

ANGUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP END OF YEAR REPORT 2010-2011

Key Projects Achieved during Year

Joint Partnership Projects

- Contribution to the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) - submission of the 2009/10 Full Year Progress Report and a mid-year SOA Progress Report for 2010/2011 to the Scottish Government
- Presentation of SOAs to the Implementation Group (SOAIG) on 26 November 2010
- Angus Economic Digest - Biennial update June 2010
- Angus Economic Bulletin introduced (issue 1: Tourism; issue 2: employability)
- Angus Economic Recovery Plan issued November 2010
- Response to the Angus Citizens' Survey 2009 in September 2010
- Contribution to the Strategic Migrant Workers Steering Group half-day seminar on 18 November 2010 at the Fire Station in Forfar
- Drafts of a high-level action plan and delivery plan agreed

Sub Groups

1. Angus Employability Partnership

- Agreed role and remit on 1 April 2010: "To facilitate, Support and Coordinate the provision of employability services in Angus"
- Establishment of 4 Sub Groups (Employer Engagement, Marketing, Funding, Management Information System)
- Launch event held at the Carnoustie Golf Hotel, on 27 August 2010
- Development of tools to assist practitioners, clients and partners (e.g. Branding of AngusWorks, Employer Pack, AngusWorks Website incorporating a Service Directory)
- Attendance at the Welfare to Work Conference in September 2010 - this raised the profile of the employability agenda in Scotland
- An information event was held in Brechin in October 2010
- Hanlon Software Solutions was awarded the two-stage tender for the purchase of an Angus Management Information system in March 2011

2. Angus Social Enterprise Partnership

- A Fairer Scotland Fund project to assist social enterprises in Angus, with activities undertaken by a Social Enterprise Officer housed at AAVO
- Activities include a furniture project, starter packs, donation system for government tenancies, re-cycling/waste management and a procurement event held on 19 April 2010
- Development of a constitution to inaugurate new partnership working arrangements for AAVO and VCA, called **Community Action Angus** (CAA)
- CAA Constitution ratified in June 2010. and development and production of a draft Business Plan
- Participation by AAVO and VCA (Boards and Staff) in a Supporting Voluntary Action hosted seminar over four days from 24 September 2010. The seminar, called "Leading in Change", was delivered by the Social Enterprise Academy
- Joint AAVO/NHS project in Arbroath working with vulnerable people on allotments (link between AAVO and NHS's "Happy Healthy Communities")
- SEI gave support to the Angus Social Enterprise Network (ASEN) to become a constituted group after ASEN's first 12 months in operation

Projects by Partner

Angus Council

- a) Community Planning Partnership - thematic groups have been reconfigured to support and align with the five over-arching priorities of the Scottish Government (greener; wealthier and fairer; stronger and safer; healthier; and smarter) by reducing the number of groups from eight to five. The AEDP is one of the five.
- b) Economic Development
 - o Change in the financial regulations - an increase in Angus of the level from £5,000 to £10,000 for obtaining quotes instead of going out to a full tender
 - o Development of the Angus Tourism Strategy
 - o Establishment of industry groups to work together on mutually beneficial joint marketing initiatives and develop new products. Six sectoral industry-led groups have already been established. The Golf Industry Group, the Outdoors Group, the Food & Drink Group and the Accommodation Group have been extended to include the oil and gas and renewables sectors
 - o Launch of a grant scheme, the marketing and quality assurance scheme for Angus's accommodation operators
 - o Two trade missions to China
 - o Creation of an East Coast Alliance to maximise opportunities for Angus businesses to help service the offshore wind farms announced in Spring 2010
 - o Angus Council in conjunction with Montrose Port Authority took a stand at the 2010 All-Energy Show at the Aberdeen Exhibition Centre in May 2010
 - o Survive and Thrive - several meetings with the construction sector held
 - o E-communications – golf tours (flagship to market Angus internationally) had turned out successfully, despite being turned down by commercial operators

AAVO

- o Appointed Lead Partner to help communities across the Angus Transmitter region make the switch to digital TV. The switchover dates in the Angus Transmitter areas were 4 and 18 August 2010 – a two-stage process.

Angus College

- o Some courses were at full capacity with record numbers for full-time students and the college was a great success with graduates finding jobs, way above the national average (4th in Scotland) in certain sectors (e.g. construction and engineering industries) and in method of delivery (on site).
- o Appointment of a Renewable Energy Development Manager

Federation of Small Business

- o Paper issued on the multiplier effect of £1 spent by local businesses to benefit the local area
- o Links with the agricultural sector (FSB trailer offering hospitality and shelter at six agricultural shows in the North-East of Scotland, supported by a regional growth fund)
- o Development of relationships with secondary schools and universities to cover topics such as Enterprise in Education, Health and Safety and Child Protection legislation
- o Finalist for the Angus Excellence Award for the Reputable Traders' Scheme (60 companies signed up)
- o Questionnaire on business needs issued in August 2010

JobCentre Plus (JCP) Tayside

- The tendering process for the workplan scheduled for January 2011 had been completed with three Prime Contractors to be identified for Scotland, although the split by area was unclear - roll-out anticipated for Summer 2011
- Work Clubs - self-help clubs although not funded through the DWP. People would source premises themselves where they could discuss how to get jobs. One work-club had been established in Arbroath as the opportunities in Montrose and Forfar were limited.
- A Work Together initiative, to be taken forward in Scotland by the Scottish Government by the end 2010 would involve more people in volunteering to make them more attractive to employers, update their skills and provide them with self esteem
- The Work Experience initiative was launched in Angus in January 2011 with two-week work placements arranged with local employers for 18-21 year olds
- New Enterprise Self Employment Grants of £2,000 are to be available from Spring 2011 to mature adults (aged 25 and above)
- Under a Service Academies scheme, pre-employment training was being provided in the retail and hospitality sectors. Although money was tight, the Scottish Government was looking at other sectors to receive funding.
- A new enterprise allowance had been introduced for those wanting to go into self employment. A scheme introduced in Merseyside would be rolled out to Tayside in April 2011. As well as the £1,000 start-up grant, recipients would be entitled to claim JSA (Job Seekers' Allowance) for the first three months and half their JSA for the second three months.

NHS Tayside

- Joint care event held in Arbroath on Friday 17 September 2010 with JCP "Health and Social Care" with care employers and the health care academy
- Establishment of a mental health unit at Stracathro Hospital (should boost the Brechin economy)

Scottish Enterprise Tayside

- Further reorganisation was being put in place with the appointment of a new Regional Director, Eddie Brogan, and appointments to senior posts. Any adverse impacts would be identified over the next few months and measures taken to resolve them
- Launch of a £70million investment fund to unlock the barriers in port infrastructure (applicable to the ports at Montrose and Dundee)

Skills Development Scotland

- Joint JCP/SDS project with PACE (Pupil Access to College and Employability) - a call centre with Ross and Bonnyman.

TACTRAN

- Launch of "tactranconnect", a Portal and a specifically designed website (www.tactranconnect.com) aiming to help make informed choices on all the travel options available to, from and within Tayside and Central Scotland to the rest of Britain. "Tactranconnect" provides information on all forms of travel (road, rail, bus, air, cycling) and includes a link to lift-share
- Study commissioned and underway on the impact of congestion on lorry movements in the area

- Response to the European Commission Consultation on the future Trans-European Network – Transport (TEN-T) Policy.
- Meeting with R T McEwan of Inverkeilor together with Angus Council Officers and Members to discuss the possible movement of seed potatoes by rail
- Work on a “Park and Ride” at Stirling and also on the A90 at Dundee’s northern gateway

VisitScotland

- Management changes include the appointments of Malcolm Roughhead as the new Chief Executive and Mike Cantley as the new Chairman
- Creation of a new post for Digital Media, as part of VisitScotland’s strategy to be pro-active
- Meeting held with public sector and private sector businesses to create a new Area Tourism Partnership at Forbes of Kingennie to start implementing the Angus Tourism Plan – Meeting In December postponed until February 2011
- Various targeted media campaigns, including “wild day” and “walk and ramble”. For Angus, these included “The Perfect Day” (featuring the Angus Glens and the Angus coastline) and the Angus Glens Walking Festival.