

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>4 May 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Lanarkshire Economic Forum - Update</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ provide Members with an update on the Lanarkshire Economic Forum

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that further updates on the work of the Forum will be reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board and this Committee as appropriate.

## 3. Background

3.1. On 8 July 2020, the Recovery Board agreed to the establishment of a Lanarkshire Economic Forum (LEF) to support economic recovery and ensure that action is undertaken in a strategic and coordinated manner.

3.2. While the Council will continue to work within the context of the wider Glasgow City Region, there was a strong basis to establish a Lanarkshire wide approach for the following reasons:

- ◆ Through the business gateway contract there are already close working relationships and consistency of business support by both North and South Lanarkshire Councils.
- ◆ Related to the above, a pan-Lanarkshire Local Employability Partnership had been established which provides a mechanism for officers to collaborate on developing and implementing employability programmes.
- ◆ New College Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire College are based in and have a focus on the Lanarkshire area.
- ◆ The Developing Young Workforce (DYW) initiative is undertaken at a Lanarkshire level, albeit it also includes East Dunbartonshire Council.
- ◆ In business sectoral terms there is a similarity between the two Council areas when compared to other authorities in the city region.

3.3. It was considered important that the forum included contributions and inputs from the private sector and, therefore, colleagues from Federation of Small Businesses, Business Gateway contractor (at that time Lanarkshire Enterprise Services Ltd and is now Elevator), and the Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce and Trade were invited to join the partnership.

- 3.4. On 5 August 2020, the Scottish Government published its Economic Recovery Implementation Plan, as well as its response to the Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board's report, 'Addressing the Labour Market Emergency'. Taking the two documents together the Scottish Government views the coronavirus crisis as an opportunity to re-imagine Scotland and create a fairer, greener, more equal society and a wellbeing economy.
- 3.5. Much of what is contained in both documents is broadly consistent with existing national and local economic development strategies and will be a continued focus for the LEF. Priorities can be framed around three key themes:
- ◆ People: skills, learning and employability
  - ◆ Place: physical infrastructure and place
  - ◆ Business: business development and growth

#### **4. Governance**

- 4.1. The Lanarkshire Economic Forum held its initial meeting on 21 September 2020 to begin to define the scope and remit of the partnership. The full terms of reference were later agreed in November 2020 (attached as Appendix 1).
- 4.2. At a high level the purpose of the forum is centred around:
- ◆ planning and coordinating a Lanarkshire wide economic recovery activity based around People, Place and Business themes
  - ◆ developing recovery and review planning that maintains the flexibility to adapt to short, medium and long term horizon scanning
  - ◆ ensuring the active liaison, co-ordination, and cooperation between all partners
- 4.3. The LEF is chaired by Professor Milan Radosavljevic, Vice-Principal for Research, Innovation and Engagement at the University of the West of Scotland. In line with the terms of reference, Professor Radosavljevic will chair the forum for a period of two years. Secretariat support will, initially, be provided by South Lanarkshire Council.
- 4.4. The following members are represented on the forum at a senior management level, with each member having the authority to make decisions and commit resources or funding to agreed forum priorities:
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council
  - ◆ North Lanarkshire Council
  - ◆ Scottish Enterprise
  - ◆ Skills Development Scotland
  - ◆ New College Lanarkshire
  - ◆ South Lanarkshire College
  - ◆ University of West of Scotland (UWS)
  - ◆ Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
  - ◆ Third Sector
  - ◆ Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce and Trade
  - ◆ Business Gateway Provider: Elevator
  - ◆ Business Sectors: VisitScotland
- 4.5. In addition to the above, NHS Lanarkshire requested to join the forum, and this was agreed to in February 2021 to ensure the appropriate links between economic development and public health. In addition, representatives from Voluntary Action

North Lanarkshire (VANL) and Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) have been invited to the upcoming meeting in May 2021 to represent the third sector.

## 5. Activity Mapping and Economic Baseline

- 5.1. It was agreed at the initial meeting that a 'mapping exercise' be undertaken to provide an overview of the activities currently being delivered by the partner organisations, as well as those which are planned for the near future. The reason being it was important to recognise the current level of activity being provided to support economic recovery. In due course this would provide a basis to determine whether such support and activity is meeting the needs and demands of the economy.
- 5.2. The exercise was completed in January 2021 and provides a high level overview of the extent and nature of the main activities across the partner organisations. In total, 174 activities/projects/programmes were identified across the three themes: People (62), Place (40) and Business (72), as shown in the table below:

**Table 1. Count of Activities**

Partner	People		Place		Business		
	Existing Activities	Future Activities	Existing Activities	Future Activities	Existing Activities	Future Activities	
All	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Federation of Small Businesses	1	1	1	0	1	1	5
Federation of Small Businesses/Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce/ private sector	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lanarkshire Enterprise Services Ltd	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
New College Lanarkshire	8	4	2	0	2	1	17
New College Lanarkshire / NLC (Education)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
New College Lanarkshire / NLC / University of Strathclyde	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
NLC	7	1	8	1	12	6	35
NLC / Fusion Assets	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
NLC / New College Lanarkshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Scottish Enterprise	0	0	3	0	1	0	4
Skills Development Scotland	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
South Lanarkshire College	16	5	5	1	12	6	45
SLC	5	3	12	3	4	8	35
University of West of Scotland	2	1	1	1	2	1	8
VisitScotland	0	0	0	0	5	1	6
	47	15	32	8	43	29	174

- 5.3. The exercise highlighted a strong alignment between the activities captured, and the Scottish Government strategic objectives in the Programme for Government, the Scottish Government Economic Recovery Implementation Plan and Addressing the Labour Market Emergency. At this stage, the mapping exercise did not seek to analysis the impact of these activities, whether they remain appropriate for future needs, or if there are any gaps in the existing provision. A key objective for the LEF will be to determine whether these are the right activities to support local economic recovery.
- 5.4. The forum has also engaged the services of the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub to establish a socio-economic baseline for Lanarkshire, similar to that developed for the wider City Region but at a more localised level. Using a wide range of socioeconomic indicators including population demographics, gross domestic product (GDP), unemployment rates, claimant count, and skills/qualifications data, partners will be provided with an overview of how well the Lanarkshire economy is performing. This will enable a series of comparisons to be made with the wider Glasgow City Region as well as other similar localities elsewhere in the UK. It will highlight key strengths and weaknesses within the both the North and South

Lanarkshire economy, help to identify key challenges and future priorities, and importantly provide an evidence base to develop and introduce interventions to support the local economic recovery.

- 5.5. The initial draft baseline report is due to be presented to the LEF at its next meeting on 11 May 2021.

## 6. People, Place and Business Subgroups

- 6.1. The main forum meeting provides a mechanism for bringing the partners together at a strategic level. However, it was considered that the necessary detailed work, in reviewing existing interventions, their impact, and based on the economic baseline information referred to above, determining future interventions, would be more appropriately undertaken at sub-group level. On this basis the forum has agreed to the establishment of subgroups framed around the three thematic areas: People, Place and Business.

- 6.2. While the detailed terms of reference and membership of the groups has still to be finalised, the following proposals are currently being considered. In this respect two points are highlighted. First, the sub-groups will be chaired or co-chaired by partners to ensure that there is accountability and responsibility across all the partners to ensure that matters are progressed. Second, the People theme has been divided into employability and skills, recognising both the breadth of these topic areas and differing nature of the activities.

Subgroup	<b>People: Employability</b>
Focus:	Maximising outcomes for young people and unemployed / underemployed adults across Lanarkshire's communities

Subgroup	<b>People: Skills</b>
Focus:	Addressing current and future economic opportunities with specific emphasis on the up-skilling and re-skilling of the workforce and safeguarding apprenticeships

Subgroup	<b>Place</b>
Focus:	Economic infrastructure investment programmes, including measures to strengthen the delivery and maximise the impact of City Deal and capital projects, and supporting our town centres

Subgroup	<b>Business</b>
Focus:	New business starts, sustaining and growing existing businesses and a focus on supply chain management, building the capacity and capability of companies in local and export markets

- 6.3. The LEF will provide the overall strategic direction for the subgroups to ensure a coordinated approach in supporting the economic well-being of Lanarkshire, delivering sustainable and inclusive economic long-term growth for businesses and ultimately improved opportunity and quality of life for our residents.
- 6.4. It is hoped that through both the parent LEF forum, and the four focused subgroups, partners can work closely together to ensure that their activities, supports and interventions are complementary, and avoid any unnecessary duplication.

## **7. Summary**

- 7.1. Since the establishment of the forum in September 2020 members will, of course, be aware that much of our economy has effectively been closed during lockdown. In turn, Council officers have been delivering business support grants and this has taken priority over mainstream economic development tasks. At the same time our partners have had to make significant changes to their own operations and business during that time. As such, progress on the LEF and establishment of the sub-groups and bringing forward collaborative interventions to support economic recovery has understandably been impacted.
- 7.2. Notwithstanding the above, the structure and importantly the initial partnership development has been established through the initial meetings of the LEF. This now provides a sound basis to develop and implement interventions to support the recovery and growth of the Lanarkshire economy.
- 7.3. Given the partners involved in the LEF, which in effect replicates the Sustainable Economic Growth Board (SEGB), it is considered that the SEGB meetings can be 'put on hold' meantime. However, it is recognised that it is important to ensure the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board and members of this Committee are kept up to date. Therefore, it is proposed that regular updates will be presented to both the CPP Board and this Committee as appropriate.

## **8. Employee Implications**

- 8.1. There are no employee implications as a direct result of this report, however, representatives from Community and Enterprise Resources and Finance and Corporate Resources will represent the Council on the LEF and its various subgroups.

## **9 Financial Implications**

- 9.1. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

## **10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 10.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications as a result of this report, however, Green Recovery will be a key focus of the Lanarkshire Economic Forum in line with Scottish Government priorities and supporting our transition to a net-zero society.

## **11. Other Implications**

- 11.1. There are no significant risks associated with this report.

## **12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

**Michael McGlynn**  
**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

9 April 2021

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities**

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire.
- ◆ Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and tackle disadvantage.

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Economic Recovery: Lanarkshire Economic Forum and Review of Economic Development Services, Recovery Board, 8 July 2020
- ◆ Economic Recovery - Lanarkshire Economic Forum – Update, Recovery Board, 18 September 2020

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Scottish Government Economic Recovery Implementation Plan and addressing Labour Market Emergency 20 August 2020
- ◆ Economic Development Service – Business Support Proposals - 20 August 2020

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

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## Terms of Reference – Lanarkshire Economic Forum

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To share information and inform a coordinated Lanarkshire approach to support the economic well-being of Lanarkshire and deliver sustainable and inclusive economic long-term growth for businesses and improved opportunity and quality of life for its residents.
- 1.2 In doing so, being at the forefront of innovation and change with a prosperous and thriving economy, supporting the progress and success of businesses, encouraging new enterprises and ensuring a skilled workforce that will sustain high employment rates whilst ensuring that all sections of the community are able to benefit from economic opportunities.

### 2. Aims

- 2.1 To influence and inform the setting of social and economic priorities and proposals for Lanarkshire and to support and add pace to the development and implementation of current Economic Strategies and Plans to create the right conditions for sustainable and inclusive economic long-term growth.
- 2.2 To identify and support the key economic development contributions to the delivery of the forum's priorities and targets and its associated plans.
- 2.3 To inform and develop effective engagement and actions with key stakeholders in pursuit of social and economic recovery and growth, including key agencies, public sector services, further and higher education institutions, business community and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector.
- 2.4 Represent Lanarkshire to gain support for its approaches to generate local economic growth.
- 2.5 To agree allocations of actions and commit lead members within the forum to accept responsibility and be accountability for oversight, delivery and reporting of key actions.
- 2.6 To monitor progress with actions and outcomes providing overall strategic leadership and direction.
- 2.7 To identify any gaps in provision at a local and regional level and to explore opportunities for collaboration where members of the forum can attract or deploy resources to deliver against agreed priorities and actions.

- 2.8 To drive innovation and transformational change in partnership practice for the benefit of Lanarkshire businesses, communities and residents.
- 2.9 To use our collective networks and relationships for the benefit of Lanarkshire and to leverage for greater outcomes.
- 2.10 To receive a range of developmental and performance monitoring reports for actions.

### **3. Membership of Forum and Status**

3.1 The following members will be represented on the forum at a senior management level, with each member having the authority to make decisions and commit resources or funding to agreed forum priorities: -

- South Lanarkshire Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Scottish Enterprise
- Skills Development Scotland
- New College Lanarkshire
- South Lanarkshire College
- University of West of Scotland (UWS)
- Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
- Third Sector
- Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce and Trade
- Business Gateway: Lanarkshire Enterprise Services Ltd (LESL)
- Business Sectors: VisitScotland

3.2 The forum will appoint a chair and vice chair.

3.3 The role of the Chair will be to ensure that the agenda business is properly dealt with and clear decisions are reached. There is a responsibility to ensure that the views and opinions of all participants at the meeting are allowed to be expressed and that they contribute to positive progression of members priorities. The chair will be rotated every two years or by agreement by forum members.

3.4 The forum has no independent legal status.

3.5 Forum members can recommend to invite further members to join the forum.

### **4. Management and operation**

#### Frequency of Meetings

4.1 The forum will meet a minimum of 4 times a year.

4.2 Members are required to attend at least two meetings per year. It is accepted that from time-to-time individual members may not be able to attend a meeting and in such a case alternative representation will be required.

- 4.3 Meetings will be structured around updates on the delivery of the agreed priorities and agendas will be formatted to structure discussion to agree and capture action points.
- 4.4 It is the intention that all items of business will be reached by consensus and as the forum is not a decision-making body there are no voting rights.

#### Secretariat

- 4.4 Secretariat support will, initially, be provided by South Lanarkshire Council, including the arrangement of meetings and the preparation of agendas, notes of meetings and reports. The meeting agendas will be circulated one week prior to meetings and notes of meetings circulated two weeks following meetings. Email is the preferred method of communication.

#### Confidentiality

- 4.5 To allow for full and open discussions members may be given access to information and documents that are not fully in the public domain and members should respect the confidentiality requirements of the forum or of individual members.
- 4.6 Any Freedom of Information requests received about the forum will be directed through the appropriate channels within South Lanarkshire Council, and, where appropriate within other members organisations, in order to meet the requirements of the Act.
- 4.7 Data about members of the Forum (email addresses and telephone numbers) will be held by South Lanarkshire Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act and only used for forum purposes and will not be passed to a third party and destroyed when the member leaves the forum or if the forum ceases to exist.

### **5. Performance monitoring and review**

- 5.1 The forum will prepare an annual progress report focusing on monitoring the delivery and impact of activities to achieve its purpose.

### **6. Exit Strategy**

- 6.1 The forum will remain in place as long as it is fulfilling its purpose and aims. The decision to close or re-form the forum will be taken by the members.