

SUBJECT: SOA Monitoring Report - Enterprise and Skills Theme Group

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the East Lothian Community Planning Board on progress towards achieving the long term outcomes as stated in the Enterprise and Skills logic models for Business, Tourism and Skills for Work

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report

3 Background

- 3.1 Members of the Local Economic Development Reference Group agreed to the name change to Enterprise & Skills Advisory Group in line with the monitoring role for East Lothian's SOA Enterprise and Skills theme.
- 3.2 [Members represent a range of public and private sector bodies](#) involved in the development and delivery of projects and initiatives related to Enterprise and Skills – East Lothian Council, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Volunteer Centre East Lothian, East Lothian Tourism Forum, VisitScotland, Federation of Small Businesses, Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce, Queen Margaret University, East Lothian Learning Partnership, Department for Work and Pensions
- 3.3 A summary of progress on the Enterprise & Skills three logic models, Business, Tourism and Skills for Work and Life is provided below. A fuller picture will emerge during the current financial year and note should be taken of the economic climate in which businesses and individuals are currently operating.

Business

LONG TERM OUTCOME

Enable business start up, development and growth through supported and sustainable economic development

PROGRESS

The economic downturn continues to impact on the demand from East Lothian businesses for public sector intervention mechanisms – such as funding advice and support. Additional funds allocated to East Lothian Investments has gone some way to alleviate this situation. Business Gateway start-up numbers are slightly behind schedule (target 60, actual 57) and all potential and existing businesses continue to suffer from tighter bank lending criteria.

Tourism

LONG TERM OUTCOME

Increased visitor numbers, visitor spend and economic activity in East Lothian by positioning East Lothian as a place to visit within local, regional, national and global tourism markets

PROGRESS

Scotland's Year of Homecoming has provided East Lothian Council and partners with an opportunity to develop and deliver an exciting range of events under the banner of Homecoming East Lothian with healthy numbers of visitors reported. Also, 'staycation'



(Britons holidaying in the UK) has represented an opportunity for East Lothian businesses. A fuller picture will emerge post-2009.

Skills for Work and Life

LONG TERM OUTCOME

Individuals are equipped with appropriate skills to secure, retain employment and make informed life decisions.

PROGRESS

The challenging economic climate will impact on the number of openings for adult learners. The East Lothian Skill Centre opened during September and is the locus of the Get Ready for Work training course. The recent appointments of a Work Experience co-ordinator for vulnerable young people (until June 2010) and of a 16+ Learning Choices lead officer (until March 2011) is impacting on numbers of young people likely to secure positive destinations. The DWP Job Centre Plus number of 17-19 year olds in the MCMC group for East Lothian totals 235 as at July 2009. Latest 2008/2009 Scottish Government figures for the destination of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools show that from the 941 school leavers in East Lothian 19.1% went into employment, down from 30.9% in the previous year and that the unemployed NEET group (not in employment, education or training) increased to 2.6% from 2.2% in 2007/2008.

4 Policy Implications

- 4.1 These projects and initiatives contribute to the performance of the East Lothian economy
- 4.2.1 The Rural Forum and the new replacement group for ELSEP are other groupings linked to this theme. The Rural Forum has representatives from East Lothian Council, Association of East Lothian Community Councils, Haddington Farmers' Market, Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh & Lothian, Scottish Government and local businesses. Membership of the ELSEP replacement group has still to be arranged.

5 Equalities Impact Assessment

This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 Financial – none additional
- 6.2 Personnel - none additional
- 6.3 Other

7 Background papers

- 7.1. [Business Logic Model](#)
- 7.2. [Skills Logic Model](#)
- 7.3. [Tourism Logic Model](#)

8 Appendices

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