Performance Indicators	Actual 1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014	Target 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014
Outputs		
Number of registration activities / Number of clients registered and receiving key worker support	523* 505	500
Employment Outcomes		
Number of clients entering employment (full, part time, self employed)	216	170
Transitional Outcomes		
Number of clients entering FE/HE	18	20

*NB this figure can include clients that have entered employment but through conditions of the local labour market have had to seek the support of the team more than once i.e. client re-registrations.

Employability Fund	Actual 2013/14	Target 2013/14
Number of clients registered with Employability Fund (part of figures above)	32	30
Number of Employability Fund clients entering employment (part of figures above)	12	14

5.4 Percentage of clients with a positive destination

	Actual 2013/14	Target 2013/14
Number of client registrations	523	500
Total number of clients into employment and FE/HE	234	190
% of clients registered entering a positive destination (employment or FE/HE)	44.7%	N/A

6. MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Youth Services

- 6.1 In 2013/14 a total of 60 modern apprenticeships places were awarded by Skills Development Scotland to the team and filled in partnership with local employers throughout Angus in a variety of occupational areas.
- 6.2 Part of this 60, included the commitment that Angus Council had given to providing 30 modern apprenticeship opportunities over this period. Of the 30 council places 26 were successfully filled.
- 6.3 Combined with the numbers already in training across the private and public sectors, the team worked with 102 mas and approximately 55 employers in 2013/14.
- 6.4 In 2013/14, TET Youth began working in partnership with Perth and Kinross Council delivering svqs in Business Administration and Customer Service to 12 of Perth and Kinross Council's Modern Apprentices. To date the team is on target regarding the MA completion dates.
- 6.5 In May 2013, the Scottish Government announced that additional funds were available to local authorities through a combination of Scottish Government funding and an underspend on the European Social Fund (ESF). This funding was aimed at providing local employers with an Employment Recruitment Incentive (ERI) to the end of March 2014. Due to the extensive administrative burden that accompanies this programme, the team were originally awarded 15 ERI places. However, having filled these they were then able to take on a further 14 places (a total of 29 places). The timescale for this incentive was then extended until December 2014 and a further 30 places were awarded to Angus Council to further assist local employers with their recruitment of Modern Apprentices.

7. FUTURE WORK

Operational Delivery

- 7.1 TET (Adult) will be progressing with further delivery of their Academies, with two academies targeting Lone Parents planned for later in the year.
- 7.2 TET is working in partnership with the People Directorate regarding delivery of mini employability academy sessions for their 16+ programmes. TET has provided the 16+ team with a menu of options which their client group can tap into. This promotes the Scottish Government objective of targeting youth unemployment by utilising preventative methods.
- 7.3 Colleagues in Communities including the libraries service and Job Centre Plus will continue to provide a Digital Academy to address IT barriers faced by customers as part of the welfare reform and 'digital by default' agenda. TET has produced an 'Angus Guide to Accessing Employment in a Digital Age' for use in the Academies and will also become a referring organisation as the Academy seeks to widen its access routes to learning.
- 7.4 This Academy has a clear employability focus, placing the ICT learning within the context of the activities participants have to undertake to secure jobs, manage and maintain benefits and plan and manage finances. TET receives referrals from those clients who have completed their 4 week course (total of 24 hours study) and are ready to pursue their employment search.

7.5 In March 2014, TET (Youth) was awarded 45 places from Skills Development Scotland for the Modern Apprenticeship programme. This number has reduced from previous years to give the team the opportunity to develop the council's response to youth employment and to ensure that the service is viable due to the rise in delivery costs charged by the local college.

7.6 In 2014/15 TET (Youth) is to continue its cross boundary working with the delivery of svqs to a further 6 apprentices in Perth and Kinross Council. In addition to this they are also working in partnership with Dundee City Council on the delivery of Youth Work Modern Apprentices.

Strategic Development

7.7 In pursuit of furthering the job brokerage service, a Facebook page (Angus Works) is to be launched which will provide a highly accessible job brokerage service. It will be a platform to showcase local vacancies and training opportunities and increase the reach and availability of TET services to clients, employers and partner organisations.

7.8 Development work is also ongoing to further increase the scope of TET's management information system (Hanlon). This includes a recruitment portal which would provide direct access for clients and employers to local employment vacancies. This would further enhance and complement the Facebook service and raise the profile of economic development within the business sector.

7.9 Angus was chosen as one of six pilot areas in the Skills Development Scotland relaunch of their 'Our Skillsforce' employer support website. TET coordinated the information to be included on the Angus employer offer. This now, has much more of a local focus so that employers are directed to a one stop employer offer that is relevant to their particular geographical area.

Contact for further information

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