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## A Message from the Chair...

Welcome to the SLAED March 2022 Newsletter which captures a wealth of recent activity undertaken by the various SLAED strategic and thematic groups in partnership with key economic development stakeholders and agencies across Scotland, brought to life by specific local authority case studies.

One of the main activities of SLAED has been the refresh of its 3 Year Strategic Plan, 2022-25. It is appreciated that the revised Strategic Plan is launched at a time of immense challenges for the economic development profession within local government, in an environment of continued economic uncertainty and unprecedented impacts, not only on the Scottish economy, but on a global scale. Therefore, to ensure the delivery of a resilient, robust and relevant action plan going forward, the SLAED Executive, and associated strategic and thematic SLAED sub-groups, will need to ensure that such activities are reviewed and refreshed on a continual basis.

The SLAED Indicators Report 2020/21 can now be viewed on the SLAED website. This latest annual report provides consistent data and evidence on economic development delivery for all 32 local authority areas. This report takes into account the significant additional pressure experienced by all council economic development teams over the last two years as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic crisis coupled with the impacts of EU Exit.

Information is provided on the ongoing collaborative work undertaken by the Business Support Partnership (BSP). The BSP five year strategy is of particular note, with a focus on the ambitions to transform the business support landscape throughout Scotland, closely aligned to the ambitions set out in the [National Strategy for Economic Transformation](#), March 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all local government colleagues and representatives from partner organisations, who continue to provide their time and expertise to drive forward Scotland wide economic development activity, where a snapshot of such activity is noted in this



## SLAED Strategic Plan 2022–25

The SLAED Executive recently published the SLAED Strategic Plan for 2022-25. The Plan provides commentary on the SLAED aims and objectives for the three-year period, set within the wider context of the current economic opportunities, challenges and landscape, particularly due to the ongoing pandemic coupled with EU Exit.

The Executive are grateful to all SLAED colleagues who provided their time and expertise to shape the content and future focus of SLAED's 3 Year Strategic Plan 2022-25. Particular thanks to the excellent secretariat support from the Improvement Service.

To deliver this Strategic Plan, SLAED will need to undertake a number of activities, many of which will link with one another. To take account of ongoing challenges and opportunities, particularly in a time of such national and global economic uncertainty, the plan will need to be a working document to be reviewed and refreshed as appropriate.

Moreover, the success of SLAED in being able to deliver on the ambitions set out within the Strategic Plan, is contingent on the continued collaboration and partnership working of economic development colleagues across Scotland. Going forward, the work of SLAED needs to continue to add value to support the realisation of inclusive and sustainable place-based and person-centred economies at a local, regional and national level.

The SLAED Strategic Plan 2022-25 can be downloaded from the [SLAED Website](#).

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## SLAED Indicators Report 2020/21 Publication

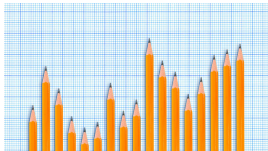
The SLAED Indicators Report for 2020/21 has been published on the [SLAED Website](#). This is the latest annual report that provides consistent data and evidence on what councils throughout Scotland are delivering as local economic development organisations, both individually and collectively. Data is provided directly by councils, as well as by partner agencies and from public datasets, to make up the Framework of input, activity, output, outcome and inclusive growth

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Scotland's economy. However, the Framework is not intended to be used as a league table, as councils have different demographics, priorities and resources, and don't deliver exactly the same economic development activities.

Reporting on this data each year supports the development of long-term evidence of the contribution that local authorities make to local and national economic outcomes. The SLAED Indicators Framework is embedded within council economic development services, and is well received by a range of partners, including the Scottish Government. Through annual publication of this report, SLAED demonstrates continuous commitment to transparency in monitoring the performance of local authorities in delivering economic development services.

Significant additional pressure has been experienced by all Council Economic Development teams over the last two years as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting economic crisis. This has had an impact on what councils have been able to deliver, as well as on their ability to record and report on delivery. The data in this report will help to demonstrate the impact that Covid-19 has had on economic development, both locally and nationally. There have been further pressures resulting from the UK's exit from the European Union, which have impacted on labour supply and some international trade. Councils have had to adapt to these changes, continuing to provide frontline services as well as delivering significant additional support to local businesses. The data within this report demonstrates how Scotland's 32 Local Authorities continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring their communities are resilient, and provide the opportunities and services they demand.



## SLAED Performance Group Update

The SLAED Performance Group met on 1st March to discuss the suite of indicators for the 2021/22 SLAED Indicators Framework. It was agreed that a number of revisions are required to the definitions and sources of the indicators for which councils supply their own data. This is because the economic development landscape has changed at significant pace in recent years, and some of the breakdowns within these indicators are no longer fully relevant to what councils deliver. A more in-depth review of the indicators will be undertaken this year to bring these up to date and align them with current economic development delivery. The Data Return Template and Guidance Document will be issued to each council in April, with a deadline of June for submission of returns.

Data for 2021/22 will be uploaded onto the SLAED Indicators TargetDashboard on an ongoing basis as it is received from councils. The dashboard was set up last year to help combat time lags between data being available, and the publication of the final report. This will also allow for publicly available data, and data received from external organisations to be published much earlier than usual.

## Update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Along with COSLA, SLAED Executive representatives have had a number of recent discussions with UK Government officials on aspects of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), as summarised below:

### UKSPF – PROSPECTUS LAUNCH

UK Government civil servants hope that the prospectus will be launched by mid-April 2022, but the final timing will be a UK Government ministerial decision.



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Following the publication of the pre-launch guidance last month the SLAED Executive compiled a list of generally operational issues which it wished to see addressed in the prospectus. This was sent to the UK Government and a response has now been received which has been shared with SLAED UK Government Funds contacts.

### UKSPF – ACTIVITIES

In general, UKSPF activities are planned to be similar to those under the UK Community Renewal Fund and will be grouped under the themes of **Community and Place**, **Supporting Local Business** and **People and Skills**. There is some but not unlimited scope for variation in the description of eligible activities between the various parts of the UK. The UK Government has shared a draft of a (long) list of proposed actions in England and COSLA and SLAED has worked to group these more coherently with explicit references to Scottish policy and practice (for example the NOLB agenda and employability pipelines.) The final decision on the elaboration of the actions within each theme will rest with UK Government ministers.

### UKSPF – ALLOCATIONS

The allocations by nation within the UK will be determined by UK Government ministers. This means that differing allocation methodologies can be used within the devolved territories. There have been some discussions on this (in which SLAED has not been directly involved) and the direction of travel would appear to be that this is taken forward by LA Directors of Finance through a process similar that used for the COSLA/SG Settlement and Distribution Group. Again however the final decision on methodology will be taken by the UK Government.

Further input to these discussions will be collated from the discussion on the UKSPF at the COSLA Leaders' meeting on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.



## Business Gateway Review Update – Service Design

The Business Gateway National Unit has been working with colleagues from BGON and SLAED on the Service Design work for some time now. The work has been well received by the Board and external partners, and has involved customers from across the country and at different stages of development, as well as advisers from across the country. It is now possible to see what the updated customer journey could look like, a plan is being put together to be shared with local authority colleagues. This is just the start of the journey and feedback is a key part of helping to shape the future. Details of upcoming sessions will be shared in due course, and these will talk colleagues through the research and the process, and gather feedback for the future.



## Business Support Partnership Update

### 5 Year Strategy

Late last year the BSP 5yr strategy was presented to the senior leadership teams of HIE, SE, SOSE, SDS, Creative Scotland, Local Authorities via SLAED and the Business Gateway National Unit. Very positive feedback was received with strong support for this partnership approach and recognition that the ambitions to transform the business support landscape are required for both our organisations and Scotland's businesses. Partners also noted opportunities for cost savings by embedding collaboration into our processes, people and services. The BSP Board and partnership is now committed to working with Scottish Government to accelerate this programme and to meet the ambitions set out in the National Strategy for Economic Transformation. Discussions continue to secure the required investment, including specific money and people resource commitments from all partners.

### Local Authority Target Operating Model (TOM) Pilot

Glasgow City Council and Scottish Borders are currently driving this pilot and working to scope and map the key principles around service provision, governance, roles, gaps, groups and opportunities. More Local Authorities are to be onboarded onto the Pilot in April.

### Find Business Support (FBS)

The latest enhancements on FBS centred on the Search & Filters functionality, making it easier and quicker for businesses to find the right support. Over 65 public sector organisations have joined FBS and list their services on the site. Work is currently underway to onboard all Scottish Local Authorities to the website.

### Products and Services Workstream

A co-developed products and services strategy is in the final stages of development and will be shared in April.

### Marketing and Communications

A joint marketing campaign to encourage businesses to engage with the business support network either via individual agency contact channels or Find Business Support is now live. The overall campaign message is 'Whatever your business needs' and the campaign is being led and funded by BG, HIE, SOSE and SE. It will direct traffic to FBS as the first port of call in the customer journey. Individual brand campaigns will run shortly after the national phase of the campaign and highlight services and resources available via partner channels. You can watch the campaign tv advert [here](#).

### Contact Workstream

In January the BSP Board endorsed Phase 1 of a new strategy to ensure that all business support partners provide a consistent, joined-up and high-quality contact experience, blending a variety of enhanced digital solutions with tailored human support.

### Data & Analytics

A Master Customer Record proof of concept was delivered by way of a CivTech Challenge Sprint - funded by SG Digital, HIE & SE. This widely praised multi-partner initiative included the development of a technical solution and achieved progress on data sharing and issues of data quality across the partnership. Significant stakeholder engagement relating to the data and analytics workstream is currently underway.

Midlothian businesses can now access the Business Regulatory Support Service (BRSS) through the Business Gateway Midlothian service. This service provides businesses with a single point of contact for advice on regulations, from food safety and licensing to planning and building standards.

The BRSS includes access to and support from the following council services:

- Environmental Health
- Trading Standards
- Licensing
- Building Standards
- Planning
- Business Gateway/ Economic Development

The aim of the service is to:

- Provide reliable, transparent advice that supports compliance
- Provide advice appropriate to each businesses circumstances
- Provide clear advice that can be easily understood and implemented
- Distinguish legal requirements from suggested good practice
- Ensure that any verbal advice a business receives is confirmed in writing

Businesses can expect the following initial response times:

- Initial contact with Business Gateway: *response within 2 working days*
- Report compiled and referral by Business Gateway to relevant services: *within 2 working days*
- Response and verbal advice provided by relevant services: *contact within 2 working days*
- Written report by relevant services emailed to business: *within 3 working days of contact by service*

This new support services is available to established Midlothian based businesses, businesses looking to re-locate to Midlothian and those planning to start a business in Midlothian. With support from a Business Gateway adviser to navigate the process easily, businesses are able to access the services and information they need in a simple, quick way.

<https://locateinmidlothian.co.uk/business-support/regulatory-support/>



## Invest Glasgow Launch New Website

Invest Glasgow, Glasgow's dedicated Investment Promotion Team has gone through a rebrand and launched a new website. The team sits within the Council's Chief Executive's Department and is responsible for helping to attract investment into the city.

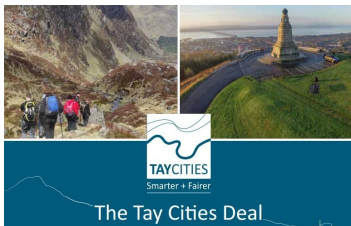
Invest Glasgow offers comprehensive business support and guidance, providing one point of contact to all businesses, property investors, developers or individual talent considering investing, setting up or expanding in the city.

The new website has been designed to promote the city as a business-friendly location, providing detailed information and insights into the many great reasons to invest in Glasgow and wider metropolitan area.

The site allows users to explore the opportunities the city holds through newly developed 'city discovery tools' such as the site selection data portal, Zoom Prospector. It provides a deep dive into the city's ecosystem, exploring the main cluster strengths alongside the start-up and scaleup scene and success stories of businesses who have relocated, expanded or set up here. It is also home to The Glasgow Narrative: an interactive e-book that details a collective evidence base, underpinning 10 core claims developed for their renewed business story.

Website: The new website can be found here: [Invest Glasgow](#)

Contact: [Michelle Andrew](#), Marketing Officer, Glasgow City Council



## New Agreements will Lead to Exciting Things for Angus

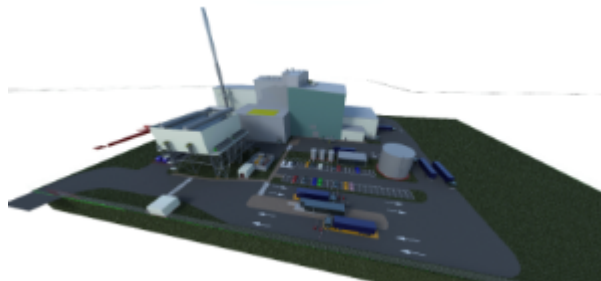
Several Tay Cities projects have taken significant steps forward.

Digital connectivity throughout Angus is set to improve as core infrastructure that will provide high quality wireless solutions for remote and rural properties is introduced.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Angus Council and Dalhousie Estates will form the basis for working together to develop a clean growth business park, with supporting infrastructure, in Brechin. The Brechin Business Park expansion site includes 25 hectares to deliver a proposed Rural Mobility Hub focussing on opportunities including EV charging, business space, distributed energy generation and storage, clean re-fuelling (biogas and hydrogen), and smart logistics solutions.

Angus Council, Agrico UK, Arbikie Distilling, James Hutton Institute and SoilEssentials Ltd have agreed to work together to develop a Centre for Agricultural Sustainable Innovation (CASI) headquartered in Forfar.

<https://www.taycities.co.uk/news>



## Brockwell Energy Invests in Fife with Creation of Green Jobs

Brockwell Energy has announced that its proposed incinerator facility in Kinglassie, Fife, once complete, will create green jobs.

Brockwell Energy has completed finance for the Westfield Energy from Waste (EfW) project, with work starting on the 240,000-tonne facility in February 2022. It is expected to be fully operational early in 2025 and create more than 400 jobs during its construction phase and 40 long-term skilled roles once in operation.

Councillor Altany Craik, Convener - Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Committee, commented:

“Brockwell Energy’s commitment to build a new incinerator in Fife is extremely positive news. Jobs will be created in the short term as part of the construction process, whilst 40 green jobs will be created in the local community once operations start. This is most welcome!

“The facility, when complete, will provide a key outlet for waste, which can’t be recycled. This is a significant step forward to achieving Scotland’s climate change targets, whilst reinforcing Fife as a prime location for specialist waste processing businesses.”

The proposed plant will support Scottish Government climate change targets by providing essential waste disposal capacity that will be needed to deal with projected residual waste disposal volumes, even taking account of the most optimistic recycling targets.

### Further Information

[www.brockwellenergy.com](http://www.brockwellenergy.com)

[www.investfife.co.uk](http://www.investfife.co.uk)

## EASYP - Employment Access Support for Young People - next steps support for young people in Fife

Employability Access Support for Young People is a No-one Left Behind funded transition programme for 16-18 year olds.

Fife Council’s Supported Employment Service, teamed with Education Service and Communities & Neighbourhoods, supports young people throughout Fife with various barriers to employment including those disengaged from education, disability, health condition, living in poverty, lack of work experience, lone parents and caring responsibilities.





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following the 5 stages of the Supported Employment Framework. The support each young person receives is tailored around their goals, aspirations and support needs. Throughout our first year of delivery we have supported over 150 young people to start on their employability journey, we have built strong partnerships with other providers, agencies, support networks and employers across Fife and we look forward to helping more young people progress into the world of work.

For more information or to make a referral for support contact Cheryl Morgan, Senior Employment Coordinator, at [sw.ses@fife.gov.uk](mailto:sw.ses@fife.gov.uk).



## Foundation Apprenticeship Good News Story!

Jenna McKay, a pupil who attended Inverkeithing High School, was one of Fife Council's Foundation Apprenticeship pupils studying Children and Young people from 2017-2019.

### Why did you apply for the Foundation Apprenticeship?

At the time I wasn't doing well at school and didn't really know what I wanted to do. I chose Foundation Apprenticeship to get me out the learning environment I was in, change up my learning style and study something I was interested in.

### Was the Foundation Apprenticeship different to other subjects within school?

I found school very prescriptive and it didn't really work for me. I liked the independent learning that came with the Foundation Apprenticeship, you were given deadlines and allowed the freedom to work at your own pace. This really set me up well for university.

### What Work Based Learning did you get on the Foundation Apprenticeship?

I undertook my work placement at Inverkeithing Primary School. I asked to split my time between Primary and Nursery on different days. This was a great way to get a look into what pathway would be best, as I hadn't got the opportunity to experience a physical placement before the foundation apprenticeship.

### After School, What was your chosen pathway?

Before applying for Foundation Apprenticeship, I never would have thought of myself going to University. The Admissions team were really impressed with the experience I had gained and the FA was accepted as an A for my university entry requirements which gave me the eligibility to attend the course.

### What are you currently doing?

I'm currently in second year of an Adult nursing degree at Edinburgh Napier University. I'm currently working around 40 Hours per week within the hospital alongside my lectures and workshops so it's a very busy time, but I love it.

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### undertaking a Foundation Apprenticeship in Children and Young People?

I'd definitely recommend anyone thinking about Foundation Apprenticeship to go for it. It's nothing like what you think it will be, the learning style is different, the modules are interesting and the experience you get in terms of learning and work experience is second to none.

#### **Liam Mason, Employability Officer for the Foundation Apprenticeships at Inverkeithing High School, said:**

From first meeting Jenna, she was a very quiet person, who didn't really know what she wanted to do after school or know what her interests were. Her confidence has improved, her self-belief has improved and she now truly knows what her passion in life is. This for me, is the biggest job satisfaction; when you work with young people and see them fully achieve their potential.

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