

Supporting SMEs

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Derby City Council support Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) primarily through the activity of the Regeneration department.
- 1.2 The Economic Strategy, owned by the Derby Renaissance Board, outlines the strategic priorities for supporting SMEs. The strategy focuses on creating a culture where enterprise thrives and ensuring that workforce skills match business needs.
- 1.3 Support includes: accessing European and national funding for SME growth, local funding initiatives including Derby Enterprise Growth Fund, board membership of the Derbyshire Enterprise Agency, hosting business support events to showcase what all agencies can offer to SMEs, various levels of recruitment and training support, signposting information on DCC website, assisting the development of supply chains in transport engineering (through Enscite) and provision of managed workspace (e.g. Connect and the planned Innovation Centre at Infinity Park Derby).
- 1.4 This report has been prepared to help frame the presentations that have been requested by your Committee from the Chamber and Federation for Small Businesses.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the support on offer to SMEs from the Council.
- 2.2 To note this within the context of presentations delivered to the Board by the Chamber of Commerce (DNLCC) and Federation of Small Business (FSB)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To improve awareness of services provided to the SME community.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The business support arena for SME's is extensive, including European funded programmes of support, national programmes and local initiatives.
- 4.2 Derby City Council support SMEs primarily through the activity of the Regeneration department but Leisure & Culture, Climate Change and Transportation also deliver European funded projects with outputs that support SMEs.
- 4.3 The Economic Strategy, owned by the Derby Renaissance Board, outlines the strategic priorities for supporting SMEs. The strategy focuses on creating a culture where enterprise thrives and ensuring that workforce skills match business needs.
- 4.4 Grant and loan funding is available from the Derby Enterprise Growth Fund for businesses looking to expand and create jobs. £20m has been allocated since January 2013 and the fund remains open for business. Grants for improving energy efficiency in SMEs are available through the BESPOKE scheme administered by the Climate Change team. Grant funding is also available via the Connected project for businesses who want to improve their sustainable travel options.
- 4.5 The Regeneration department offer direct support to SMEs on employment and skills. This includes help with recruitment planning, apprenticeship grants, understanding future skills demands and developing partnerships with local schools and colleges. Mock interview sessions with secondary school pupils have been a successful way of improving the job readiness of young people.
- 4.6 The Council also acts as grant recipient for European funded projects such as Derby Coaching for Success and the Connect managed workspace network which directly support SMEs to grow and prosper.
- 4.7 The Economic Regeneration team hold regular Business Support events to showcase the support on offer to SMEs from a wide variety of agencies delivering support in Derby.
- 4.8 The team support SMEs who are interested in expanding by providing information advice and guidance as well as information available via the DCC website.
- 4.9 To assist the development of supply chains in Derby's strong transport engineering sector the Regeneration department work closely with Enscite. The team also support the provision of managed workspace (e.g. Connect and the planned Innovation Centre at Infinity Park Derby) to promote a strong enterprise culture in the city.
- 4.10 Additionally, the Economic Regeneration team are represented on the Board of the Derbyshire Enterprise Agency which helps to maintain links and latest business support knowledge, particularly relating to start-up activity.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Alan Smith – 29/10/14
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 None

Personnel

3.1 None

IT

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Health and Safety

6.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None

Risk Management

9.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 None

