

Item 6.1 - Business Bulletin

Economy Committee

10:00 am, Tuesday, 23 June 2015

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Frank Ross (Convener)</p>  <p>Councillor Gordon Munro (Vice Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillors Ross (Convener), Munro (Vice Convener), Barrie, Blacklock, Corbett, Edie, Gardner, Griffiths, McVey, Milligan, Mowat, Paterson, Rankin, Leader (ex officio) and Deputy Leader (ex officio)</p>	<p>Ross Murray Assistant Committee Clerk Tel: 469 3870</p> <p>Greg Ward Director of Economic Development Tel: 529 4298</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Macro Economic Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macroeconomic Issues - Output growth in Scotland increased during the third quarter of 2014. The Scottish economy grew by 0.6 percentage points during the fourth quarter of 2014, similar to the 0.7 percent growth recorded in the same quarter last year. 	<p>The Edinburgh Economy Watch provides more detail on the latest economic trends.</p>
<p>Local Economic Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise - Business incorporations in the city decreased by 6.9 percent in the three months to May 2015 compared to the same period last year. • Investment – There were no foreign direct investment (FDI) projects recorded in Edinburgh in April 2015. This 	<p>The Edinburgh Economy Watch provides more detail on the latest economic trends.</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>was three less than recorded in April 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Market – The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) rate in Edinburgh remained at 1.7 percent in April 2015. The rate is 0.9 percentage points lower than the same period last year. • Housing, Planning and Development - the total volume of house sales increased from 930 to 1,050 sales in April 2015. Total house sales were 14 percent higher than April last year. • Visitor Economy – Hotel room occupancy in Edinburgh increased to 82.4 percent in April 2015. This was higher than the same period last year. • Visitor Economy – 927,745 passengers were recorded at Edinburgh Airport in April 2015. This is around 85,700 more passengers than were recorded in April 2014. • Visitor Economy – 20.01 million passengers were recorded through Edinburgh Waverley Station during the period March 2013 to April 2014. Footfall through Edinburgh Waverley Station for the three months to 6 December 2014 was 6.2 million. There is more information about Transport and Connectivity in Edinburgh by Numbers. 	
<p>Edinburgh by Numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh by Numbers 2015 was published in May. The facts and figures collected are designed to be used to help everyone understand how the city is performing. 	<p>Edinburgh by Numbers</p>
<p>Edinburgh City Centre</p> <p>Footfall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footfall on Princes Street in April 2015 increased by 11.9 percent on March 2015 however this was only 0.2 percent up on April 2014. UK footfall was down 1.9 percent on last month and down 1.2 percent on April 2014. <p>Retail Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh retail sales were down 9.4 percent in April 2015 compared to this month in 2014. This is a steeper fall than the Scottish average, which fell by 2.9 percent on a year earlier and also sales in the UK, which decreased by 2.4 percent. 	<p>Further information on can be found in Essential Trends.</p>

Recent news

Youth Employability Services

The Youth Employment Partnership has undertaken a wide ranging review of the scope and range of youth employability projects in Edinburgh and the impact of the Council's grant funding on these services.

Taking account of changes in the landscape for young people moving into employment following the Edinburgh Guarantee initiative, the Wood Commission report on Developing Scotland's Young Workforce and the Department of Work and pensions 'Youth Contract', a comprehensive review of the Council's activity in this area continues to progress. Phase 1 is complete and the Co-production phase (phase 2) is underway with surveys of stakeholders and partners completed and the Jobs Strategy Group have discussed the priorities on Youth Employment. Workshops for the Joined Up for Jobs Youth Employment Group and Joined Up for Jobs Service Providers are planned as is engagement with the Youth Participation unit and Young Scot to ensure Service User engagement.

The next phase is to issue a call for bids as part of the Council's third party grants process in October 2015. These grants are proposed to be three year awards, subject to funding availability and performance.

Integrated Employability Service

The current Integrated Employability Service (IES) has been in operation since May 2012 and has delivered a high level of outcomes, helping over 2,000 people into employment. The current contract is provided by Edinburgh College in partnership with Community Renewal and Forth Sector. This contract will end on 31 March 2016.

Activities are underway to progress the re-commissioning of this service for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018 with an option to extend for a further three years. The contractual arrangement timeframe takes account of the European Social Fund funding timeframe as this forms 40% of the funding for this activity.

There has been significant co-production undertaken over the past six months with service users, service providers and stakeholders to ensure the content, shape and design of the IES specification with six key themes forming the basis of the tender

Background

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<p>specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement • Partnership Working • Multiple Barriers • Making Work Pay • Emerging Opportunities • Rewarding Success <p>It is anticipated that the tendering process will conclude before the end of 2015 and the outcome of this will be reported to Economy Committee.</p>	
<p>Challenge Fund Update</p> <p>The City of Edinburgh Council has received indications that it will receive £1.9m in European Social Fund monies from September 2015 for a period of six years. It is proposed to match this funding to the Challenge Fund investment to develop a programme which targets lone parents, workless and low income households to enhance the core employability offer and develop a holistic approach to supporting these target groups by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing financial barriers preventing access and progression on Edinburgh’s Employability and Skills pipeline • Reducing the cost of transition from unemployment to training, work or other positive destinations • Preventing worklessness and increasing income through in-work support and a focus on work skills and learning • Offering holistic, integrated services that take account of the needs of all in the household. <p>The programme will target key barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare and social care • Debt • Low income and job insecurity • Financial aptitude • Long term health issues • Additional support needs or learning disabilities • Homelessness. 	<p><u>For further information:</u></p> <p>Brian Martin Acting Service Manager 0131 672 0021 Brian.martin@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>
<p>Regional Invest in Youth Group</p> <p>An initial gathering of colleagues from the three local authorities in the Edinburgh College area recently discussed a proposal to establish a Regional Invest in Youth Group. A further meeting will take place shortly.</p>	<p><u>For further information:</u></p> <p>Brian Martin Acting Service Manager 0131 672 0021 Brian.martin@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>

Recent news

City Housing Strategy 2012-17: Annual Review

The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee on 16 June 2015 considered [an annual review on progress towards meeting the aims of the City Housing Strategy 2012-17 over the last year](#). The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, including to refer to the Economy Committee for information, and noted that an update regarding PARK Craigmillar would be submitted to a future meeting of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee.

Background

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