

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 27TH JANUARY, 2014

REPORT ON: ESTABLISHING DUNDEE HUB WITH SCOTTISH BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 57-2014

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to get agreement from Committee for the establishment of a Dundee Hub, in collaboration with Scottish Business in the Community (SBC), and major employers in the City, including ASDA and Michelin.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the City Council involvement in the establishment of a Dundee Hub, in collaboration with SBC and other employers within the City, for a period of three years.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The annual contribution required from the City Council to support the operation of a Dundee Hub is £6,000, and this funding will be met from the Chief Executives Revenue Budget, commencing in the financial year 2014/15. The Hub will operate for an initial period of three years.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Business in the Community works with national and local employers to deliver business led activities within the local community. In Scotland there are presently five Hubs, and the SBC approached the City Council and a number of major employers within the City to assess whether there was a demand from local businesses to set up a local Hub.

- 4.2 SBC and the founding local partner organisations will jointly facilitate the establishment of the Dundee Hub. The Hub members will identify and agree the priorities to be targeted within the Dundee area. The Dundee Hub will:-

- Be a mechanism that drives business led activities within the local communities of Dundee.
- Provide the local structure to engage businesses and encourage corporate support for Hub activities.
- Be a partnership between business (small and large), the public sector and community organisations.
- Identify, prioritise and address issues that are deemed important locally.
- Support collaborative working.
- Encourage the sharing of good practice between Hubs and businesses.
- Promote socially responsible business practices.

4.3 Based on the experiences of the five Hubs that are already operating within Scotland, it is proposed that Dundee Hub would focus on the following areas.

- Encourage early business intervention to raise young peoples awareness of the jobs/careers that are available and to inspire and motivate young people.
- Contribute to enhancing the employability skills of young people within the City.
- Encourage and support the establishment of social enterprises within the City.
- Support a programme of business mentoring within the City.
- Support the public and voluntary sector to minimise the impact of welfare reform.

4.4 It is appreciated that many of the above areas are already receiving significant support, and it is therefore important that the activity of the Hub, complements and enhances the existing mechanisms, and therefore is truly adding value.

4.5 SBC and the founding partners locally will contribute to the set-up and running costs of the Dundee Hub. SBC will work with local partners to attract between 50 and 75 businesses to work with the Hub. It is expected that the Hub will be formally launched in late February/early March, 2014.

4.6 Funding of £6,000 per annum will contribute to the set-up and running of the Dundee Hub. This will also provide the Council with full SBC Membership and the broad range of benefits this can provide. SBC are looking for a commitment from the Council to support the Hub for a minimum of three years.

5. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, and Risk Management. There are no issues in this regard to report on.

6. **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

17th January, 2014