

Business bulletin

Economy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 28 June 2016

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

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Gavin Barrie (Convener)</p>  <p>Councillor Gordon Munro (Vice Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillors Barrie (Convener), Munro (Vice Convener), Blacklock, Corbett, Edie, Gardner, Keil, McVey, Milligan, Mowat, Paterson, Rankin, Ritchie, Leader (ex officio) and Deputy Leader (ex officio)</p>	<p>Ross Murray Acting Committee Clerk Tel: 469 3870</p> <p>Paul Lawrence Executive Director of Place Tel: 529 7325</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Macro Economic Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The value of output generated by the Scottish economy grew by 0.2% during the fourth quarter of 2015. This is a rate of growth lower than the 0.8% increase recorded in the same period in 2014. 	<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 – 1,091 new business incorporations were recorded in Edinburgh in the three months to April 2016. This is 8.3% more than the previous month and is a 16.1% increase on the same period in 2015. Investment – There were two foreign direct investment (FDI) projects recorded in Edinburgh in 	<p>The Edinburgh Economy Watch provides more detail on the latest economic trends.</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>the April 2016. This was one less than the previous month and one up on April 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Market – The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) rate in Edinburgh remained at 1.2 percent in March 2016. This is lower than March 2015 by half a percentage point. • Labour Market – The Job Seekers Allowance rate in Edinburgh for people aged between 16-24 years was 0.6 percent in March 2016. The rate is 1.1 percentage points lower than the same period last year. • Housing, Planning and Development - the total volume of house sales was 1,009 in March 2016. This is 21.4 percent higher than the previous month and 8.5 percent higher than March 2015. • Visitor Economy – Hotel room occupancy in Edinburgh was 76.7 percent in March 2016. This was 5.3 percent up on last month and 3 percentage points higher than the same period last year. • Visitor Economy – around a total of 927,127 passengers were recorded at Edinburgh Airport in March 2016. • Visitor Economy – 21.9 million passenger journeys within Scotland were recorded to/from Edinburgh during the period March 2014 to April 2015. A further 4.1 million passenger journeys outside of Scotland were recorded over the same period. 	<p>Further information is available from Office of rail and Road (ORR) – Regional Rail usage (passenger journeys)</p>
<p>Edinburgh City Centre</p> <p>Footfall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footfall on Princes Street in April 2016 decreased by 4.5 percent on April 2015 and 1.2 percent on March 2016. UK footfall was down by 3.5 percent on last month and by 2.6 percent on April 2015. <p>Retail Sales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh retail sales were down 4.4 percent in April 2016 compared to the same month in 2015. In Scotland retail sales also fell by 3.2 percent while UK sales were flat. 	<p>Further information can be found in Essential Trends.</p>
<p>Creative in Shenzhen</p> <p>Following the successful Council led 'Creative in Shenzhen' competition, a delegation of five winners from Edinburgh creative and tech companies travelled to Shenzhen in May</p>	<p>For further information contact: Ann Marie Macaskill</p>

Recent news

2016. The companies: [Coda Octopus](#), [Freakworks](#), [Sainted Media](#), [Sunamp](#) and [Cobra Simulation](#) had the opportunity to partner with local companies and present to key sectoral audiences in Shenzhen at five tailored events made possible through the relationship with the Shenzhen Creative Investment Group (SCIG) and the Council as part of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Edinburgh and Shenzhen

A number of key business connections were made between Edinburgh and Shenzhen companies alike. The five Edinburgh businesses continue to venture into the China creative and commercial sectors having established the strong international appetite for their products and services. The companies will continue to have the full support of the SCIG and use of the Shenzhen-Edinburgh International Creative Exchange Incubator (which was opened in May 2015) as they strive to further develop their innovative and creative ideas and do business in China.

The Council will continue to work with the SCIG on the wider Shenzhen-Edinburgh agenda and MoU and will welcome a number of Chinese companies looking to invest into Edinburgh later in the year.

Background

Grassmarket and South Queensferry Business Improvement District Renewal Ballots

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are originally proposed for a five year term. Both Grassmarket (Greater Grassmarket) and South Queensferry (Queensferry Ambition) were established in 2012 and therefore a renewal ballot is due to take place in 2017. The Council usually administer the ballot on behalf of the BIDs. Economy Committee will be kept updated on the progress of each and will be advised of the outcome in due course.

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The Challenge Fund Enhanced Pipeline Social Inclusion Programme (EPSiP) Update

Following the report to Economy Committee on 26 April 2016, officers have now met with representatives from Friends of Prospect Bank (FOPB) and The Yard to explain the requirements of European funded programmes and, following these discussions and subsequent conversations with the Action Group, FOPB have decided not to progress

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Recent news	Background
<p>with their application for this funding as it would impact on their core objective. They have expressed disappointment at the stringent rules and regulations of European Funding.</p> <p>Council Officers will continue to keep in touch with FOPB and are leading conversations with colleagues around overcoming travel support obstacles for children with disability attending Out of School services and removing travel home costs.</p>	
<p>The Challenge Fund Participatory Budget Update</p> <p>Participatory budgeting directly involves citizens in making decisions on the priorities and spending of public funds. Over the last year a number of Neighbourhood Partnerships have used this approach for programmes such as ‘You Decide’ in Portobello and Craigmillar; ‘Grant a Grand’ in South West; and ‘South Central Decides – Voice Your Choice’ in South Central. The Economy Service has now used this approach, utilising Activity Agreement funding (from Opportunities for All) to support recent school leavers. This funding has meet matched by the Scottish Government. Twenty applications were received with eight mini voting points established between 24 May and 7 June, with posters and marketing used to stimulate voting, linking in with Meaningful May in schools.</p> <p>Each person has to register to vote and can choose their top five projects. 310 votes were cast in total. From the votes cast, 9 grant awards were made for a total spend of £39,312. A review and evaluation of this pilot will now take place.</p>	<p>For further information contact:</p> <p>Rona Hunter Tel: 0131 529 4256 Email: rona.hunter@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>
<p>Economic Strategy 2017 onwards</p> <p>Initial work is underway on a new Economic Strategy for the Council to replace <i>A Strategy for Jobs 2012-2017</i>. It is the intention that this will tie into wider policy work and officers are working closely with the Scottish Government and with partners on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region City Deal to progress. It is anticipated that the new strategy framework will be considered by Economy and Corporate Policy and Strategy Committees in early 2017.</p>	<p>For further information contact:</p> <p>Alison Coburn Tel: 0131 529 3149 Email: alison.coburn@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>
<p>Edinburgh by Numbers</p>	<p>For further information</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>The next edition of Edinburgh by Numbers is now available on the Council website.</p>	<p>contact:</p>
<p>Creative Workspaces in Edinburgh</p> <p>Following the report to the January Economy Committee, the service is continuing to work with stakeholders on developing an action plan and an online workspace directory.</p>	<p>For further information contact: Jim Galloway Tel: 0131 529 3211 Email: jim.galloway@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>
<p>Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal</p> <p>A presentation on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal is included on the agenda for this Economy Committee. A report on this will be presented to Council on 30 June 2016.</p>	<p>For further information contact: Alison Muckersie 0131 469 3967 Alison.muckersie@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>