

£500m Falkirk Gateway vision will create 5,000 jobs

Latest development in the My Future's in Falkirk initiative announced.

Detailed plans for one of Scotland's largest mixed use developments, the Falkirk Gateway, have been revealed by Macdonald Estates Plc and Hammerson plc.

The 300 acre Falkirk Gateway site is a key project in the innovative **My Future's in Falkirk** Regeneration Initiative. The site will be set within a new woodland park adjacent to the new Falkirk Community Stadium.

The Developers propose to create 500,000sq ft of business space, a 250,000sq ft retail park, hotel and conference facilities and a commercial hub centred on a new marina serving the Forth & Clyde Canal.

It is anticipated that the scheme will generate up to 3,000 permanent jobs - in addition to 2,000 construction jobs.

Welcoming the proposals, Councillor David Alexander, Leader of Falkirk Council, said, "Our ambition under the My Future's in Falkirk Initiative is to reposition Falkirk as a prime location for businesses to thrive and prosper.

This significant development will act as a catalyst to transform the image and economy of the Falkirk area and is the most significant milestone so far in our drive to make Falkirk a major centre of investment."

Speaking on behalf of the Development Consortium, Dan Macdonald, Chief Executive of Edinburgh-based Macdonald Estates Plc, said "This has to be the best connected site in Scotland - within half an hour of two major European cities, just 20 minutes drive from a major UK International airport, with excellent motorway and train links and a sea terminal on its doorstep.

"The development will attract office tenants who cannot find appropriate accommodation in Edinburgh or Glasgow but expect the international transit links and working environment associated with major hubs."

Charlene O'Connor, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley "This development is the most significant project within the My Future's in Falkirk initiative so far. It builds on the significant investment we and our partners have already made under this initiative and it's encouraging to see the level of confidence now being shown in Falkirk's future by the private sector."

Work is expected to commence later this year and the scheme developed out in a number of phases over the next 8-10 years.

Falkirk Gateway is a Consortium of Edinburgh based Macdonald Estates Plc and London based Hammerson plc. The Gateway partners are Falkirk Council, Callendar Estates, Falkirk College of Further and Higher Education and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley. ■

My Future's in Falkirk is the ambitious £23 million plan to transform the Falkirk area into a thriving, diverse and modern economy, helping local businesses to grow, attracting both companies and visitors into the area and creating and maintaining jobs for local people.

Evolved from the Falkirk Action Plan, **My Future's in Falkirk** is led by Falkirk Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley and BP with financial support from the European Regional Development Fund. The ten year objectives of the plan include:


- to create up to 4250 new jobs;
- to stimulate up to £200 million of additional investment;
- to grow local companies;
- to relocate a diverse range of new businesses to the area;
- to generate up to £50 million a year for the Falkirk economy.

The pioneering plan focuses on a number of projects which fall into four key themes; **Experience Falkirk** (living, working and visiting Falkirk), **Innovation Falkirk** (exploiting and developing new technologies), **Successful Falkirk** (creating capacity for business growth) and **Networked Falkirk** (exploiting physical and digital connections to the world).



IMAGE: ALLAN MURRAY ARCHITECTS.





Virtual training academy will place Scotland at forefront of e-skills development

A pilot project launched recently aims to boost the skills of the country's e-workers and position Scotland as a globally attractive location for ICT businesses.

The new e-Skills Academy will enable Scottish businesses to access the very latest in ICT technology and training that helps companies to manage change. It will also equip participants with the skills needed to succeed in the e-business climate.

The Academy features a state-of-the-art facility at Falkirk College which participants can access as well as an online services that allows virtual training to take place.

The Scottish e-Skills Academy is led by the Universities of Strathclyde and Paisley

with the support of Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, My Future's in Falkirk, Falkirk College, learndirect Scotland, the Scottish Chambers of Commerce and the European Union under the Objective3 ESF programme.

Training is available for a number of job roles including sales / marketing engineers, e-business engineers, system administrators, network engineers and application developers within sectors such as finance, manufacturing and application development being key targets.

The Academy aims to widen job creation opportunities in business and e-technology sectors as well as position Scotland as centre of e-business excellence and a globally attractive location for ICT companies.

Speaking at the launch, Hugh Aitken, vice president of Worldwide Customer Fulfilment at Sun Microsystems, said: *"Technology development is a constant and the ability for people to keep up with the learning process is absolutely critical to our success going forward. The e-skills Academy is an excellent idea and should be encouraged throughout Scotland."*

Up to 120 people will be able to access training through the e-Skills Academy in its first year. A limited number of free places are available for qualifying companies and discounted places are also available.

To find out more go to www.e-skillsacademy.com

update Experience Falkirk

There are lots of ambitious projects making the area a better place to live, work and visit. And they include the Bo'ness Town/ Foreshore regeneration and Canal Corridor project.

Foreshore to the fore

■ The £150 million regeneration of historic Bo'ness on the River Forth has taken a great step forward with a major £1m cash boost.

The money, from the East of Scotland European Partnership (ESEP), will be used for crucial work on the 400-year-old harbour infrastructure.

The £1m award is vital in realising one of the most exciting and innovative regeneration projects in Scotland. When it's complete, the



Bo'ness foreshore will boast a marina, waterside restaurants and bars, a hotel and 700 new harbour front apartments and townhouses.

Canal changing for better

■ Falkirk's canal corridor is changing for the better, with huge potential for social, economic and environmental regeneration thanks to the restoration of Scotland's Lowland Canals.

The Millennium Link, with its centrepiece of the Falkirk Wheel, has already made its mark. Now, a number of new developments are under way, and two are making significant progress: the former Rosebank Distillery site and Redding Park.

Work has started on an exciting mixed-use development at Rosebank Distillery. This



From left to right: Liam Fennell (Executive Director Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley), Hugh Aitken (Vice President of Worldwide Customer Fulfilment at Sun Microsystems), Raymond O'Hare (Director Microsoft Scotland), Tom Shields (Chairman of Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley). PHOTO: SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE FORTH VALLEY

includes stylish canal-side apartments, and the conversion of the listed distillery buildings into offices and a pub/restaurant.

Westpoint Homes is creating 72 homes on the site, with a number of penthouses planned, as well as 2 and 3-bedroom apartments. Stephen Cullis, managing director of Westpoint Homes is extremely enthusiastic about the site. He said: *"This is our first development in Falkirk, and we were attracted by the strength of the local economy and the town's on-going regeneration. We believe strongly that this is a notable addition to a thriving local community and ties in with Falkirk Council's strategy of encouraging development adjacent to the canal."*

Meanwhile, adding to the sense of renewal and optimism in the area, site preparation and remediation has begun at Redding

The programme has three elements: the Science Squad; Science, Education and Technology (SET) Fair; and Scottish Science and Technology Network (SSTN).

The SET Fair, held annually, takes place over 11 days and covers topics such as electronic engineering, civil engineering and paint making. Around 2,000 Primary Seven children from 51 schools throughout the Falkirk area took part in this year's event. Neil Weir, senior public affairs advisor at BP Grangemouth, said: *"The My Future's in Falkirk initiative is really driving the promotion of science and technology in schools in the Falkirk area and encouraging pupils to look to the future and embrace 21st century technology. Schools into Technology promotes science and technology as a career to children."*

Maureen Campbell from Falkirk Council added: *"This type of programme is a*

March means the Stadium now meets the minimum Scottish Premier League criteria, and next season it will host the country's top names.

Meanwhile, it's a venue that's proving popular with local people. During Easter 300 boys and girls took part in the first ever Easter Football School at the Stadium's new outdoor Soccer Centre. So, Falkirk Community Stadium scores in three ways - it's fit for the best in Scotland, it's a focal point for the local sporting community, and it's helping attract and generate new business in the area.

Networked Falkirk

The physical and transport connections enjoyed by the Falkirk area are second to none - but we're developing great people and business connections, too.

Business network established

■ Mark Twain said: "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

In modern business that means networking with people like you who have high hopes and aspirations, be inspired by what they're doing, exchange ideas and learn from them.

That's just what hundreds of businesses in the Falkirk area are now doing regularly.

Over 650 businesses have joined the Falkirk Business Panel and are helping to shape the area's future prosperity.

At recent events panel members heard all about the ground-breaking range of projects underway as part of the My Future's in Falkirk regeneration initiative.

There's a real excitement about the Falkirk area right now, and local businesses recognise that opportunities are presenting themselves all the time. The panel members realise that spotting those opportunities is easier when you're part of a thriving, knowledgeable network.



Park, following the approval of planning permission for new homes and canal-side commercial development.

Innovation Falkirk

In Falkirk we're enthusiastic about supporting the development of new technologies. The unique Schools into Technology programme is allowing local school children to embrace technology for their own benefit and that of future employers.

Pioneering programme

■ Schools into Technology is a pioneering programme, supported by BP Grangemouth, that's bringing the latest technological advancements into local education.

tremendous example of how people and businesses in the Falkirk area are working together to broaden the skills base and create positive change for the whole community."

Successful Falkirk

The area at the Gateway next to Falkirk Community Stadium is providing prime new business space. And the Stadium itself is already a hit locally and nationally.

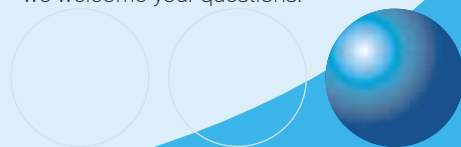
Stadium scores

■ The fantastic new multi-use Falkirk Community Stadium is the talk of the area, and Scotland's sporting community. The completion of the north stand at the end of

Visit our website

www.myfuturesinfalkirk.co.uk - to find out more about all the exciting projects going on in the area.

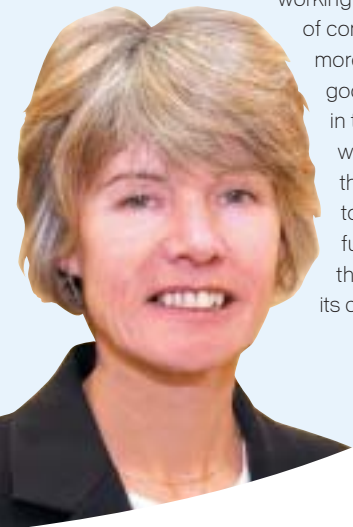
Get in touch with the named contacts - we welcome your questions.



Have your say... **LINDA McKAY** MBE PRINCIPAL, FALKIRK COLLEGE

“As Principal of Falkirk College, involved in **My Future’s in Falkirk** since the inception of the action plan, I am really encouraged to say how much progress has been made within such a short period of time including the physical changes to the local environment such as the creation of the Falkirk Wheel, new Stadium and the new landscape through the Falkirk Gateway.

Sometimes it is about also seeing how much is happening in Falkirk as a result of partnership working or just good lines of communication but more often it is about good things going on in the College and we would like to think that it is continuing to build an exciting future for Falkirk in the way it goes about its day to day business.



Success for us is the success of our individual students as they achieve their qualifications, move into jobs or further study and about 10,000 learners from Falkirk are doing exactly that!

We also like to think that the College can celebrate its own achievement and the pride it has over the outcome of a recent HMLe review that was published last June, in which the College was rated at the highest-level ever achieved by any FE College in Scotland. But we know, we must keep working at it and don’t take this kind of success for granted.

As an organisation, we are also involved in a major development with our sister college, Clackmannan College. Jim Wallace, the Deputy First Minister has recently approved our merger proposal and Forth Valley College of Further and Higher Education will come to fruition on 1 August 2005.

I am delighted that the proposal to merge has been approved, and that the commitment and support of so many people over recent months has produced such a positive outcome. I am convinced that Forth Valley College will be a great success, serving its students well,

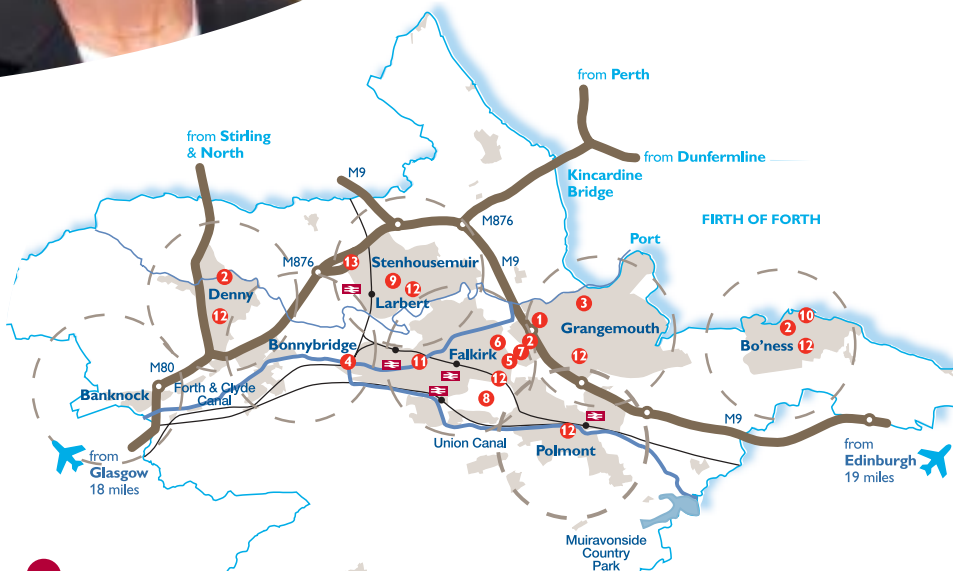
playing a key role for businesses in Forth Valley and beyond, and building on the existing strengths of the two predecessor organisations to become a leading college in Scotland’s further education sector.

We have a clear vision as to the variety of college services we want to provide for the communities of Forth Valley and the people of Scotland, which includes our aim to maintain a strong local presence, provide a mixed range of provision across all three sites, improve progression pathways for students and improve buildings and facilities in all three campuses.

The College wishes the My Future’s in Falkirk initiative every success and looks forward to continuing to work with MFIF and together with other key partners strive to develop the Falkirk Community and help it realise its true potential.” ■

LEFT: LINDA MCKAY

Current Action Areas



KEY TO MAP

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Grangemouth Technology Park 2 Business Incubator Activity 3 Distribution Activity 4 Falkirk Wheel 5 Falkirk Community Stadium 6 Falkirk Gateway 7 EcoPark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 National Festival Site - Callendar Park 9 Stenhousemuir Town Centre Regeneration 10 Bo’ness Town/Foreshore Development 11 Canal Development 12 Schools into Technology 13 Glenbervie Business Park |
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www.myfuturesinfalkirk.co.uk

location, location, location



JIM CAMERON

Packaging Director, Whyte & Mackay

1 Why did you decide to locate in the Falkirk area?

Transport links - road and docks are well developed: good relationships with the community and an existing factory with good employees that will give us continuity in skills

2 What percentage of your workforce live in the area?

The majority of our employees live around the Grangemouth/Falkirk/Bo’ness area

3 What’s your best piece of advice to someone locating a business in the Falkirk area?

Talk discuss and communicate at the earliest opportunity - to the local council/planners/ community council/MSP/MP/residents etc

4 How would you describe Falkirk’s business community in three words?

Enthusiastic, helpful, creative

5 What would you like to see happen in the area in the next five years?

Development of a rail infrastructure

