

Creation of Glasgow City Region Chef Academy etc approved.

8 There was submitted a report by Councillor Stephen McCabe, Leader of Inverclyde Council and Tourism and Destination Marketing portfolio lead, regarding the proposed creation of a Glasgow City Region Chef Academy to support employment and training opportunities in the tourism and hospitality sector, advising

- (1) that Skills Development Scotland had identified a skills gap in the number of trained chefs and this downward trend had been compounded by the pandemic, with the tourism and hospitality sectors being among the hardest hit and as the tourism sector starts to re-open, businesses had reported major challenges in recruiting staff;
- (2) that the Scottish Government had invested an additional £100m in 2020/21 as a labour market and skills response to the pandemic, followed by a further £125m in 2021/22 and much of this additional funding had been directed towards young people aged 18 to 24 years, through the Young Persons Guarantee, which Member Authorities of Glasgow City Region had received funding from;
- (3) that fewer Modern Apprenticeships had been employed during the pandemic with many others made redundant and in a direct response to the shortage of chefs and kitchen assistants, it was proposed that a City Region Chef Academy be established creating 40 subsidised Modern Apprenticeship places for young people and adults across the City Region and these proposals had been shaped following consultation with a number of organisations;
- (4) it was proposed that Inverclyde Council serve as the Lead Authority, undertaking the project management role for the Chef Academy project and this proposal had been endorsed by the Chief Executive's Group on 29th July 2021;
- (5) of the costs and funding for the Chef Academy project; and
- (6) of the next steps.

After consideration and having heard Councillor McCabe, the Cabinet

- (a) agreed that
 - (i) Inverclyde Council would serve as the Lead Authority to co-ordinate and manage the delivery of the project; and
 - (ii) Inverclyde Council and the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office would carry out further work to develop the governance, finance and delivery arrangements for the project, as detailed in the report; and

- (b) approved the funding arrangements for the project, as detailed in the report, including the use of £50,000 from the Regional Recovery and Renewal Fund and £50,000 from within the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office budget.