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## Scottish Enterprise Update

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group on activities undertaken by Scottish Enterprise 2014/2015

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Area CPG is asked to note the activity undertaken by Scottish Enterprise during 2014/2015.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Scottish Enterprise (SE) is a statutory partner in 27 Local Authority Areas. At the heart of SE's approach is recognition that working in partnership with industry, business, and public sector partners helps the impact of what we can deliver. SE is a committed member of the A&B Community Planning Partnership and contributes to the work of several other bodies, including Chief Officer's Group, Helensburgh & Lomond Area CP Group and the Argyll and Bute Sustainable Economic Forum

### 4. Detail

- 4.1 SE contributes to Scotland's long term economic growth by helping our companies to compete, supporting globally competitive sectors, attracting new investors, and creating an open and responsive business environment.
- 4.2 There were six SE Account Managed Companies employing an estimated 1,800 people in Argyll and Bute during 2014/15; **Account Management** involves working intensively with the company, delivering the most appropriate support in accordance with their growth plans.
- 4.3 There are currently six companies in the Business Gateway's Pipeline; SE delivered an estimated 109 products to business in Argyll and Bute during the year. 94 products (84%) went to growing companies that are not under SE's account management.

- 4.4 SE wants to help transform Scotland's **innovation** performance so it equals that of the best performing nations by 2020. Over the last year one company in A&B has received a research and development grant of £375,000, safeguarding 44 jobs.
- 4.5 Eleven Firms have completed manufacturing reviews with nine more currently undergoing reviews with the support of the **Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service**, leading to reduced waste and improved cost, quality, and delivery performance.
- 4.6 **Internationalisation** SE recognises the importance of continuing to building Scotland's presence and visibility in overseas markets in an increasingly competitive, globalised economy. In 2014/2015 Scottish Development International helped 36 A&B businesses to capitalise on global opportunities.
- 4.7 Our approach to enabling **Investment** is to help companies to secure the funding they need to unlock their growth potential. Through the **Scottish Investment Bank**, which supports the development of Scotland's private sector SME funding market to support access to growth capital, eight companies in A&B received a total value of SIB investment of £1.418m.
- 4.8 **Inclusive Growth** - SE's Planning to Succeed Programme was introduced to develop businesses and skills for people in the agriculture sector. A&B has one participant in this programme.
- 4.9 We recognise the resilient, entrepreneurial spirit of our communities and work to support local people to establish co-operatives and social enterprises. Over the past year for example our specialist service Co-operative Development Scotland has been working with four groups in Argyll and Bute.
- 4.10 **Partnership Working** – Scottish Enterprise working closely with Argyll and Bute Council in relation to exploring the opportunities arising in Faslane and the Maritime Change Programme

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 This report provides the Helensburgh & Lomond Area Community Planning Group an overview of the Scottish Enterprise Activities being undertaken within the Helensburgh and Lomond Area

**Note:** These figures relate to the Helensburgh & Lomond Area; our sister company Highlands and Islands Enterprise has responsibility for the other areas of Argyll and Bute.

## **6. SOA Outcomes**

- 6.1 This report relates to Outcome 1: The economy is diverse and thriving and provides an update on specific actions in the SOA:Local for Helensburgh and Lomond at 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.1.7, 1.2.1 and 1.4.1.

### **Name of Lead Officer**

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