

**Dunbartonshire Economic Forum (DEF)**  
**Argyll and Bute CPP Update March 2007**

**Refreshed Dunbartonshire Economic Strategy**

The refreshed Dunbartonshire Economic Forum Strategy was successfully launched in September 2006 and is now providing the framework for economic development across Dunbartonshire.

**DEF Board Activity**

The DEF Board continues to meet regularly and enthusiastically to pursue to the strategy's aims.

As part of the ongoing development of the Economic Forum, a number of new private sector individuals with expertise and knowledge of the LEF's key sectors are now being sought by the Board to take forward this new strategy.

To achieve this, the Forum has undertaken a recruitment drive using the Federation of Small Business, Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce, the Construction Alliance, Tourism Alliance, Care Alliance and local press to raise awareness of the work of the Economic Forum and how they could help contribute to the growth of the Dunbartonshire economy through their participation on the Forum

**DEF Alliances**

*Care Alliance*

The Alliance has recently completed a detailed research project into the needs of the care sector throughout Dunbartonshire. The research was carried out by Strathclyde Labour Market Intelligence Services and jointly funded by Alliance partners.

A wealth of good quality information was uncovered through the survey and the findings have enabled the Alliance to build up a clear profile of local employers in terms of size, composition and main activities. Information was also gathered on the challenges faced by employers including recruitment, staff retention and training issues.

Following on from this research the Alliance would now like to establish a closer relationship with the 70 employers who indicated an interest in becoming more involved. The Alliance is now seeking resources to allow it to hold a Care business networking event aimed at bringing together care employers, training providers and other stakeholders with a view to sharing information about local training provision and business development support.

### *Tourism Alliance*

The Tourism Alliance has now developed an action plan to implement the findings and recommendations highlighted in the Tourism Survey undertaken in Spring/ Summer 06.

The action plan has the support of all key stakeholders and an event is planned in April 2007 to look at recruitment and retention, e marketing, customer care and networking

### *Construction Alliance*

The Construction Alliance held a very successful event in December 2006 on Community Benefits. The aim of the workshop was to:

- To bring together Clients, Main Contractors, local Businesses, the wider local community and local Agencies with a view to sharing thoughts and ideas on working together and to establish a clear Community Benefits strategy for Dunbartonshire
- To establish a clear understanding of what Community Benefits are
- To identify and address possible legal issues surrounding Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) and their implementation
- To look at how we can use CBAs to stimulate business growth in the Dunbartonshire construction sector

The event was attended by over 50 businesses and has generated a great deal of interest and awareness of the opportunities that can and do arise from public sector capital investments in terms of employment and business contracts.

The Alliance is continuing to build on this workshop with public sector colleagues to ensure that any potential economic growth created by these physical developments are maximised for local residents and businesses

The Construction Alliance has also developed a website to help publicise local development and training opportunities and this is due to be launched in late Spring 2007