

Further Developing a Thriving Sustainable and Vibrant Economy

Our area will be recognised as having a culture and ethos of aspiration and ambition

- (i) The Business Panel continues to be optimistic about the future of the Council area. From the latest survey 92% of businesses think the Falkirk Council area is a good place to be located and that they will continue to consolidate and expand over the coming year.
- (ii) The Council has opened two new schools in Kinnaird and Maddiston thus ensuring our youngest pupils have the highest quality of learning environment;
- (iii) The Council and our partners became an early implementer of the new 16+ learning choices model launched by the Government in February 2008. This will ensure all young people leaving school will be offered arrangements appropriate to their needs e.g. training, employment, further education or indeed continuing at school by December 2010. This is one of the most ambitious schemes of this nature in Scotland. In addition the Council has developed new progression pathways for those young people who need pre apprentice provision. To date this new opportunity has supported 406 young people of which 93% moved into a positive outcome.
- (iv) In 2007/08 schools reported that young people were engaged in 287 entrepreneurial activities, 17 of which were Fair Trade activities. This represents an increase of 16% on the previous year's figures. Schools continue to link with local businesses to promote Enterprise in Education with a total of 427 partnerships established. Carrongrange School was only one of 10 in Scotland to be recognised as Socially Enterprising School at an awards ceremony earlier in summer 2008. It was also short listed as one of the top 3 in the 'most Enterprising Special School' category at the 2008 Scottish Education Awards.
- (v) A new business unit opened in Bo'ness to offer modern accommodation for small businesses and a new unit is under construction at Wholeflats, Grangemouth.

Corporate Plan

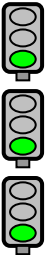





Performance Zone





Further Developing a Thriving, Sustainable and Vibrant Economy						
Local Outcome		Indicator	Performance in 2006/07 - Baseline	Performance in 2007/08	Nature of Change	By 2011 we will:
Our area will be recognised as having a culture of aspiration and ambition	1	The % of school leavers moving into Higher Education Further Education Training Employment	25% 16% 10% 33%	Awaiting data		28% 20% 7% 31%
	2	Diversity in sectoral employment: numbers & % Wholesale and retail; Manufacturing; Health & Social Work; Public Administration; Real Estate & Renting Business activities Other industries	11,000 – 18.9% 9,100 – 15.6% 9,000 – 15.4% 5,500 – 9.4% 5,200 – 8.9% 18,600 – 31.8%	Awaiting data		Monitor
	3	% of school leavers offered a guaranteed training place (new indicator)	-			2008 – 50% 2009 – 75% 2010 – 100%

The Wealth and Prosperity of our Area will increase

- (i) Over the last year, the number of modern apprentices taken on by private businesses has increased. We have secured benefit in the community clauses in a number of contracts that have allowed new opportunities for training and apprenticeships to take place. In addition to the new schools contract, a national housing association has adopted our clauses and has appointed 20 modern apprentices who are working within our area.
- (ii) The Council worked to ensure the transfer of responsibilities from Scottish Enterprise took place timeously. Falkirk Council also has taken the lead for the Forth Valley area in the business gateway. The number of Volume Start ups within the Forth Valley area in the first three months of operation performed ahead of target and above the Scottish average.
- (iii) The Council has also sought to stimulate local employment. In 2007/08 the Council supported 278 new business start ups through the Business Gateway. The Council also increased the uptake of work based training to 560 in 2007/08, compared to 432 the previous year. The Council also increased the number of modern apprentices and skill seekers it managed by 13% in the same period. With Council support a total of 729 jobs have been created or secured in 2007/08.

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Local Outcome		Indicator	Performance in 2006/07 - Baseline	Performance in 2007/08	Nature of Change	By 2011 we will:
The wealth and prosperity of our area will increase	4	No of claimants in receipt of out of work benefits per 1,000 populations.	No of claimants 15,150 101.2 per 1,000 population 161.9 per 1,000 working age population	No of claimants 14,890 98.8 per 1,000 population 154.9 per 1,000 Working age population		Reduce
	5	Employment Rate	78.6%	78.1% (update to Dec 07)		Maintain
	6	Number of community benefit in procurement programmes with number of jobs and beneficiaries	0	24		Increase
	7	The proportion of school leavers in a positive destination (FSF)	81%	84%		Increase
	8	% of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (FSF)	19%	16%		Decrease
	9	Reducing the number of unemployed people relative to the Scottish average	Falkirk 2.3% Scotland 2.3% Jan 2008	Falkirk 2.6% Scotland 2.5%		Reduce




Local Outcome	Indicator	Performance in 2006/07 - Baseline	Performance in 2007/08	Nature of Change	By 2011 we will:	
The wealth and prosperity of our area will increase	10	Increasing satisfaction of business panel with events	93%	Awaiting data		Increase
	11	Increasing the number of business start ups supported through Business Gateway	300	278		Increase
	12	Increasing the uptake of work based training provision provided by the Council	432	560		Increase
	13	Increasing the number of modern apprentices and skill seekers managed by the Council	201	227		Increase
	14	Increasing the number of jobs created or secured by the Council through support to businesses	684	729		Increase

Our workforce will be highly skilled

- (i) The Council opened a new library in Stenhousemuir and recently opened a further library in Polmont. These new facilities give people within our communities the opportunity to access not only books, but on line facilities. The number of times the public accessed computer terminals in libraries was up slightly last year.
- (ii) We also employ 255 modern apprentices within the Council at any one time. This means we are well on course to meet our commitment of 5% i.e. 300 of our workforce being modern apprentices by autumn 2009.
- (iii) In 2007/08 our adult literacy and numeracy team worked with 262 learners to improve their reading, writing, number and English language skills. A number of learners gained accreditation in Communication and Numeracy, and several achieved ESOL SQA units necessary to qualify for British Citizenship.
- (iv) Overall, our schools have performed steadily during 2007/08. Against most of the categories assessed and reported on by HMIE, our schools have been assessed at 90% or above as being good or very good. The S4 cohort has performed consistently in terms of attainment between 2006/07 and 2007/08. As a result of the percentage of young people leaving school without progressing into employment, further or higher education or training has fallen from 16% in 2006/07 to 10% in 2007/08.

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



Local Outcome	Indicator	Performance in 2006/07 - Baseline	Performance in 2007/08	Nature of Change	By 2011 we will:	
Our workforce will be highly skilled	15	Proportion of schools in HMIE reports published during the previous 3 years achieving 'good' or 'very good' or above for: a) Structure of the Curriculum b) The teaching process c) Leadership d) Expectations & promoting achievement e) Equality & Fairness f) Partnership with parents & Community	a) 94% b) 89% c) 100% d) 89% e) 100% f) 94%	a) 94% b) 89% c) 94% d) 100% e) 100% f) 94%		Improve
	16	The % of pupils in P3, P4, P6 & P7 attaining or exceeding the appropriate levels for their stage in Reading Writing Mathematics	85% 81% 88%	85% 81% 87%		Improve all
	17	Cumulative Attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded schools for S4 – % of the S4 roll gaining level 3 or better in English and Mathematics; % of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards as SCQF level 3 or better; % of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or more % of S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better;	91% 89% 73% 30%	90% 89% 71% 32%		Improve

Local Outcome	Indicator	Performance in 2006/07 - Baseline	Performance in 2007/08	Nature of Change	By 2011 we will:	
Our workforce will be highly skilled	18	Cumulative attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded secondary schools for S5 – % of the original S4 roll gaining 1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better % of the original S4 roll gaining 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better; % of the original S4 roll gaining 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better	34% 17% 6%	36% 18% 7%		Improve
	19	The % of young people who leave school without employment, further or higher education or training	16%	10%		Decrease
	20	% of pupil attendance at school Primary Secondary	95.6% 89.9%	Awaiting data		Improve
	21	Provision of a suitable mix of affordable, accessible and high quality of early learning and child care (0-4) a) Pre-school education places; b) Toddlers Places c) Baby Places d) Wraparound Care	100% 92 24 164	100% 92 24 220		Maintain Increase Increase Increase
	22	Number of young people in secondary schools involved in Pupil Councils	251	Awaiting data		Maintain

The quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of the local economy.

- (i) Falkirk Town centre was awarded Business Improvement District status in May 2008. This will ensure the town can continue to develop and grow.
- (ii) The plans for regenerating our other town centres continue to develop. The new shopping centre in Stenhousemuir nears completion with the opening of the ASDA store.
- (iii) While the economic situation has impacted our ambitious plans for development, where the Council has an influence, we have continued to progress plans for regeneration. This includes the opening of the Hippodrome in Bo'ness.
- (iv) The Council took the decision to reduce car parking charges in Falkirk Town centre. This has ensured our town centre will be a more attractive destination for shoppers and commuters alike.
- (v) During 2007/08 the number of business advice requests for consumer protection completed within 14 days reached 88.7% compared to 65.9% the previous year.

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The quality of our infrastructure will help promote the growth of the local economy.	23	A Net number and B rate of new businesses formed in Local Authority area on an annual basis	A: +60 B: 170 per 100,000 population	Data not yet published		Increase
	24	The number of occupied business properties as a % of the total	98.6%	97.3%		Maintain
	25	RSA Awards accepted/paid Average number and value	4 £1m	3 £620,000		Improve
	26	Business advice requests for consumer protection completed within 14 days	65.9%	88.7%		Improve
	27	Total area of Vacant land; Derelict land; Total	52ha 90ha 142ha	138.5ha		Reduce
	28	Carriageway condition - % of network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	54% (Figures not comparable due to change in method)	35%		Maintain