## TAY CITIES TRADE & INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP



## **Tay Cities Partnership Group**

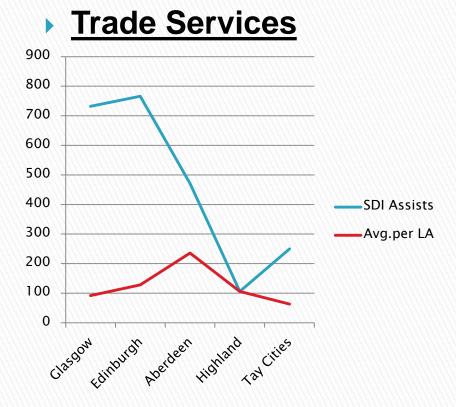
- The Trade and Investment Partnership was fully established and first met in August 2017 with representation from the 4 Tay Cities Local Authorities, Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce, Perth Chamber of Commerce, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development international
- Terms of Reference have been established to deliver a multi-partner International Trade and Investment Partnership for the Tay Cities Region for an initial period of 5 years. This will aim to deliver a step change in both international trade activity by companies in the region and an increase in foreign direct investment

# **Our Challenge**

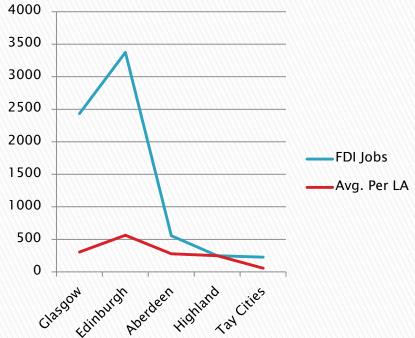
- TCD region has lower levels of interest in <u>international trade</u> than other comparable areas
- Less than 5% of Scotland's <u>Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</u> success story comes to the TCD region

Region	SDI Assisted Companies - Trade services	Avg. Per Local Authority	New / Safeguarded FDI jobs	Avg. per Local Authority
Glasgow	732	92	2433	304
Edinburgh & SE Scotland	766	128	3374	562
Aberdeen	471	236	556	278
Highland	106	106	249	249
Tay Cities	250	63	227	57

### The Challenge – Trade & Investment



### FDI Jobs



Fewer TCD firms seeking SDI help

Lower levels of FDI means lost jobs?

# Why? – Trade

- Over 96% micro or SME. "Too small to export"
- Parochial vision and fear
- Heavy reliance on traditional rural / agricultural commodities and North Sea (important to UK domestic economy but with export decisions and value add often delivered elsewhere)

# Why? - Investment

- Economies of scale individually dwarfed by other LA areas with no common region wide offer to balance
- <u>Reality check</u> needed on comparative strengths to external investor eyes
- Strong <u>rural bias</u> in the economy: lack of suitable land and related planning issue

# **Our Opportunity: TRADE**

 Build a strong local company base, better aware and able to access support to trade across UK and International levels

#### How?

- A <u>shared pathway</u> to local business support so that business knows where to go for help (no wrong door but use Business Gateway as an entry point)
- A joined up programme of trade events across the region, with consistent marketing by all partners
- Acting as a single point of contact with SDI/SE on their activity in the region

# **Our Opportunity: INVESTMENT**

Build a flexible overarching investment prospectus covering the TCD region that reflects local USPs but with added SDI reality check on true relative strengths in a competitive FDI investment market (but not losing sight of domestic investment targets). Better reflect Tay Cities Assets in SDI Scotland and Sector material

### How?

- Develop common key messages
- Develop a common interactive <u>Asset Map</u> and related materials in partnership with SDI
- A single point of contact with SDI to ensure investment enquiries are channelled correctly & opportunities are not missed
- Ensure that investment propositions interlink with the <u>Scotland is</u> <u>Now</u> concept and branding

## **The Barriers: TRADE**

- <u>Old ways of working</u>: Silos both within and across Local Authorities and other partners
- Confusion: Business doesn't know where to turn often too many doors, not too few!
- Poor Communication: Do we know what each partner is delivering ?
- Resources: no dedicated resource on these issues within or across Local Authorities. "An add-on to other work"

## **The Barriers: INVESTMENT**

- Individual Offers take precedence over collective offer
- How to coordinate with <u>other investment initiatives</u> e.g. Scottish Cities Alliance
- Lack of single TCD regional contact point for SDI to engage

 Lack of <u>reality check on true strengths</u> in the eyes of prospective investors versus wider UK and global competition

## **Achievements and Progress**

#### On Process and Tools:

- Working Group fully established
- Tay Cities <u>Business Support Pathway</u> agreed
- A <u>pilot Asset Map</u> with SDI highlighting the region's infrastructure, education/R&D excellence, business parks, tourism assets, key sectors and major companies; A common <u>Events Calendar</u> for activity with an international trade angle across the region
- Initial workshop scoping on an effective <u>Regional Inward Investment</u> <u>Proposition</u> & dialogue on <u>Scotland is Now</u>

## **Achievements and Progress**

And practical too in some sectors:

 Shared funding on regional presence at Food Expo 2018 at NEC in April (companies from all four council areas)



### **Future Action**

- Key messages and narrative on true sectoral strengths and differentiating factors
- Compelling <u>inward investment promotional resources</u> and other collateral to promote our message internationally, aligned with <u>Scotland is Now</u>
- Key targets for the next 5 years and any gaps to be addressed
- More <u>practical events</u> with businesses that show regional trade and investment activity in action
- Specific engagement with <u>TCD Academia</u> over shared international engagement and needs.