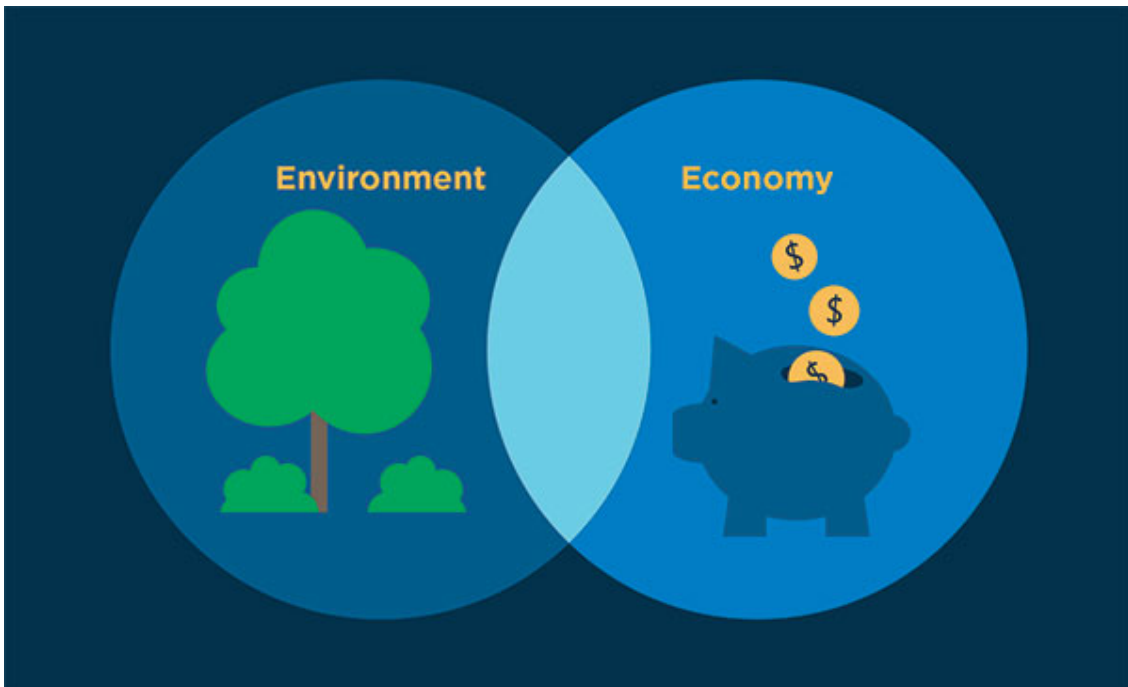


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## **Annual Conference – "Local Government's Contribution to an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy"**

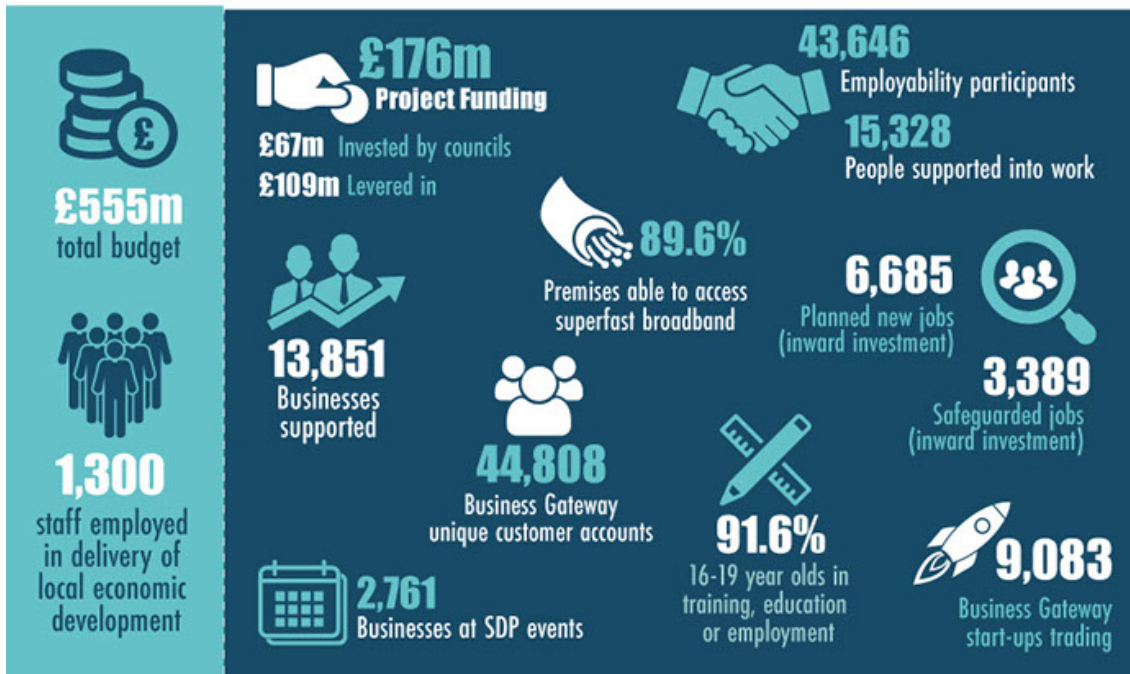
This year's SLAED Annual Conference is being held at COSLA, Haymarket on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It will bring together Economic Development officers from across Scotland's local authorities to discuss significant challenges including climate change and the need for a more inclusive economic development model. The aim is to consider ways in which local authorities can develop policy and practice to prepare for and address these challenges.

Key speakers confirmed to date include:

- Sandra Black, SOLACE Portfolio Lead for Economic Development
- Professor Graeme Roy, Director of the Fraser of Allander Institute
- Will Hutton, Principal of Hertford College, University of Oxford
- Charlie Woods, Scottish Universities Insight Institute
- Sara Thiam, Chief Executive of SCDI

Book your place now by emailing [Hannah Young!](#)

**and Outcomes, 2018/19**



**Publication of SLAED Indicators Report 2018/19**

The SLAED Indicators Report 2018/19 was published in January 2020. This is the seventh year that this report has been published and it continues to provide an overview of economic development delivery across Scotland's local authorities through a common reporting and measurement framework.

The annual report highlights the vital and lead role that local authorities play in economic development across Scotland, as well as how they enable and facilitate effective partnership working to achieve economic benefits and increase well being. The report gives insight into good practice, as well as opportunities for improvement, in local economic development.

The report highlights that in 2018/19 local authorities employed 1,300 FTE people in economic development, spending in the region of £555m on local economic development and tourism activities. They supported over 13,850 businesses, supported just over 15,300 unemployed people into jobs and levered in an additional £1.63 for every £1 of local authority funding spent on economic development projects.

[Download the SLAED Indicators Report 2018/19.](#)



**Member Development Workshops and Communications**

In late 2019 the SLAED Executive, with support from the Improvement Service, delivered a series of workshops around the SLAED Strategic Plan 2019-22. These focused on increasing participation in the SLAED network and enhancing communication, as well as taking forward the Strategic Plan priorities.

- Publication of a SLAED Communications Plan setting out priorities, channels and a timetable of events and key outputs for year;
- Introduction of Working Groups on a range of horizontal themes (e.g. Community Wealth Building has already been established);
- Clear articulation of benefits of membership and what is needed from member councils in return;
- Reviewing sub group membership and identifying councils that may need support to better engage with the network;
- Timetable of meetings for the whole network (including the Annual Conference and AGM) around key themes e.g. climate change, public health, inclusive growth, child poverty etc;
- Report for the AGM on SLAED's achievements in the last year as well as priorities for the year ahead.

An initial update report on this work is available on the [SLAED Knowledge Hub](#) and a final report will be shared once final discussions have taken place with those councils that were unable to attend the workshops.



## Employability Conference

The Annual SLAED Employability Conference is being held on 5th & 6th March in Stirling and will be in partnership with the Scottish Government. The conference provides employability colleagues across local government with the opportunity to work through the key elements of the work streams relating to the Implementation Plan for No One Left Behind as part of the partnership agreement with Scottish Government. The conference will be attended by a number of Scottish Government colleagues and a full agenda will follow shortly. The Scottish Government Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills will also be in attendance.

For further details and to book your place contact [hannah.young@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:hannah.young@improvementservice.org.uk)!

## 'Scotland's Economic Future: Disruptive Ideas'

This year the Economic and Public Policy Consultancy (EPPC) will be publishing a new paper series aimed at Scotland's economic development policy community. The series - '**Scotland's Economic Future: Disruptive Ideas**' – has been set-up, coordinated and written by a group of



writer concerning Scotland's economic future at a time of significant global and domestic change and uncertainty. Covering a range of topics from institutional reform to immigration, the papers share a vision for Scotland to make greater strides towards a resilient, economic future.

Offering a new stimulus for economic development policy development and new 'ways of working', the papers adopt an apolitical and inclusive ethos and seek to inject 'disruptive' thinking into a wider debate about Scotland's economy, with the aim of generating a better future for Scotland's citizens.

Papers will be published over the course of 2020 and the first 2 papers can be accessed on the [SLAED Knowledge Hub](#). They cover the topics of statistics in Scotland and institutional reform, through the 'lens' of decarbonisation.

Individual contributors or the paper series coordinators can be contacted for more information.

**Coordinators:** Alison Hunter [Alison.hunter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Alison.hunter@hotmail.co.uk) and Fabian Zuleeg [Fabian.Zuleeg@hotmail.com](mailto:Fabian.Zuleeg@hotmail.com)

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## Regional Approaches to Maximising Inclusive Economic Growth: Local Authorities' Perspective



The experiences of Scotland's local authorities in relation to regional economic working have been set out in a new report. The work was undertaken by Ekos consultants and overseen by a Steering Group comprising the Improvement Service, COSLA, SOLACE and SLAED.

The [report](#) highlights councils' long history of engaging in cross-boundary working and emphasises the key role that local authorities play in supporting Scotland's economy. The feedback from councils confirmed that, whilst there was no appetite for structural change, there was a desire to explore how the positive impact of regional working could be maximised, including in relation to securing sustainable inclusive growth benefits.

The report concludes that councils now have an opportunity to lead and influence the next stages of regional economy working. The messages in the report are similar to those set out in Audit Scotland's report on [Scotland's City Region and Growth Deals](#) published in January, and a number of common issues are raised.

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## 'EU Funding Update'

SLAED has submitted a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the replacement for EU structural funds.



With respect to the suspension of the Scottish ESF programme, the Scottish Government has indicated, following strong representations from SLAED, COSLA and SOLACE, that it will resume payments on duly verified claims. This is good news but the suspension remains in place for the time being as work on developing a robust Unit Costs system is still in progress.

**Replacement for EU Funds Consultation:**

<https://consult.gov.scot/economic-development/replacement-of-european-structural-funds/>

**European Territorial Cooperation Programmes 2021-27 Consultation:**

<https://consult.gov.scot/economic-development/european-territorial-cooperation-programmes/>

## Infrastructure Commission Report

The Infrastructure Commission for Scotland has published its first report to the Scottish Government and recommended that future infrastructure decisions should be based on an inclusive net zero carbon economy. It reported that better use of data is needed to facilitate evidence-based decision making to meet net-zero carbon and inclusive economy growth commitments.

The full report can be accessed via this [link](#).



## Business Gateway Edinburgh - Women in Business Growth Programme



turnover of over £5m.

The six-week programme, which focuses on growth and financial planning, leadership strategy, company structures, presenting for investing and exploring new markets is designed to help women owned businesses to learn new skills to help grow their business and as a result, increase their turnover. The success and demand have resulted in 3 programmes being scheduled for 2020.

Further information [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)

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## Business Booming in North Ayrshire's Circuit Enterprise Hub!

North Ayrshire's new incubation facility – The Circuit Enterprise Hub in Irvine – is almost at capacity, only seven months after opening.



The facility is for small local businesses who aspire to grow and take on their own premises within a 12 month period. It offers subsidised office accommodation for up to 16 new and ambitious early-stage growth businesses with access to on-site business support through the Council's Business Team who are also located in the new offices.

14 desks are now taken, with the remaining two set to go within the next few weeks. Businesses range from a social enterprise providing financial advice to those with disabilities, to a 'healthy meal prep' company.

Further information: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/business/business-support/starting-a-new-business.aspx>

Contact: 01294 449944 / [business@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:business@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)



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