

# FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

## NOTE OF MEETING/ACTION POINTS

**Present:** Stephen Edmiston (Ingenico); Ian Palmer (John Fergus & Co Ltd), Michael Longstaffe (Smith Anderson); John Penman (Fife Fabrications Ltd); Alan Mitchell (Fife Chamber of Commerce); Derek Watson (University of St Andrews); Elaine Morrison (Scottish Enterprise); Gordon McDougall (Opportunities Fife Partnership); Cllr Altany Craik, Gordon Mole, Sandra Montador-Stewart, Adam Dunkerley, George Sneddon (Fife Council).

**Apologies:** Hugh Hall (Fife College); Stephen Hall (FLEXcon); Phill Thompson (Innovation Group Chair); Ian Wilkie (Leviton); Colin Brown (Investment Group Chair); Stephen White (Scottish Government).

### WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Ministerial Business Breakfast – It was agreed that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work should be contacted early in January 2019 to request his attendance at the next session. It was suggested that September would be preferable to November given the build up to the budget during the latter month. In light of the number of call-offs for the event it was agreed that additional members of the delivery groups should also be invited to the next session. The offer from Mr Hepburn MSP to host a meeting of businesses who have introduced the Living Wage was noted and this will be taken forward through the Glenrothes Living Wage pilot work.
2. STEM – Ian Palmer provided feedback from a meeting he attended with the Scottish Whisky Association on STEM ambassadors and Modern Apprenticeships. Businesses who had already engaged had provided positive feedback and Ian is looking to get involved by signing up with a local school. It was agreed that Gordon Mole would provide contact details for engagement with the Developing Young Workforce co-ordinator in the local school.

### IMPLEMENTING FIFE'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

1. Opportunities Fife Partnership - Gordon Macdougall and Adam Dunkerley provided an update on the Opportunities Fife Partnership (OFP) which acts as the delivery group for Inclusive Growth employability activities. The overall mission of the OFP is to “influence and drive innovative approaches to skills and employability services that reflect the current and future needs of individuals and employers”. The partnership’s

activities are funded through ESIF Poverty and Social Inclusion (which has delivered £646,000 of activity for an investment of £202,500) and ESIF Employability Pathway (which has delivered £11.1m of activity for an investment of £3.1m). Some 35% of those supported through the programmes have entered employment (outpacing the target of 32%). FEP members were asked to consider how they can help by rethinking traditional recruitment practices to create and promote opportunities for those who have overcome barriers to employment; support mentoring, work placements, learning opportunities and jobs; regular liaison arrangements between the chairs of FEP, OFP and DYW.

2. Fife Council Business Charter – Gordon Mole introduced the draft Business Charter which sets out how the Council can support businesses and the steps that the Council wants businesses to take to ensure that economic growth is shared by all. Consultation has been undertaken with the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses and the Charter was approved by the Council's Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Committee at its meeting on 15 November 2018. Following discussion the Business Charter was approved and will be launched in January 2019.
3. Fife's Economic Strategy Performance Framework – Sandra Montador-Stewart outlined the proposed targets for the FES Performance Framework. It was noted that the three and five year targets had been set in the context of previous growth trends alongside the potential for economic uncertainty following BREXIT. The targets were agreed subject to defining Fife specific targets rather than matching/exceeding Scottish averages and provision of further information on exporting/trading outwith Fife if available by the June 2019 review.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was agreed that as the National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland Outreach and Challenge Fund team is looking at ways of engaging with businesses a speaker could be invited to attend the March 2019 meeting.

## **CHAIRMANSHIP OF FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP**

Michael Longstaffe was appointed as Chair of the Fife Economy Partnership and Ian Palmer was appointed Vice-Chair. Cllr Altany Craik presented Stephen Edmiston with a small token in recognition of his valuable contribution to the partnership as Vice-Chair.

## ACTION POINTS

Meeting Date	Action	Owner	By Date
19 Dec 2018	Letter of invite to Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work to a Business Breakfast Session in September	SMS	End Jan
	DYW Co-ordinator details to be sent to Ian Palmer	GM	11 Jan
	Launch of Fife Business Charter	SMS	End Jan
	FES Performance Framework Report to FEP meeting in June 2019	SMS	4 June
	Speaker from NMIS Outreach and Challenge Fund to be invited to FEP meeting in March 2019	EM/SMS	5 Mar

## DATES OF NEXT MEETING

2-4 pm Tuesday 5 March 2019

2-4 pm Tuesday 4 June 2019

2-4 pm Tuesday 3 September 2019

2-4 pm Tuesday 3 December 2019