

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STRATEGY
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 17 SEPTEMBER 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the development of a Social Enterprise strategy for the Falkirk Council area in order to bring together and strengthen the support we currently offer to an important emerging sector.

2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

- 2.1** A detailed proposal outlining the purpose, context, definitions and timescales for developing a social enterprise strategy is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2** The paper sets out the local, national and international context in which social enterprises are now developing and provides some definitions. It discusses the ways in which social enterprises add value, in particular in relation to social, economic, employment and environmental outcomes.
- Social enterprises are non-profit distributing businesses that have a “social mission” as their primary purpose.
 - Their aims and mission are often closely aligned to aspects of Falkirk’s strategic community plan and they have the potential to make a significant contribution to its development and that of the Single Outcome Agreement.
 - There has been relatively little sector development in Falkirk and a strategy is necessary to provide a mechanism for promoting the development of sustainable social enterprises that could fill gaps in the market, allow the local area to benefit from the added value offered by social enterprises and help to reduce grant dependency.
- 2.3** Falkirk Council currently provides some support to social enterprises through the mechanisms available to all businesses or third sector organisations operating within the area, primarily through Business Gateway.
- Support and advice to start-up businesses and to those that wish to grow and improve
 - Workshops and events, 1-to-1 advice, access to Scottish Enterprise or Just Enterprise programmes and support, web audits, and links with professional organisations.

- 2.4 A strategy would help to co-ordinate this work, and identify ways in which support could be better targeted in order to meet the specific needs of the sector.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 3.1 Approve the proposal outlined in appendix 1 to develop a social enterprise strategy.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 27 August 2013

Ref: ABB0913SW

Contact Name: Sally Wainwright

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506011 and ask for Sally Wainwright.