



Tay Cities Region Deal Supporting SME Skills

Caryn Gibson

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Caroline Crichton – Project Lead
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Project Overview:

- Lead Partner: Dundee & Angus College (D&AC)
- Funding: £2.47 million revenue funding (broken down in 2 areas – Staff/ £5k Training Fund)
- Duration: The project is delivered over the period 2023/24 - 2029/30
- Status: Approved by Scottish Government
- Final Approval Timeline: December Joint Committee





Aim:

A targeted skills project that seeks to support the SME business base across the Tay Cities Deal Region by taking a new approach and bringing together the collective expertise of the colleges and universities in the region, supported by the experience of key stakeholders, to help make a step change in the volume and responsiveness of the skills training offer

Partners:

- Regional Colleges: DA&C, Fife and UHI Perth
- Higher Education Institutes: Abertay and Dundee
- Local Authorities: Business Gateway Tayside and Fife
- Business Support Providers: Federation of Small Businesses and Chambers of Commerce
- Strategic Support: SDS and Scottish Enterprise

Investment Objectives:

Address duplication/gaps to enhance the volume and value of support for SME businesses by bringing together the combined resources of the colleges, universities, and business support providers in the region.

Increase the uptake of training by the SME business base by raising awareness of the available support, helping them identify their current and future skills gaps and promoting the impacts and benefits of skills development.

Enhance the productivity of the SME base and support diversity, resilience, and growth within the Tay Cities Region.

Address skills shortages and support career progression by increasing the proportion of the workforce undertaking training/skills development.

Support the SME base to create greater access to Fair Work First opportunities and contribute to inclusive growth.





Deliverables:

D&A are the lead partner and will integrate the 2 Training Needs Advisors into their Business Partnership Team however they will work across the region to ensure they represent all Colleges and Universities..

1. Creation of two new roles - Training Needs Advisors
2. Carry out in depth Training Needs Analysis
3. Create training and skills Action Plan
4. Co-ordinate, monitor and review courses
5. Measure, Monitor and Report on both business and individual progress

Targets:

Jobs Created	2
SME's Supported	310
Jobs Protected	153
Training Places	619
<i>Number of females benefitting from training</i>	308
<i>Number of people from BAME background benefitting from training</i>	17
<i>Number of people aged 16-24 benefitting from training</i>	68
<i>Number of disabled people benefitting from training</i>	62
<i>Number of people living in SIMD communities in top 20% most deprived benefitting from training</i>	115
<i>Number of parents benefitting from training</i>	155
Additional Benefits	
GVA uplift (£m)	£8.1
Salaries uplift (£m)	£4.2





Targets:

In addition, while no formal baseline or targets have been established, the project will gather data/evidence to measure the projects contribution to wider outcomes, including the:

- number of referrals from the College and University Skills Intelligence Interface to other services (e.g. employability, enterprise/business support, finance, etc);
- number of businesses that reported they are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the service and that would recommend the support to other SMEs;
- number of individuals gaining a formal/recognised qualification; and
- number of individuals that reported greater job satisfaction, self-esteem or confidence as a result of undertaking training and levels of employee turnover.

Current Position

- Scheduled for final approval by Joint Committee in December
- Project delivery readiness started 4th September 2023
- Tay Cities Advisors recruited October 2023
- Operational processes and systems at final stage approvals with partners
- Marketing and Communications plan and assets being designed
- Operational Board – Caryn
- Management Board – Caroline
- Operational Working Group – Employer Engagement Group (SDS)
- Planned operational start January 2024
- Launch event scheduled 31st January 2024

