

**Falkirk Economic Partnership**  
**COVID– 19 Economic Recovery Plan 2020-22**  
**Phase 4 – Recovery**

Work to finalise the economic recovery plan for the Falkirk economy has now been completed and this report details the measures being taken by the Council and its partners,

	<b>Task –</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
	<b><i>Targeting national level support for recovery</i></b>			
1	Deliver Investment Zone Growth Deal, Falkirk TIF, Town Centre and Tourism Action Plans	Dec 20	SG, SFT, FC	National and Community Partnership policy support and align to Investment Zone and Falkirk and Grangemouth Town Centres Action Plan delivery.
2	Participate in national economic recovery support measures, including business support, Brexit readiness ,response to redundancies and management of risk ref 2 <sup>nd</sup> COVID-19 Lockdown.	March 23	CoSLA, SLAED, ESEC, Business Gateway National Unit, Scottish Enterprise, Visit Scotland	Maintain strong engagement with SLAED/National Business Gateway Unit, Scottish Enterprise to target support. Input to Government support, policy and funding for retail, tourism and SME business communities to ensure most effective delivery models and minimise negative impacts for the Falkirk area.
3	Progress delivery of the Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone (IZ) initiative with direct action to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise and agree key delivery projects from agreed Outline Business Case within £90m award envelope</li> </ul>		UK & Scottish Govts, FC, Falkirk Economic Partnership, Scottish Enterprise, NECCUS	Establish key early investment projects to allow detailed Business Case to be finalized to UK and Scottish Govts

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm Heads of Terms for delivery and proceed with final business case with delivery timescales, community and economic impacts</li> <li>• Establish dedicated IZ Project Delivery team and support</li> <li>• Engage with and support key partners delivering Just Transition and Sustainability investment objectives for the Falkirk/Grangemouth area to align Council IZ and sustainable objectives</li> </ul> <p>Development of a Forth Valley regional approach to recovery involving Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils in the delivery of transport, business support, tourism, inward investment and sustainability outputs, aligning with City Deal and Growth Deal awards.</p>	<p>Oct 20</p> <p>Jan 21</p> <p>March 23</p> <p>Nov 20</p> <p>Oct 20</p> <p>March 21</p>	<p>SG, FC, SC, CC</p>	<p>Direct engagement and profiling of Council area in national policy direction and investment in low carbon agenda</p> <p>Service improvement and integration to support regional economic growth and closer collaborative working</p>
1	<p><b><i>Local partnerships for recovery</i></b></p> <p>Deliver closer localised business support engagement and working with Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils, Scottish Enterprise, FSB and FV Chamber of Commerce to maximise business support opportunities and resources.</p>	<p>March 23</p>	<p>FC, SE, FSB, FV Chamber</p>	<p>Deliver stronger direct business support to retail, tourism and SME business communities to target most effective delivery support models and minimize economic impacts for the Falkirk area.</p> <p>Deliver town centre stewardship measures and identified town centre regeneration measures to support retail and tourism sectors</p>

2	Deliver updated Falkirk Town Centre Partnership Action Plan in liaison with Falkirk BID.	March 22	FC, Falkirk BID, Town Centre Partnership	Localised support and communication measures to support safeguarding the public and local economic activity.
3	Maintain Town Centres COVID-19 Working Group giving one-stop Corporate statutory support approach to businesses and 2 <sup>nd</sup> COVID-19 lockdown readiness. Localised measures necessary to help safeguard the public, share resources and expertise and maximize the local economic value of such activity.	March 23	FC, Falkirk BID	Supporting workplace access and essential services using active travel and traffic planning strategy review Ensuring enhanced redundancy support policy measures in place and identified to support business sectors Supporting local business to be procurement ready and access to Council supply and investment contracts.
4	Delivery and promotion of transport and active travel measures during COVID-19 by a initiating Spaces for People fund support and policy implementation into significant investment proposals	Dec 20	FC/Transport Scotland	Supporting development investment
5	Support and Communicate and deliver PACE redundancy support for affected companies	March 23	FC/ PACE Partners/SE/CoSLA/SLAED	People facing redundancy are supported
6	Enhanced procurement policy objectives for local contract awards in Falkirk TIF and Investment Zone through Community Benefits clauses, supplier events and Supplier Development Programme.	March 23	FC/ SDP/Business Gateway	Local businesses fulfil a larger % of Council contracts for goods and services

7	Initiate streamlining of planning regulatory process, to accelerate planning approvals and review mitigation impact on viability of developer contributions, addressing implications of COVID-19 for design, access and placemaking.	March 23	FC/SEPA	Supports acceleration of Investment and Capital Projects
<b>Skills &amp; Employment Support</b>				
1	Introduce formal policy arrangements aligned to the current and future Council workforce development plan	March 21	FC/Scot Govt/ SDS/FVC	Mitigate impact on the labour market and assist people into the workplace
2	Develop a robust support tool box of digital tools for skills development with participants targeted to Falkirk Council digital strategy	December 2020	FC/Scot Govt/ SDS/FVC	Support to non eligible employment programme businesses to grow priority group employment opportunities meeting needs of increased numbers of unemployed residents and support economic recovery within the local labour market.- total participants supported 160 - 200 per annum
3	Increase of staff resource; to support front line employability support work including PACE support.	March 2022	FC/Scot Govt/ SDS/FVC	Young people and those further from the labour market secure employment and training. Additional funding allocated to support SME's and vulnerable participants to progress into private sector employment and opportunities
4	Delivery of Increased Employer Recruitment 75% cost Incentives and Job Creation Programmes			
5	Working with Forth Valley College and other partners, initiate support for a low carbon industry challenge for engineering apprentices	March 2021	FVC / Manufacturing and Chemical Industries	Support young apprentices to gain confidence and skills Supports Just Transition and Investment Zone chemical cluster sectors

<b><i>Communities, Housing and Infrastructure</i></b>				
1	Maintain the COVID19 Community Resilience Response	Jan 21	UK & Scottish Govts FC/Falkirk BID	Area economic support and community employment, training and placemaking opportunities underpinning economic recovery and confidence
2	Progress delivery of the Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone Detailed Business case delivery timetable, economic impact and secure Heads of Terms	Mar 21		Investment is secured and projects begin.
3	Finalise Investment Zone Inclusive Growth and Community Wellbeing approach	Mar 21		Detailed planning to ensure that local people and communities benefit from Capital Investment Programmes.
4	Delivery of next stage Falkirk TIF infrastructure investment projects – A904/Westfield Bridge and Roads infrastructure	Oct 20		
5	Re-evaluate and agree updated infrastructure investment programmes for SHIP and education for housing investment programme projects	March 23		
6	Promote approved Adopted LDP2 and finalise Action Programme	December 20		Progress developments
7	Progress delivery of Housing investment programme including introduction of projects in town centres	March 21		

8	Enable variation of terms of regulatory requirements placed upon industry/developers via planning and other regulations			
1  2  3	<p><b>Business Support Measures</b></p> <p>PACE Delivery– Additional redundancy support measures and activities for local businesses - £90,000 funding from Scottish Govt to provide immediate support to individuals who are in scope for redundancy. additional top up support £50,000 per annum</p> <p>Digital Boost Delivery- The Digital Boost programme in Forth Valley has received an additional supplementary £45,000 Scottish Government will consider additional national funding programme of digital grants to businesses to purchase hardware and software for their business.</p> <p>Facilitating business networking online/ virtual Having spoke to FSB and FV Chamber</p>		<p>ETU/SDS/DWP</p> <p>FC/BG/SG</p> <p>FC/FSB/FV Chamber</p>	<p>Support to individuals who are in scope for redundancy to increase their digital skills, provide additional employability support and a request to deliver webinars on how to become self-employed is being considered. COST</p> <p>Support to businesses - webinars, coaching sessions, clinics and 1-2-1 support.</p> <p>Support business sectors with facilitated network support groups to share and disseminate critical growth and business support information and peer to peer support</p> <p>To support economic growth and resilience and provide direct business support intervention</p>

4	<p><b>Financial Support – Grants and Loans</b>  <i>It is recognised through consultation that businesses need additional support to recover from the economic impact of the Coronavirus.</i></p> <p><b>Establish new programme of grant support to be delivered by Falkirk Council Business Gateway. Over a two year period to businesses and people self-employed .</b></p>			<p>To support with short-term business cashflow. Restart Loans to be available to both new and existing businesses based in Falkirk area. Scope of Businesses supported 25-115 over two years</p> <p>To supporting changed objectives and plans for growth new models of delivery to sustain or grow the business through COVID-19.  Scope of businesses supported 10 – 155 over two years</p>
5	<p><b>New Business COVID-19 Restart Loan</b> - offers small and start-up businesses and people self-employed with interest free loans between £1,000 to £5,000</p>		FC/BG	<p>Direct support to businesses to grow during COVID-19 restrictions and meet statutory adjustments.  Scope of businesses supported 30-75 over two years</p> <p>Provide application support and financial compliance</p>
6	<p><b>New Business Resilience Grant</b> - provides a 50% match-funded grant from £1,000 up to £10,000 to support small and medium sized businesses, self-employed.</p>			<p>International business support for exporting initiatives.  Scope of businesses supported 15-20</p>
7	<p><b>New Business Adaptation Grant</b> - provides a match-funded grant from £1,000 to £2,500 to help small and medium sized businesses, including people self-employed, to adapt their premises to meet physical distancing requirements.</p>		FC/BG	<p>Direct support to Council tenants to enable them to sustain tenancy</p>
8	<p>International Export support</p>			<p>Help for businesses to export goods and services.</p>
8	<p>Commercial rent deferral support.</p>		FC	<p>Sustain measures to secure agreement between landlords and tenants over deferral of rent due to the Council</p>

<b><i>Town Centres Action Planning</i></b>				
1	Maintain delivery of town centre emergency COVID-19 response to falkirk and district centres and bids to Scottish Town Partnership Resilience funds building on £62,500 awarded to date.	March 21	FC/Falkirk BID/Falkirk Town Centre Partnership/ COVID-19 Community Resilience Response	Supporting continued business recovery, locking-in local spend, town centre stewardship and improving safety for all town centre use
2	Deliver Falkirk Town Centre Action Plan actions and finalise Falkirk Council asset investment plans for ensuring town centre regeneration objectives.		FC/Falkirk BID/Falkirk Town Centre Partnership/Community Planning Partnership	Support for retailer business recovery and resilience to invest and grow on-line trade and marketing
3	Town Centre Trader Digital Business Support Grant With additional funding, this may be extended to district town centres.		FC/Falkirk BID/Scottish Towns Partnership	
4	Falkirk Towns Ltd budget support to support trader engagement, promotion, events and COVID-19 support measures in District Centres including town centre stewardship support staff.		FC/Falkirk BID	Business support to trading environment. Ensure annual whole life protection, stewardship and maintenance of town centre physical regeneration investment and appearance
5	Establishment of Town Centres Maintenance Fund.		FC	Town Centres are maintained



	<b><i>Tourism action planning (with VisitFalkirk Tourism Partnership)</i></b>			
1	Development of Falkirk area marketing campaign in line with Visit Scotland targeting the day visitor followed by 'staycation' markets.	Oct 20	FC/VisitFalkirk Tourism Partnership/ VisitScotland/	Supporting tourism businesses capitalising on central location and strong outdoor tourism product base
2	Deliver COVID-19 local tourism action plan aligned with STERG national recovery plan. Monitor review of 5 year VisitFalkirk Tourism Strategy	Oct 20		
3	Maintain support of VisitFalkirk Tourism Partnership to support promotion and tourism business collaboration on series of packages to successfully diversify/innovative to operate in the COVID-19 impacted sector	Oct 20		Standardised approach to gathering customer information supporting smaller businesses
4	Facilitate Hospitality Sector Track and Trace App for 1 year with direct links to national monitoring programmes in partnership with Chamber of Commerce	Oct 20	FC/VisitFalkirk Tourism Partnership/Falkirk BID/FV Chamber of Commerce	Supporting tourism businesses capitalising on central location and strong outdoor tourism product base  Area promotion and exposure to international markets
5	Develop regional two/three day itineraries focused on outdoor/cycling activity and prepare for international visitors in 2021.	Oct 20		Improve economic growth through supporting retail and business support, town centre users and improved stewardship of our town centres
	Development of joint FV area tourism packages for the Travel Trade for 2021.	Jan 21		

<b>Communication</b>				
1	Deliver town centres WIFI and Falkirk town centre footfall data monitoring supporting Council service delivery and community engagement	Oct 20	FC/COTF/Falkirk BID	Plans are based on real time information
2	Maintain support for input and lead on daily national COVID-19 economic support policy delivery communication	Oct 20	FC/Business Gateway/Visit Scotland	Local Business are well informed
3	Deliver strong inspirational messaging that the Falkirk area will welcome visitors back when the time is right	Oct 20	FC/Business Gateway/Visit Scotland	Falkirk Area welcomes visitors
4	Maintain delivery of strong economic communications to businesses within all economic sectors on latest COVID-19 support, grant and other financial support available and communication framework for future COVID-19 lockdown resilience support	Oct20	FC/Business Gateway/Visit Scotland	