

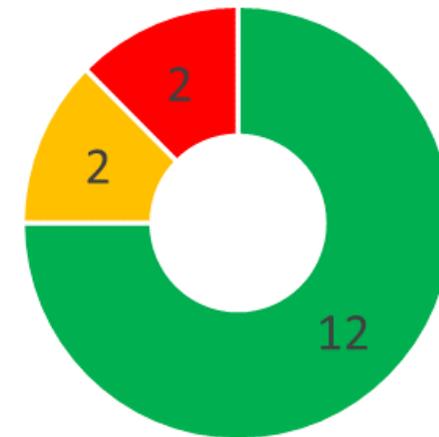


Chair Report: One Reporting Period: December 2018 – February 2019

**Update from the Ethna McNamee Chair of Skilled and Enterprising Economy**

We continue to see a lot of hard work progressing under this Thematic Action Group, The Council led Actions around Employability and Skills have engaged with a significant number of key stakeholders and private sector employers and this work which is ongoing is being funded initially by Council but critically we need to think how we develop sustainability round this critical work. The Employability Forum is working to develop an Action Plan and once this has been developed further key actions will need to be resourced. The BPA also continues to roll out an Action Plan encouraging the private and public sector to work together in innovative ways. Coordination of services on skills and business starts and how to develop an Online platform has been receiving a lot of focus as we have engaged with [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk) in the recognition that this platform which operates at a NI level can be tailored to Council level programmes, activities and events and by encouraging partners we can achieve the necessary outcomes using resources which are already in place. The team have circulated key Brexit information, contacts and links to all Thematic partners and continue to update key information so that partners can keep up to date as the information changes. Events have already been organised in the area and more will be rolled out by INI once the outcome is clear.

**RAG Overall**



RED	AMBER	GREEN
2	2	12

**Featured Action –**

**Action 1.3** seeks to encourage businesses to access support for business via [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk). This is an online portal which Invest NI has over a number of years developed to inform businesses around support programmes and events. The portal is supported with Facebook ,Twitter and Instagram and pushes out key information in a targeted way, this can be done regionally or by Council area. In this work we shared the platform details initially with key parts of Council to showcase the site and capability. There was recognition that while some parts of the organisation were very familiar with this platform other parts were not and the internal connections could significantly increase traction within the site to the area if we connected internal partners, subsequent to this were connected to our Enterprise Partners in the District and again have requested that they connect all internal partners and thereby once again increase traction. This simple Action of connecting key local stakeholders through an Existing mechanism is an example of collaborative gain and can be measured to demonstrate the uplift over time of working together.

How Much?	How well?	Is anyone better off?
<p>3 presentations made by NI Business Info team to 7 organisations across the Borough (Council's Economic Development, Department, SRC, Department for Communities, all 4 local enterprise agencies)</p>	<p>Positive feedback from stakeholders at each session.</p>	<p>Website Traffic to site numbers currently being measured.</p>

<p><b>Successes</b>  Employability Forum/ambassadors for Employment  Coordination of information support  Linkages in Actions of 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4.</p>	<p><b>Challenges</b>  <b>The Employability Forum is working to develop an Action Plan and once this has been developed further key actions will need to be resourced. The Council have already been instrumental in providing funding but we need to see if there are other innovative funding mechanisms we can explore.</b>  Explore potential opportunities for our business base to provide live learning opportunities for students in e.g. digital marketing to support growth. Still no Action Lead.  Action 3.4 also with sub actions no Action leads identified.</p>
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<p><b>Issues for follow up by CPSP</b></p>
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# Skilled and Enterprising Economy

## Progress Report 1

September 2018 – February 2019

**CHAIR:** Ethna McNamee, Invest NI

**COUNCIL LEAD:** Nicola Wilson, Head of Economic Development

### Skilled Economy long- term outcome

People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by our dynamic economy.

### Short-term outcome

- Stakeholders are more knowledgeable about current and future skills needs and are working in partnership to improve career pathways and equip people for employment.
- Individuals, particularly young people, have a better understanding of existing and future employment and enterprise opportunities, how to access them and the skills required.

### Population Indicator

- Percentage of the workforce in the employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above
- Employment rate (age 16-64)

### Links to Programme for Government Draft Outcomes

- We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy
- We have more people working in better jobs

## SKILLED ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 1. Localise Careers Advice and Guidance for lifelong learning

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>ACTION 1.1</b> Scope out existing education, business and enterprise links and collaborations (e.g. Area Learning Communities, Careers Advisory Forum) and develop actions to address gaps and embed good practice.</p>	<p><b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ACBCBC)</b> <b>Nicola Wilson</b> <b>Sarah Jane MacDonald</b></p> <p>Dfe Careers Service, local JBO, Area Learning Communities,</p>	Links to employ ability forum.	Staff Time		Site visit to Almac took place in September 2018 and it is hoped to keep working with this group to do more visits. A local Enthuse partnership led by Dr Gillian Humes has been formed with local schools college and training organisations which will work on actions to support STEM careers throughout the borough.	<p><b>How much?</b> 6 No. of visits by careers advisors/teachers to industry No. of advisors/teachers on each visit No. of priority sectors visited by careers advisors/teachers</p> <p><b>How well?</b> No. &amp; % teachers &amp; employers who felt visits were valuable No. &amp; % of advisors/teachers involved in follow up contact</p>
<p><b>Case Studies/Achievement</b> First meeting well attended with teachers representing 6 schools.</p>						
<p><b>Challenges</b> Access to careers advisors/careers teachers during working hours is always a challenge but the meeting was attended by 6 teachers representing 6 schools from across the borough.</p>						

## SKILLED ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 2. Increase coordination of skills and employment services, business and statutory agencies

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>ACTION 2.1</b> Establish an Employability Forum with focussed meetings. Two sides – supply and demand. To include local business, employment service providers, education providers, Council, government departments, EA.</p>	<p><b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ACBCBC)</b> <b>Nicola Wilson</b> <b>Sarah Jane MacDonald</b></p> <p>Key local employers, Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland, DfC, DfE, DE, DAERA, SRC, UU, QUB, Reed in Partnership, Sector Skills Council</p>				<p>Economic development is working with the Local Works Forum to deliver an employability and skills programme. This forum has had 2 meetings between September 2018 and February 2019. A Terms of Reference for the Forum has been agreed and work has commenced on the action plan</p>	<p><b>How much?</b> 2 meetings held between September and 18 and February 2019</p> <p>No task and finish groups established</p> <p><b>How well?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 attended meetings including representatives from DfE and DfC</li> </ul> <p>Further feedback on value captured through forum discussions.</p>
<p><b>ACTION 2.2</b> Promotion of Ambassadors for employment.</p>						<p>This is one of the key tasks of the employability and skills forum – rebranded ‘Local Works Forum’ and has been discussed at the first 2 meetings.</p>
<p><b>Case Studies/Achievement</b> Two meetings well attended with everyone keen to play their role in improving skills and employability across the borough. Agreement to work together to have a suitable offering to co-incide with national careers week.</p>						
<p><b>Challenges</b> All the partners in the forum are very committed – the only challenge is finishing on time, as everyone is so enthusiastic and wants to work together on this important area.</p>						

## SKILLED ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 3. Explore a local Skills/Employability Pipeline to provide a service pathway focussed on the individual

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
3.1 Explore a Skills/Employability Pipeline to ensure that individual customer journey/pathways are productive and end in job or self-employment.	<b>Department for Communities</b> Sharon Polson <b>ABC Council Community Development</b> Alison Beattie  <b>ABC Council Health and Recreation</b>  Joanne Grattan				Action Coordinators from action 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 have formed a project team to look at best way to take forward these actions.  Work has been progressing.	
3.2 Make links between Community and Economic Development (Social and Economic Pillars of draft PfG). Community Hubs example worked well. Promote social enterprise models and volunteering.						Phase 1 – scoping Phase 2 – pilot programme in NR area <b>How much?</b> Pilot activity details <b>How well?</b> No. & % of participants who feel they benefited

<p>3.3 Deliver mentoring and support programmes in relation to employability, skills development and connectivity with schools, communities, colleges and local businesses.</p>					<p>No. &amp; % of delivery organisations who think activity is beneficial  <b>Is anyone better off?</b>  Self-efficacy score of participants before and after</p>
<p>3.4 Lead by example – Community Planning Partners to endeavour to offer placement/experiences of work opportunities as part of the Skills Pipeline.</p>					<p><b>Work ongoing update not available at this time</b></p> <p><b>How much?</b>  No. of interventions in place  No. of participants  <b>How well?</b>  % satisfaction levels reported by participants  % satisfaction rates from other stakeholders  <b>Is anyone better off?</b>  % participants reporting improved skills, knowledge, opportunities and confidence (tbc)</p>
<p><b>Case Studies/Achievement</b></p>					
<p><b>Challenges</b></p>					

## SKILLED ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 4. Support local businesses to recruit highly skilled, specialist roles

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>Action 4.1</b>  <b>Encourage Level 4 or lifelong learning to upskill to meet specific needs of high quality jobs in the borough.</b>                      SRC is running Big Apprenticeship Event in Portadown Campus on Thursday 4th April. The action planning team will promote the event to young people and parents and all potential apprenticeships and also to businesses who offer apprenticeship opportunities.                      Following this event, the team will meet to decide on next steps.</p>	<p><b>Southern Regional College</b>  <b>Maggie Grant –</b></p> <p>ABC Council, Economic Development                      Invest Ni                      EA</p>				<p>The team has met and has agreed to promote and publicise the event. Employers have been approached by SRC.                      Invest NI has met with SRC about accessing opportunities in and supporting SMEs. The SRC is also working with Council to identify STEM ambassadors.</p>	<p><b>How much?</b>                      Number of organisations who promote the event  <b>How well?</b>                      -The number of employers taking part in the event                      -The number of apprenticeship opportunities offered at the event                      -Number of attendees                      -Increase in number of apprenticeship opportunities from last year                      -Increase in number of attendees from last year  <b>Is anyone better off?</b>                      Number of apprenticeship places filled as a result of the event.</p>
<b>Case Studies/Achievement</b>						
<b>Challenges</b>						

## Enterprising Economy long- term outcome

Our borough is a centre of excellence for entrepreneurship innovation and investment

## Short-term outcome

- The borough is an enticing, collaborative and supportive environment for business start-ups, growth and innovation and attracts higher levels of foreign direct investment (FDI)

## Population Indicator

- Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses
- Business birth rates
- Survival rate of newly born businesses

## Links to Programme for Government Draft Outcomes

- We are an innovative, creative society where people can fulfil their potential

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 1. Encourage collaboration and signposting to support start-ups and existing businesses

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>ACTION 1.1</b> Facilitate cross-promotion of events, opportunities and services to local businesses</p>	<p><b>ABC Council Economic Development</b> <b>Nicola Wilson, Sharon Daly</b> Council Regeneration, Council Tourism, Environmental Health, Enterprise Centres, Invest NI, Chambers of Commerce, Amma Centre, SRC Business Support, Aaron Taylor, Digital Ambassador (Council).</p>				<p>A number of meetings have taken place with Invest NI, SRC and Enterprise Centres to discuss how we can work more closely together to share events and facilitate cross promotion. At one of these meetings, nibusinessinfo talked to the group about putting events and programmes into their system so that we could cross promote and work together. It was agreed that we would all send our events and promotions to nibusinessinfo so that we could promote what is happening for business in the Borough as a whole. Economic development send out a monthly E Newsletter to all businesses on their</p>	<p>How Much?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Meetings held with partners</li> <li>• 3 of Business E-Newsletters published</li> <li>• 3 stakeholder articles published</li> </ul> <p>How Well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2300 subscribers to e-zine</li> <li>• No of stakeholders who feel that the Ezine is valuable to them</li> </ul>

					database including support agencies with news of upcoming events, workshops, programmes, funding opportunities etc and we will continue to meet with Invest NI, SRC and Enterprise Partners to ensure we are promoting each other's events and programmes	
<p><b>Case Studies/Achievement</b>          6 meetings held with various partners where cross promotion was part of the agenda. Council now supporting and adding value to SRC Big Apprenticeship Day as a result of meeting and talking about promotion. Another achievement is that there is a commitment to continue meetings with Enterprise Partners, SRC, Invest NI and led by Council to share ideas and to promote and support each other's events.</p>						
<p><b>Challenges</b></p>						

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 1. Encourage collaboration and signposting to support start-ups and existing businesses

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<b>ACTION 1.2</b> Develop a shared online calendar or similar planning tool to coordinate the planning of business events in the borough. Group to share information and useful contacts.	<b>ABC Council Economic Development</b> <b>Nicola Wilson, Sharon Daly</b> Amma Centre				Meetings held with Enterprise Partners and nibusinessinfo to discuss how best to upload and co-ordinate planning of business events in the borough onto the NI wide – this work is ongoing	None agreed at present.
<b>Case Studies/Achievement</b>						
<b>Challenges</b>  A particular challenge is designing software platform that would promote and enable a shared calendar. To run a shared calendar as a single item would require resources that are currently not available. The alternative which the group is following is to utilise the existing resources fully through nibusinessinfo – an online NI wide platform for business						

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 1. Encourage collaboration and signposting to support start-ups and existing businesses

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>ACTION 1.3</b>            Improve new and at risk businesses' access to support through encouraging services to list themselves on NI business Info website and promoting the website to local businesses. Promote the website in physical places such as libraries and leisure centres.            Support services to include R&amp;D start-up support, innovation, social enterprise, incubation and hot desk space, funding programmes and training.            Liaise with partners to widen the exposure of the business community to the existence and the benefits of registering on the NI business info website.</p>	<p><b>Invest NI</b></p> <p><b>Ethna McNamee</b> <b>Stephen Fullerton</b></p> <p>Council, Libraries, Local Enterprise Agencies, Local FE colleges</p>				<p>Several meetings have taken place and further meetings with partners to be set up in coming months.</p>	<p><b>How much?</b>            3 presentations held with 7 partners            No. of local business support services listing on the site</p> <p><b>How well?</b>            No. of local business support organisations reporting an increase in referrals from web site            Positive feedback from stakeholders at each session.</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p>Website Traffic to site numbers currently being measured.</p>
<b>Case Studies/Achievement</b>						
<b>Challenges</b>						
The main challenge is in relation to gathering the information that is council specific						

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 1. Encourage collaboration and signposting to support start-ups and existing businesses

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>ACTION 1.4</b> Support a collaborative business network (e.g. Sectoral champions, B2B support &amp; mentoring, supply chain, training, information).</p>	<p><b>Business Partnership Alliance</b>  Derek Brown</p>				<p>Several meetings have taken place and further meetings with partners to be set up in coming months.</p>	<p><b>How much?</b> No. of meetings <b>How well?</b> % attendance at meetings <b>Is anyone better off?</b> No. and % of businesses in the network who feel that they benefit from the business network No. and % of businesses in the network who report increased connections/skills/knowledge from being in the network Council increased connection with businesses</p>
<b>Case Studies/Achievement</b>						
<b>Challenges</b>						

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

Strategic action: 2. Improve links between the private sector and schools training providers to support entrepreneurship activities in new and growing businesses

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<b>ACTION 2.1</b> Support a collaborative business network (e.g. Sectoral champions, B2B support & mentoring, supply chain, training, information).	Young Enterprise, Education Authority, SRC, Social Enterprise Hub, Training Providers, Amma Centre, People First, Department of Education, Universities, Business/Industry,					<b>No action coordinator</b>  <b>Suggested Performance Measure</b>  <b>How much?</b> Number of business/education/training interactions <b>How well?</b> Value of interactions to students & to businesses. <b>Is anyone better off?</b> Increased awareness of business needs & variety of local opportunities amongst student participants
<b>Case Studies/Achievement</b>						
<b>Challenges</b>						

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 3. Help create the conditions for investment and growth

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>ACTION 3.1</b> Lobby for increased &amp; improved broadband coverage (extend pilot scheme, Super Connected Cities). Council to share information on broadband project and TAP Team to participate in lobbying activities</p>	<p><b>ABC Council Economic Development</b></p> <p>Nicola Wilson Sharon Daly</p> <p>TAP Team</p>				<p>£2.4m obtained for broadband infrastructure work using public buildings to access the borough more effectively. ABC Council is part of a Northern Ireland wide bid which if successful would bring in future funds of £3m for additional infrastructure works</p>	<p><b>How much?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Broadband working group set up</li> <li>- Funding applications made</li> </ul> <p><b>How well?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- £2.4m infrastructure funding secured</li> <li>- £3m sought as part of a NI wide bid</li> </ul> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b> Measures to be</p>
<p><b>Case Studies/Achievement</b> £2.4m already obtained for Broadband infrastructure and ABC council part of a NI-wide bid which could bring an additional £3m.</p>						
<p><b>Challenges</b> Getting value out of such a complex project takes time, with various checkpoints and milestones to be completed before anyone can see any practical work on the ground. This can be frustrating and challenging when it looks like nothing is being done.</p>						

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 3. Help create the conditions for investment and growth

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<p><b>ACTION 3.2</b> Evaluate land-use / availability of employment lands and business accommodation and identify future requirements to ensure sufficient and suitable employment sites are available to meet local and regional needs.</p>	<p><b>ABC Council Local Development Plan Team</b></p> <p>Damien McEvoy Colm Gallagher</p> <p>Council Economic Development &amp; Regeneration Departments, Invest NI</p>				<p>This action will be taken forward through the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) process, as part of an ongoing programme of evidence gathering that will inform the next stage in the LDP – the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy (second public consultation document). The action is planned to be carried out in Spring / Summer 2019, with future reviews to be planned, to ensure the LDP's evidence base remains up-to-date and sound.</p> <p>Annual monitoring will be carried out when the LDP is adopted – to monitor the take up and loss of land allocated for economic development purposes; with review of the LDP at least every 5 years to determine the need for any changes to the LDP's Economic Development Strategy and related policies.</p>	Performance measures to be agreed

**Case Studies/Achievement****Challenges**

The action (economic lands / business accommodation survey) will be brought forward as part of a very challenging LDP work programme, which is continually kept under review. Review (updating) of the survey information could be affected by other commitments within the LDP work programme and any slippage to the overall Timetable. The information gathered will also be open to scrutiny through the LDP process, including at the independent examinations.

## ENTERPRISING ECONOMY

### Strategic action: 3. Help create the conditions for investment and growth

Action	Partners (Action coordinator in Bold)	Time frame	Resource required	RAG	Progress Update	Performance measure
<b>ACTION 3.2</b> Collate and share ongoing research and work on Brexit with the wider Thematic Action Planning Team	<b>Invest NI - Ethna McNamee and Stephen Fullerton</b>  Council, any TAP Team members undertaking work on Brexit				Invest NI team have run a number of information and advisory sessions over the last quarter and further events are planned in February. Brexit advice clinic will be run in Armagh on 21st Feb 2019, and this event is being promoted to local businesses in the council area.	<b>How much?</b> 1 Brexit events/briefings shares with TAP Team No. of Brexit Info Briefings published <b>How well?</b> No. of local businesses and other stakeholders who attend each Brexit event
<b>Case Studies/Achievement</b>						
<b>Challenges</b>						
The main challenge is that the information surrounding Brexit is not very clear and it would seem that no one really knows at this stage what will happen when Brexit occurs. This still remains the problem in attempting to get local business involved, however there has been much more interest since the start of the new year and the Invest NI events are becoming more fully subscribed.						

**Actions with no action coordinators identified**

What will we do?	Suggested Partners	Time Frame	Resources	Action Coordinator	RAG	Performance Measures
3.4 Evaluate transport connections across the borough to the main employment/training locations.						
a. Raise awareness of Connect to Success Encourage businesses to get involved. Useful for parents/teachers – awareness and help address career pathways.			Staff Time			
b. Deliver Skills Forums/Fairs. Take a fresh approach, e.g. create festival vibes.	Youth service Council Young Enterprise Libraries NI SRC <i>Invest NI</i>		Staff Time Promotion Costs			
a. Coordinate service provision around NEETS and section 75 groups- ensuring customer journey is personalised and productive (better signposting/navigation)			Staff Time Meeting			
b. Public procurement – Social clauses and apprenticeships Explore models of good practice to bring people back to work.						