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**Report to: People Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 27 January 2022**

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**Subject: Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) Young Pathfinders Programme**

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**Report by: Julia Barclay, Improving Outcomes Officer (SQA/Senior Phase)**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update People Committee on Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) Young Pathfinders programme.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

### **2.1. It is recommended that Committee notes and comments on:**

- 2.2. The details of the Young Pathfinder programme, including background, progress and next steps.
- 2.3. Takes the opportunity to engage with our Young Pathfinders and Christie Frail, from the SIEC programme, who are in attendance at today's People Committee meeting.

## **3.0 Considerations**

### **Background**

- 3.1. Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) will create an 'innovation community' in the Forth Valley that will drive the creation of a net zero regional economy and stand as a global exemplar of leadership in responding to the climate emergency. Through innovation and partnership, SIEC will deliver transformational change in sustainable business practice, in order that the protection and enhancement of our natural resources becomes an enabler of economic prosperity, inclusive opportunity and wellbeing.
- 3.2. SIEC will bring together a broad spectrum of researchers, businesses, policy-makers, regulators, communities, and the third sector. In doing so it will act as the enabler for new methods of collaboration across sectors to re-imagine innovation that delivers sustainable inclusive growth. It will co-develop new

and innovative products and services offering solutions that will help tackle and mitigate the impacts of climate change, support the transition to a net zero economy and protect our natural environmental assets. SIEC will drive initiatives to support the green recovery, capitalise on opportunities in the blue economy, and deliver cross sector innovation at scale within key industries including water, energy, transport and food production.

- 3.3. SIEC is being supported by £22m of investment by the Scottish and UK Governments through the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal. It will be headquartered in Alloa and the project commenced delivery in the Autumn of 2021. Delivery is being led by the University of Stirling in partnership with Clackmannanshire Council and Forth Valley College.
- 3.4. Community engagement will be at the heart of SIEC. It is essential that young people across the Forth Valley region have a strong voice in the development of SIEC, helping shape a sustainable, prosperous future for current and future generations.

### **Progress**

- 3.5. To support this venture, a meeting was held in September 2021 with Dr John Rogers, Executive Director Research & Innovation Services, University of Stirling, Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive, Clackmannanshire Council, Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director of People and Catriona Scott, Improving Outcomes Manager. This was followed up with a further meeting and presentation to the Headteachers and key staff of Alloa, Alva and Lornshill Academies, together with representatives from Dollar Academy, who have also been invited to collaborate with Clackmannanshire schools on this programme. (Appendix 1).
- 3.6. It was agreed that SIEC will offer a number of Young Pathfinder positions, working with local schools through the Duke of Edinburgh programme. SIEC Young Pathfinders will volunteer their time to lead the organisation and presentation of the voice of young people, shaping the ongoing development of SIEC. They will have opportunities to experience the scientific and business support programmes delivered by SIEC. They will work in collaboration with existing school-based environmental initiatives, including projects to enhance and protect the natural environment within the region.
- 3.7. The Young Pathfinder programme commenced in October 2021, providing up to 12 places for Clackmannanshire school pupils in S3 and above. Support for the programme will be provided through an SIEC student intern from the University of Stirling.
- 3.8. Once the Young Pathfinders from each school were identified as the inaugural cohort, a workshop was held on 11 November 2021, facilitated by Sam Barnett, SIEC Project Manager and Sasha Saunders, Enterprise Programme Manager. This afforded the Young Pathfinders the opportunity to suggest ideas for shaping the development of the SIEC programme and discuss what activities they would like to take forward. (Appendix 2).

### **Next Steps**

- 3.9. The SIEC team has recruited an intern, Christie Frail, to lead the Young Pathfinders programme, whose contract commenced in mid December 2021 and who is working directly with the SIEC team and the schools to agree the format, programme and commitments and help set the programme up, including the platform for engagement and the communications and events. The next steps will be to host an online session, in order to meet all participants virtually and agree actions, to gather feedback and fully understand hours of commitment and what is needed to support the programme.

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. Clackmannanshire Council has committed to developing a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy within the next 12 months which will deliver a framework to ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
- 4.2. The Young Pathfinder Programme will play a key part in ensuring that the voice and experience of our young people influences the development of the SIEC and the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

##### *5.1. Financial Details*

- 5.2. SIEC is being supported by £22m of investment by the Scottish and UK Governments through the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal

##### *5.3. Staffing*

Staff in the Academies with responsibility for leading on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme are the links to the Young Pathfinder initiative.

#### **6.0 Exempt Reports**

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

#### **7.0 Declarations**

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

- Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all
- Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life
- Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential
- Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

**8.0 Equalities Impact**

- 8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
 Yes  No

**9.0 Legality**

- 9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes  No

**10.0 Appendices**

- Appendix 1: SIEC PowerPoint Presentation
- Appendix 2: Collated feedback from Young Pathfinders

**11.0 Background Papers**

- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)  
 Yes  (please list the documents below) No

**Author(s)**

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Catriona Scott	Improving Outcomes Manager	2469

**Approved by**

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lorraine Sanda	Strategic Director People	



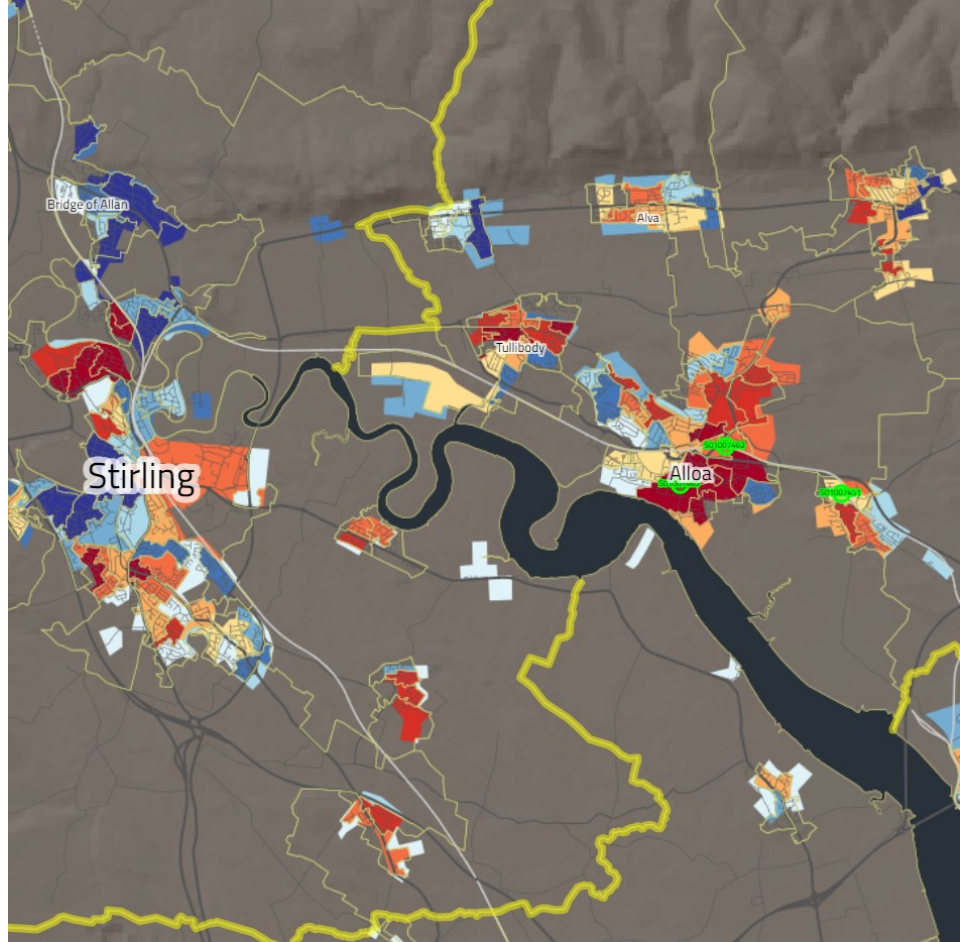
# Scotland's International Environment Centre

## Young Pathfinders Programme

Dr John Rogers  
Executive Director  
Research & Innovation Services

## City Region Deal Outcomes

- ❖ **Inclusive economic growth:** *Create conditions for businesses to thrive both locally and globally, increase job density and access to opportunity, maximising our regional assets*
- ❖ **Higher value jobs:** *Invest in the creation of clean, green innovations, digital entrepreneurship and cultural opportunities to deliver a more diverse regional economy*
- ❖ **Shared prosperity:** *Remove barriers to engagement and support inclusion to share prosperity and wellbeing across the region*
- ❖ **Inclusive skills ecosystem:** *Widen access to opportunity through inclusive skills pathways that target those who face exclusion across our region*



# Scotland's International Environment Centre

- £22m Government investment
- £50m + project
- In partnership with:

Clackmannanshire Council



Vision and purpose:

- Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC) will create an 'innovation community' in the Forth Valley, headquartered in Alloa, that will drive the creation of a **net zero regional economy** and stand as a **global exemplar**.
- Through innovation and partnership, SIEC will deliver transformational change in sustainable business practice, in order that the protection and enhancement of our natural resources becomes an enabler of economic prosperity, just transition, and wellbeing.

# Scotland's International Environment Centre

- £22m Investment
- £50m + project
- In partnership with:

**Clackmannanshire Council**



## Project delivery phase commences September 2021

### Phase 1: 2021-2025

- Forth Environmental Resilience Array (Forth ERA)
- Low Carbon Business Accelerator (programme of service delivery)

### Phase 2: 2023-2026 (and beyond)

- Low Carbon Business Accelerator (business incubator and grow on space)
- Skills training facilities
- Further large scale research & development facilities



**Delivering  
innovation**

**Stimulating  
innovation**

Identify problems  
Develop solutions  
Deliver projects  
Deploy prototypes  
Assess solutions

**Solution Centre**

**Centre of  
Excellence**

Early stage  
research  
Commercial  
research  
Academic research  
Applied research  
Test facilities

**Innovation  
Community**

Business space  
Business  
development  
Entrepreneur support  
Start-up support  
Start-up funding

**Business  
Accelerator**

**Innovation Hub**

Open Innovation  
Networks &  
collaboration  
Challenge awards  
Scholarships  
Calls for ideas

**Enabling innovation**

**Inspiring innovation**

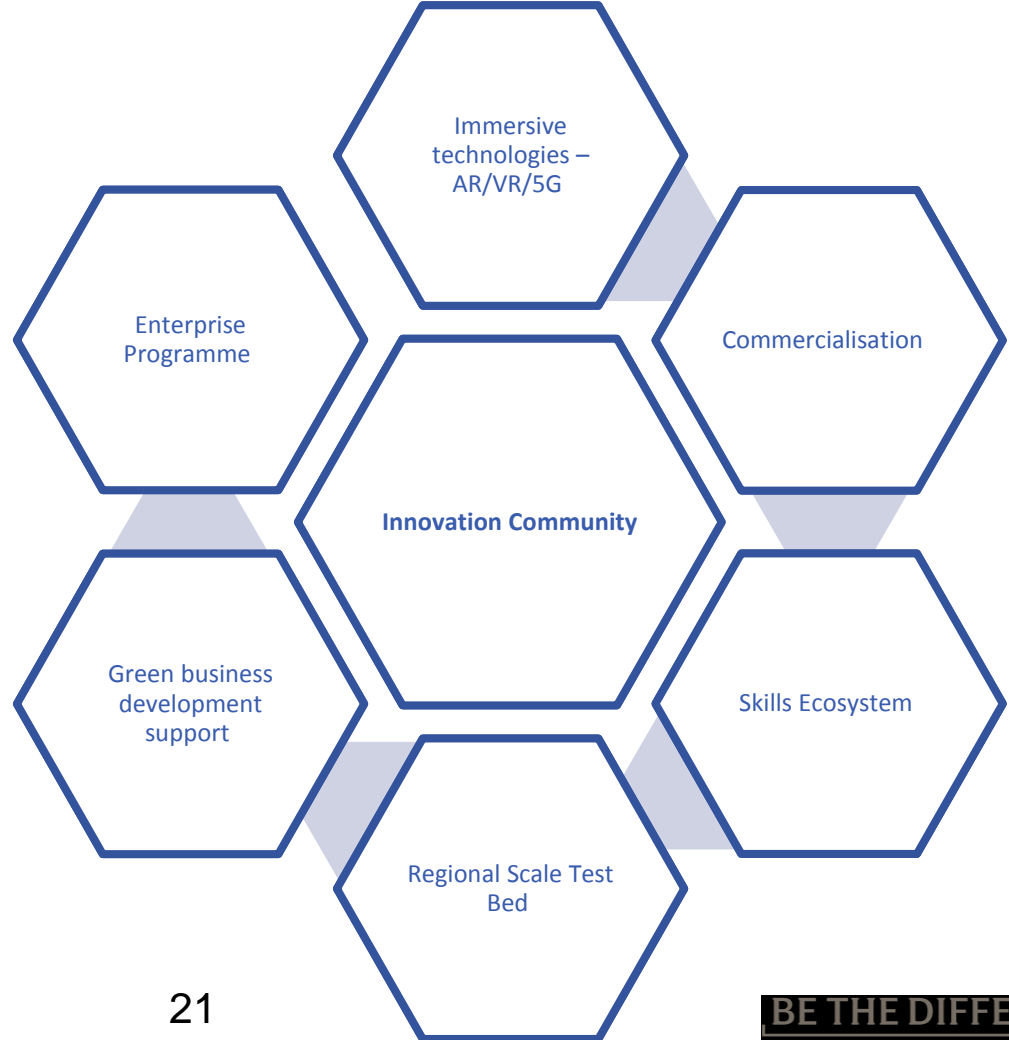
## Forth ERA



- A world leading facility for system scale environmental monitoring, management and digital twinning, combining sensor and satellite technologies
- Data Centre and High Performance Computing enabling:
  - Analytics, modelling and AI
  - Visualisation and immersive applications
  - Skills development and training
- Multiple private business, enterprise, and public sector applications
- Large company partnerships, R&D programme funds, and investment
- Capability to extend to other research and development areas (sustainable ageing, health and social care)

# SIEC Business Accelerator

Service delivery programme



## Young Pathfinders



- Organising and presenting the voice of young people in our community
- Engaging in and helping shape the work of SIEC
- Supporting school-based environmental initiatives and projects
- Contributing to Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- Year 1 commencing October 2021 (launch of SIEC)
- 12 places for pupils in S3 and above
- Inclusive opportunities
- Supported by Clackmannanshire Council, schools and the University



## Working together to deliver:

- ❖ Our net zero future
- ❖ Globally leading technologies, products and services - made in Clackmannanshire
- ❖ Inclusive economic growth
- ❖ Higher value jobs
- ❖ Shared prosperity
- ❖ Inclusive skills ecosystem



## **SIEC Young Pathfinder Launch – Note of discussion**

### **What do you want to achieve from the YP programme?**

- Spread the awareness around school – give everyone the chance to be heard
- Get a better understanding of climate change
- Having the knowledge, you need to make change
- Hard to make change if you don't know how or what
- Promoting action to take place
- Using SIEC to use and promote education
- Take it out to the community
- Skills, awareness, apprenticeships
- Surveys – find out what people want and what others are doing
- Learn from other regions – i.e., what is Glasgow doing
- Primary school programme – establish a primary engagement programme that can roll out to primaries – leading to skills pathways
- Perspectives and awareness – help our school get the bigger picture
- Help turn our ideas into reality
- Learn from others
- Valuable platform – individual voices can be heard, together real actions can be made
- Communication and supporting each other
- Meetings of local communities
- Real reasons not just morale obligations
- Ask local communities (seek sources when looking at problems) e.g., how can we help communities to stop using plastic
- Innovate using apps
- Integrate knowledge of climate change in our daily lives

### **How do you want to be involved in SIEC?**

- Helpful to have a small group and video it so it can be taught in class
- Develop eco-friendly pilots and solutions – e.g., litter picks, 1 day meat free (start small and build)
- SIEC can help with resources and bridge between schools, local communities and bring incentives into school
- Come and spend a day in School
- Really important that we represent the voice of much larger groups and that everyone can get involved. Across schools too, so we can learn from each other.
- We want to be able to make a change
- Involve different ideas with different people
- Collaborate with businesses and understand how things need to change
- Share knowledge
- Create subgroups around themes and communicate between them. “Themed think tanks”
- Create environmental focus groups in school
- Lead surveys and gather data

### **What could SIEC offer you and your peers?**

- Take ideas to local council, councillors and meet with local MSPs
- Use Google Classroom for meet ups

- Give us the opportunities – resources, collaboration, and ideas
- Can we visit affected areas and understand better the impacts on others?
- Can we organise field trips – also litter pick up sessions, volunteer days
- Can we meet scientists and learn from them – can we get the chance to speak to and with them
- Can the pathfinders lead to graduate programmes?
- Can we create different areas of focus and have different people speak to us?
- It would be great to have subgroups and meet different professionals
- Can we be educated in different career paths and understand the job space and job opportunities better and understand how we can get involved!

**Tell us what would work well in setting up the Pathfinder programme?**

- Needs a website
- Idea generation – collate and share ideas
- Understand small things we can all do
- Map out all the opportunities and “break them down”
- Awareness is key. The whole school needs to know. We want to raise awareness
- Get involved in PSE classes
- Access all ages of learners – High School pupils can go into primary schools and deliver lessons
- Make things as easy as possible to understand
- Host competitions
- We want help in turning ideas into reality
- Please don't just share big documents, simplify, and make things easy and factual
- Can we develop and run pilots in our schools?
- Duke of Edinburgh, Accreditation, Volunteering and Skills