

The background of the slide features the coat of arms of the Government of Nunavut. It is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a stylized yellow building with a red roof. The top-right quadrant shows a white caribou head with large antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a white sailing ship on blue wavy lines representing water. The bottom-right quadrant shows a white eagle with spread wings. Above the shield is a crown with four red maple leaves. A red banner at the bottom contains the text "ANĖ FOR A'".

Agenda Item 5

Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Title: Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan

Meeting: Emergency Executive

Date: 11 June 2020

Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report outlines the steps proposed for development of an Economic Recovery Plan in relation to the impact of the Covid-19 situation. This plan will be developed in partnership with organisations involved in the Falkirk Economic Partnership, other businesses and other stakeholders.

2. Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Executive agrees:

- (i) to progress the development of an economic recovery plan in relation to the impact of the Covid-19 situation**
- (ii) that a programme of consultation with stakeholders be initiated to finalise the plan for agreement by Executive in August 2020.**
- (iii) that Council services and partners be invited to contribute any further actions proposed for inclusion in the finalised recovery plan**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Covid-19 situation is anticipated to have a significant impact for the economy. Work is proceeding at national and local level to enable a response to mitigate the effects of actions taken to contain the virus and its impacts on businesses and workforces and prepare for recovery.
- 3.2 The Falkirk Economic Partnership helps to steer the approach to economic development in the Falkirk area. It developed the area's Economic Strategy *Growth: Investment : Inclusion* and is leading on the development of an Investment Zone initiative part of which aims to build on the economic value and importance of the Grangemouth complex to the national economy.
- 3.3 Through the support of partner agencies in the Economic Partnership, work has been undertaken to draft a recovery plan to address the effects of the Covid-19 situation on the local economy.

4.0 **Draft Economic Recovery Plan**

- 4.1 The need for an economic recovery plan arises from the immediate and anticipated long term effects of the Covid-19 situation. The Scottish Government's Chief Economist has suggested that Scotland's GDP could reduce by 33% during the period of social distancing and longer term impacts, while uncertain, are anticipated to be significant. Covid-19 is acknowledged to have had a major impact on businesses and workforces In the Falkirk area already with 2200 businesses seeking support from the Council and a substantial increase in unemployment. There are now over 11,000 Universal Credit claimants across the area. Fuller understanding and analysis of the impact of Covid-19 is an important constraint at this time and reinforces a need for work in this field.
- 4.2 To assist in structuring the approach to recovery it is important to have strong alignment of action at national and local level. At national level, a Recovery Advisory Group has been established and has undertaken consultation on the measures necessary to aid recovery. In its response, SoLACE has indicated that a 'whole system' approach is needed to align national and local government, business, communities and third sector organisations working and delivering together.
- 4.3 To enable a response locally, members of the Falkirk Economic Partnership have collaborated to prepare the attached draft recovery plan. The plan sets out a series of actions to help take forward measures to address four "Rs"
- **RESPOND** - Immediate provision of information and support to businesses
 - **RESET** - Support, planning and preparation for restart
 - **RESTART** - Support and guidance for safe re-opening
 - **RECOVER** - Guidance and support for operating in a new post COVID-19 environment
- 4.4. At its May 14 meeting, the Emergency Executive agreed that a report be supplied on the work taking place on economic recovery noting that the Economic Partnership will work to mitigate the effects for the Falkirk economy, including its most vulnerable businesses, sectors and communities. It will also look to build on work undertaken via the Falkirk Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) initiative and the plans for the Investment Zone, presently being negotiated with UK and Scottish Governments..
- 4.5 It is proposed that this draft recovery plan be developed through further consultation and activity by partners to confirm the necessary measures to help understand the effects of Covid-19 on the area's economy, progress mitigating actions and move towards an economic recovery.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 It is proposed that further work takes place to finalise the recovery plan through engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders including business and others in the community. This work will need to be undertaken over the coming weeks using online techniques and it is suggested that this be finalised for agreement by the Emergency Executive in August.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The financial impact of Covid-19 for business, communities and public sector bodies is significant and it is anticipated that significant further financial support will be necessary to enable the economy to recover. It is uncertain at the present time if additional financial resources will be needed for delivery of the actions contained in the action plan and therefore it will be important to establish the costs of actions proposed and identify potential sources of funding support.

Resources

- 6.2 The delivery of the recovery plan will rely substantially on existing staff resources. Should additional support be required to deliver the actions necessary, these will be identified in the finalised plan.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no immediate legal issues identified at this time.

Risk

- 6.4 There are a number of significant risks for the Falkirk area economy that might arise as a consequence of Covid-19 with impacts on the area's business base and employment anticipated. These risks will need to be identified in the course of finalising the recovery plan.

Equalities

- 6.5 It will be important to ensure that the recovery plan addresses any specific impacts local communities, including those in most vulnerable groups. The measures being taken forward can assist in promoting a community wellbeing approach and delivery of sustainable and inclusive growth.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 The recovery plan presents an opportunity to adopt new approaches to the delivery of sustainable economic growth through investment in enhanced infrastructure and supporting measures.

Council of the Future

- 6.7 The recovery plan will play an important role in assisting delivery of the measures contained in the Council of the Future initiative.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Covid-19 situation is anticipated to have a significant impact on the economy of the Falkirk area, the fullest effects of which we are yet to understand. It is important to galvanise effort amongst partners locally to ensure a concerted response. It is proposed that the draft action plan is finalised for agreement by the Council Executive and the Falkirk Economic Partnership as a means to progress this work.

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Director of Development Services

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Date: 4 June 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

NIL

Falkirk Economic Partnership/Falkirk Council**Covid – 19 Economic Recovery Action Plan – taking it forward****1. Context**

The Covid-19 situation is anticipated to have a significant impact on the economy. The Scottish Government's Chief Economist has suggested that Scotland's GDP could reduce by 33% during the period of social distancing and longer term impacts, while uncertain, are anticipated to be major. Significant steps are likely to be necessary to enable business to adjust to the new economic landscape.

It is proposed that the Falkirk Economic Partnership should commence work to mitigate the effects for the Falkirk economy, including its most vulnerable businesses, sectors and communities. This work should look to create capacity for renewal and growth, building on the work undertaken by various partners including those via the Falkirk Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) initiative and the plans for the Investment Zone presently being negotiated with UK and Scottish Governments. The latter will require to reconsider the elements making up its proposition to reflect the need for revised priorities post COVID-19. Work taking place on Falkirk's LDP2, and emerging FV regional perspectives on planning, transport and economic development will also be of benefit at this time.

It is proposed that, via the Falkirk Economic Partnership, an action plan for economic resilience and recovery post Covid-19 be established. This paper presents an initial draft action plan as a basis for consultation prior to being finalised in August 2020.

2. Preparing an Economic Resilience and Recovery Action Plan

It is important that the approach to the recovery plan aligns with those measures taking place at national (UK and Scotland) level. In responding to the Covid-19 crisis, significant steps have been taken by both the UK and Scottish Governments to mitigate the immediate impacts for businesses and their workforces. Measures are in place to support furloughed staff and offer grant and loan assistance to business. This has helped many businesses to stave off the worst effects of the lockdown.

Recent ONS surveys (for the period 20 April to 3 May 2020) indicate

- 19.3% of responding Scottish businesses had ceased trading (20.3% across the UK)
- Of those continuing to trade, 24.3% of Scottish businesses experienced a decrease in turnover of over 50% (compared with 24.5% across the UK), while 26% reported their turnover as being unaffected (29.2% for UK).
- Of those Scottish businesses that were still trading, 79.1%, had applied for the Job Retention Scheme (compared with 76.3% across the UK).

In the Falkirk area, the impact has been immediate:

March – April 2020:

Claimant Count

- Increase from 3,325 to 5,540
- 5.4% working age population
- 66.6% increase

16-24 yr olds Claimant Count

- Increase from 675 to 1,040
- 6.7% of population aged 16-24
- 54.1% increase

DWP advise that there are now over 11,000 Universal Credit claimants across the Falkirk area.

For those businesses still in operation, steps have been put in place to apply social distancing and protect workforces and the wider public. The Scottish Government has now published its 4 phase Covid-19 Routemap for the removal of lockdown restrictions with reviews to take place at 3 weekly intervals to consider the scope to move to the next phase. This will guide the recovery process and aims to ensure that businesses and their workforces can return to work safely and productively.

In looking to the future it will be important to assess the impact of Covid-19 and establish a framework for action to reflect the imperative to achieve the area's ambitions for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The Scottish Government suggest a national response focused on the 4 "Rs"

- **RESPOND** - Immediate provision of information and support to businesses
- **RESET** - Support, planning and preparation for restart
- **RESTART** - Support and guidance for safe re-opening
- **RECOVER** - Guidance and support for operating in a new post COVID-19 environment

This offers potential to identify the necessary local responses and create a framework for our own action plan. In relation to each of these, there are a number of actions in play and/ or which require to be developed and it is proposed that this work be progressed as a framework for action by the Partnership, involving local business, industry representative bodies, the Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, Falkirk BID and other stakeholders. It will also be necessary to recognise the potential challenges arising from the impact of Brexit as this takes effect for businesses.

It is acknowledged that individual organisations will have their own programmes to address the impact of Covid-19 and prepare for recovery. This action plan is intended to enable alignment of activity by the various partners.:

a) Respond

We are responding to Covid-19 by supporting the Scottish and UK Government to forward immediate relief out to businesses. Key areas of action amongst the partners include:

- administering financial support in the form of grants and loans to business
- provision of advice and support to sustain business and employment
- strong messaging and communications to advise of the support available
- business actions in turning production towards response activities
- delivery of online learning and support for students and apprentices

- provision of PACE redundancy support and advice to business and workforces
- Falkirk BID – business and community support measures including food, healthcare and pharmacy deliveries via foodbanks, Forth Valley Hospital and supermarkets.

Further steps are necessary to:

- Understand the effect of the Covid-19 situation, and its impact on workforces, supply chains, business closures and any resultant downsizing of the area's economy
- Through the Local Employability Partnership it is intended to work with Forth Valley college and local skills providers to evaluate the impact on skills supply/demand and how to sustain service delivery with aspects of social distancing intact.
- Prepare for the next phases involving the removal of lockdown measures and gradual opening up of business operations
- Deliver strong inspirational messaging that the Falkirk area will welcome visitors back when the time is right
- Development of industry related groups to assess impact and ensure partnership approach to response
- Through SE, Business Gateway and business facing teams, identify gaps in support and assistance for businesses to continue to operate in the short term

*Partners are invited to contribute any further actions they suggest to **respond** to the effects of Covid-19.*

b) Reset

It is important to 'reset' our activities to reflect the conditions arising from the impact of Covid-19 in what has become termed the 'new normal'. There will be significant measures needed to re-establish business activity, re-engage workforces, address hardship for business and communities, prepare premises for business operations addressing the social distancing measures necessary and re-connect supply chains for business activity. Reflecting the Scottish Government's 4 phase Routemap, this work requires careful preparation and an understanding of the issues facing the area's economy:

- connect with national governments to ensure alignment of effort.
- connect with neighbouring areas (e.g. within Forth Valley), where shared effort and resources can assist in streamlining the approaches adopted.
- access the expertise available at the area's main learning institutions – University of Stirling and FV College to guide the response framework
- communicate the measures and industry standards available for business and workforces to share practice on safeguarding the public & workforces during this period to avoid the pandemic being rekindled
- understand the effects on the local construction and commercial property sector
- establish agreements between tenants and landlords where possible to sustain occupation of premises and business operations.

- appraise the effect of Covid-19 on key sectors including chemicals, manufacturing, construction, logistics, retail, tourism and hospitality, logistics and food and drink through a series of industry specific online listening forums between FC, local businesses and relevant agencies
- re-establish construction activity, identifying and bringing forward any capital investment projects that are in development for early impact on recovery.
- understand and address the impact on communities and the impact for particular areas or vulnerable groups.
- Promote active travel measures to assist access to the workplace, business opportunities and joint funding applications
- assess the impact on town centres, which can be anticipated to be significant. It is likely that our town centre regeneration activity will require to be reinforced. Falkirk BID can provide advice, information and support for BID members and conduct a survey of impact for town centre businesses
- understand changes in behaviour in response to Covid-19 which may present economic, environmental, and carbon reduction opportunities (e.g. greater homeworking, active travel, local recreation and tourism) and look at how these opportunities might be exploited
- identifying new opportunities for business and foster business flexibility and agility to pursue different directions

*Partners are invited to contribute any further actions they suggest in order to **reset** the economy due to the effects of Covid-19.*



c) Restart

Measures to re-start the area's economy to reflect the new normal and move forward are vital:

- Support and guidance for safe re-opening of business operations will be important. While government and sector specific guidance will be key, there may be localised measures necessary to communicate support available locally (or sector specific) to help safeguard the public, share resources and expertise and maximize the local economic value of such activity.
- Several local businesses have adapted their processes to offer services and products that reflect the demands arising in the new environment. Steps to foster this new growth and redirect it for the longer term will be of value.
- Measures to restart the construction sector and to stimulate investment, including use of public sector capital programme investment
- In partnership with other colleges and private sector bodies, Forth Valley College aim to initiate a low carbon industry challenge for engineering apprentices in August.

- It will be important to re-assess and press ahead with progress of existing initiatives e.g. the Falkirk TIF, which has a pipeline of capital investment projects which can help give a stimulus to the area's economy.
- Initiate updated Town Centre Partnership Action Plan – in liaison with Falkirk BID. Measures to include:
 - street 'dressing' - increase public realm space, repurpose areas, increase seating, improve visual environment through floral enhancements, shop front improvements and welcome interventions
 - Improve digital services – public WIFI, signage, footfall sensors and promotional interventions
- Measures to adjust regulatory measures (e.g. Section 75 planning obligations, licenses, constraints on working hours) to enable investment and stimulate economic recovery
- Pursue external financial support to enable delivery of support measures locally
- Support business resilience through training and support on work practices, processes, supply chains and logistics including risk assessments, staggered openings, preventative measures and hygiene etiquette
- Utilise green travel opportunities to support business e.g. electric bike provision in collaboration with partner organisations
- Additional digital training will be essential for many businesses to ensure businesses offering contactless experience, businesses must be on-line bookable, offer a online delivery or click & collect service where possible
- Development of VisitFalkirk marketing campaign in line with Visit Scotland - for the Falkirk area targeting the day visitor followed by 'staycation' markets. Ensuring we can capitalise on central location and strong outdoor tourism product base

*Partners are invited to contribute any further actions they suggest in order to **restart** the economy due to the effects of Covid-19.*



d) Recover

The recovery process will require to be sustained over a significant period of time and may require dedicated resources for its delivery. Amongst the key tasks and actions are:

A. Sectoral initiatives

- i) *Tourism* - progress work of tourism sector/STERG and local VisitFalkirk tourism partnership action plan:
 - Assisting businesses to work together on the development of packages to successfully diversify/innovative to operate in the 'new normal'.
 - Working regionally to develop two/three day itineraries focused on outdoor/cycling activity.
 - Bolster place marketing to attract visitors and investment.

- Working with local communities to access local tourist facilities and ensure they are ready to welcome tourists in to the area – flagging value of tourism to the local economy and measures taken by local authority and tourism businesses to ensure visits are in line with regulations.
 - Working with Visit Scotland around the development of packages for the Travel Trade for 2021.
- ii) *Labour market* - measures to address the impact on the people in the labour market and ensure that they are assisted readily into the workplace. Job creation and entry scheme measures will be needed including assistance for school leavers (anticipating a reduction in new job opportunities being available)
- iii) *Infrastructure, Housing & Construction*
- adoption of the LDP2 and finalise LDP2 Action Programme,
 - recommence/accelerate and where necessary re-evaluate capital investment programmes including TIF programme, SHIP, general services capital programmes etc.
 - progress measures to streamline regulatory processes, accelerate planning approvals, and assist viability through mitigating the impact of developer contributions.
 - Assess and address implications of Covid-19 for design, access and place-making.
- iv) *Manufacturing & Chemicals* – liaison with Chemicals Sciences Scotland and local businesses to pursue recovery and growth opportunities
- v) *Logistics* – liaison with Forth Ports and logistics operators to pursue recovery and growth opportunities etc.
- vi) *Food & Drink* - Continue to promote the message of support local. Identify opportunities to work with Scottish Food and Drink in development of local Food and Drink business offering or ability to reach new markets
- vii) *Place & community* - measures to address the impact of Covid-19 on local communities and prepare forward investment plans for town centres and other key locations. Promote community well-being approaches to enable all within the community to benefit from measures being implemented.
- viii) *Retail & Town Centres* - Given the major impact anticipated for the area's retail sector, specific assessment and action planning will be needed for town centre businesses as we move through the phasing stages of recovery. Each phase will require to be carefully monitored and progressed by retailers, Falkirk BID and other partners.

B. Investment Zone

There is a need to accelerate delivery of the Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone initiative and to lobby strongly to secure growth deal funding in support of its proposals. We will require to identify 'early win' projects and progress business cases for early implementation. We should aim to set out a deliverable timescale for all the projects and their potential economic impact. The aim will be to reinforce that our Investment Zone proposition is key to the area's economic recovery post Covid-19 and its key components of:

- industrial innovation,
- national infrastructure and

- creating great places

The UK and Scottish Government have reaffirmed their commitment to City and Growth Deals in light of Covid-19. They are keen to understand what action is required to keep the Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone deal moving forward and how this will support the future economy. It will be important to accelerate this work, creating a delivery plan for the Investment Zone, with Heads of Terms to be agreed, hopefully before the end of 2020.

C. Regional Partnership

There are also emerging opportunities to work with partners within Forth valley region where we can raise the profile of the wider area, exploit synergies and add value through linking local measures. This will involve other Councils, Scottish Enterprise, Forth Valley College, University of Stirling and the Chamber of Commerce. Exploratory work is underway in terms of the new Regional Spatial Strategies, Regional Economic Partnerships and create a regional approach to the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) and this offers a framework for future action.

Partners are invited to contribute any further actions they suggest in order to help the Falkirk economy recover from the effects of Covid-19.

3. Progressing the action plan

It will be necessary to finalise the action plan through a process of engagement with other partners, business and other stakeholders. While there will inevitably be challenges in conducting consultation during the current lockdown arrangements, it is proposed that we take steps using online tools to connect with various sectors/groups of stakeholders to enable this to take place. The assistance of Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, FSB, Falkirk BID and other business organisations will be sought. This will help to ensure that the plan's content matches the needs and ambitions of local business and other stakeholders as the 'new normal' takes effect. Some key questions to consider include:

- alignment to national measures
- scale of the issues and ambitions locally post Covid-19
- capacity for joint action
- identification of early wins and/or impactful projects to be pursued as priorities
- clear definition of our focus for action and key messages to be conveyed

Partners are invited to identify any further issues to be addressed to aid the recovery process.

It is proposed that the draft action plan be agreed by the Economic Partnership on 12 June as a basis for further consultation and engagement with key stakeholders as a means to finalise the plan by end July 2020. This should aim to ensure alignment with the recovery plans of other partners, address any resources issues and refine the measures proposed and their timescale for delivery.

4. Conclusion & Next steps

The Covid-19 situation has had a significant impact on the economy of the Falkirk area, the fullest effects of which we are yet to understand. It is important to galvanise effort amongst partners locally and align this with the actions of other tiers of government to ensure a concerted response. It is proposed that this draft action plan is agreed by the Council Executive and the Falkirk Economic Partnership as a means to progress this work & that an updated action plan be compiled following engagement with the business community and other stakeholders.

Falkirk Economic Partnership
Covid – 19 Draft Economic Recovery Action Plan

a) Respond

Task	Task	Timescale	Action	Intended Outcome
	Business Support			
1.	<p>Current measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administering financial support in the form of grants and loans to business • provision of health checks, advice and support to sustain business and employment • messaging and communications to advise of the support available • business actions in turning production towards response activities • Falkirk BID – town centre business support measures, support to vulnerable residents and development of supply chains following health guidance. <p><i>Additional measures to pursue include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for the next phases involving the removal of lockdown measures and gradual opening up of business operations • Deliver strong inspirational messaging that the Falkirk area will welcome visitors back when the time is right • Development of industry related groups to assess impact and ensure partnership approach to response • Through SE, Business Gateway and business facing teams, identify gaps in support and assistance for businesses to continue to operate in the short term 	End Dec 2020	SE/FC (Finance/Business Gateway)/Business	Sustain operations and viability of business through grant support and other measures. (to date 1,759 grants awarded – totalling £19.8m)

	Workforce Support			
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of online learning support for students, apprentices & trainees • Understand the effect of the Covid-19 situation, and its impact on workforces, supply chains, business closures and any resultant downsizing of the area's economy • Through the local employability partnership it is intended to work with the college and local skills providers to evaluate the impact on skills supply/demand and how to sustain service delivery with aspects of social distancing. 		FVC/FC/Training providers FC/FVC/SDS Local Employability Partnership	Sustain learning for students (No. of students, trainees, apprentices learning online)
3	Redundancy support			
	Deliver PACE redundancy support for affected companies		SDS/PACE partners	Xx companies assisted/ Xx jobs affected/ Xx workforce numbers assisted
4.	Transport			
	Measures to enable access to work and essential services using active travel		FC/Transport Scotland	Improvements in access to work achieved.
	Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paused BID levy invoicing from 1 April to 20 Sept 20 with no new debt recovery initiated ○ Secured £32,000 from the SG COVID19 BIDs Resilience Fund ○ Set up local delivery mechanisms, using BID Staff and Safebase infrastructure to assist response including food banks, pharmacies, housing, charities and supermarket to support vulnerable groups ○ Developed systems to help businesses survive i.e. promotion of 		Falkirk BID/FC	Sustain town centre businesses and footfall

	local goods and services, networking, group support etc. via town centre ambassadors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Developed digital assets to help connect people to the town o Mobilised champions to guide and support businesses spearhead investment o Conduit for inter trading between local businesses as they moved to home working mode o Noticeboard for all businesses 			
	<i>Insert additional measures.....</i>			

b) Reset

	Task	Timescale	Action	Intended Outcome
1	Liaise with SE Account Managers and Business Gateway for businesses in Falkirk / Grangemouth. Understanding the issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Scale of losses o Operating impacts o What will need to be done differently and o What will this mean for business operating models Create process to manage future support	August 2020	SE/FC (Business Gateway)	Improved support service for business.
2	Scan for relevant information – NPF4, Intelligence for economic impacts and Scotland recovery plan. Sources of material to be gathered & shared online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraser of Allander • Scottish Government commission • CIA/ Chemistry Growth Council • Scenarios • UK government recovery plans 		All	Information supply on Covid19 impact

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Gateway, VisitScotland, STA, ALVA Surveys <p>Update report on Covid-19 impact locally – unemployment, business impact etc.</p>		FC	
3	Skills and Learning - Joint work on impact and support measures needed to re-commence training activity		FVC/FC/SDS	
	Measures to secure agreement between landlords and tenants over rent deferral		FC/other landlords	
5	<p><i>Town Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review impact on town centre businesses (surveys underway) Develop Falkirk Gift Card scheme Deliver SG COVID19 BIDs Resilience Fund measures Temporary interventions to aid social distancing: Consider selective road closures and reallocating road space, parking and loading for wider footways Improve cycle parking Promote ticketless and contactless parking Support and promote click and collect Promote provision of additional short-term parking and one-way walking routes 		FC/Falkirk BID	
6	<p><i>Logistics</i></p> <p>Assess impact for local logistics sector and promote appropriate measures</p>		SE/FC/business	
7	Liaise with Scottish Government and SFT Place colleagues on impacts for communities, town centres, housing investment, place development (link to A&DS, SFT activity)		FC/SG/SFT	

	Transport & active travel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote active travel measures to assist access to the workplace Allow for short – medium term increases in car usage by visitors – therefore traffic planning strategy required/ signage strategy implementation Respond to Scottish Government Spaces for People fund 		FC	
	<i>Insert additional measures.....</i>			

c) Restart

	Task	Timescale	Action	Intended Outcome
1	Support and guidance for safe re-opening of business operations - localised measures necessary to help safeguard the public, share resources and expertise and maximize the local economic value of such activity.		SE/FC (Business Gateway, Environmental Health & Trading Standards)/ Business	Successful business re-openings
	Support for businesses to adapt processes to offer services and products that reflect the demands arising in the new environment.		SE/FC (Business Gateway)	
	In partnership with other colleges and private sector bodies, Forth Valley College to initiate a low carbon industry challenge for engineering apprentices.	August	FVC/SDS/other colleges	
	It will be important to re-assess and press ahead with progress of existing initiatives e.g. the Falkirk TIF to help give a stimulus to the area's economy.			
	Measures to secure agreement between landlords and tenants over rent deferral		FC/other landlords	

	Additional digital training will be essential for many businesses to ensure businesses offering contactless experience, businesses must be on-line bookable, offer a online delivery or click & collect service where possible		FC Business Gateway	
	Initiate updated Town Centre Partnership Action Plan – in liaison with Falkirk BID. Measures to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ street ‘dressing’ - increase public realm space, repurpose areas, increase seating, improve visual environment through floral enhancements, shop front improvements and welcome interventions ○ Improve digital services – public WIFI, signage, footfall sensors and promotional interventions 		FC/Falkirk BID	
	Development of marketing campaign in line with Visit Scotland - for the Falkirk area targeting the day visitor followed by ‘staycation’ markets. Ensuring we can capitalise on central location and strong outdoor tourism product base		Tourism Partnership	
	<i>Insert additional measures.....</i>			

d) Recover

	Task –	Timescale	Action	
	Develop sector actions plans to aid recovery (acknowledging necessary linkages to be made with national sector recovery plans) including:			

	<p><i>Business support</i> Further measures to aid business recovery and re-establish growth.</p>		SE/FC (Business Gateway)	
	<p><i>Infrastructure, Housing and Construction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-evaluate and agree updated infrastructure investment programmes (including TIF, SHIP and education) and commence delivery of next stage <i>Falkirk TIF</i> infrastructure investment projects • Adopt LDP2 and finalise Action Programme • Deliver Housing investment programme projects • Measures to streamline regulatory process, accelerate planning approvals and potentially mitigate the impact on viability of developer contributions. <p>Assess and address implications of Covid-19 for design, access and placemaking.</p>		<p>FC/ SG / SFT</p> <p>FC</p> <p>FC/Private</p> <p>FC/others</p> <p>FC/SFT</p>	
	<p><i>Tourism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver local tourism action plan aligned with STERG national recovery plan. • Progress work of tourism sector/STERG and local VisitFalkirk tourism partnership action plan. • Assisting businesses working together on the development of a series of packages and on measures to successfully diversify/innovative to operate in the 'new normal'. • Working regionally to develop two/three day itineraries focused on outdoor/cycling activity and prepare for international visitors in 2021. 		VisitFalkirk Tourism partnership	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Visit Scotland around the development of packages for the Travel Trade for 2021. Review of Tourism strategy in line with Investment Zone and STERG action plan 			
	<i>Labour market</i> Measures to mitigate impact on the labour market and assisted people into the workplace.		FC/FVC/SDS	
	<i>Place & community</i> Forward investment plans for town centres and other key locations		FC/Falkirk BID/business	
	<i>Town Centres</i> Deliver town centre action plans to aid recovery of retail sector and introduce new town centre activities .		Falkirk BID and other partners	
	<i>Investment Zone/Growth Deal</i> Progress delivery of the Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone initiative: Lobby to secure growth deal funding in support of its proposals. Confirm Heads of Terms for delivery and proceed with final business case identify 'early win' projects and develop business cases for early implementation. Set out a deliverable timescale for all projects and economic impact.	By end 2020 By end 2020	All	
	<i>Communications</i> Plan for communication of measures proposed.....		FC/SE/FVC	

	Consultation plan –support to seek comment for finalised plan			
	<i>Insert additional measures.....</i>			