

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	City Development
<u>Date:</u>	6 January 2023
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Community Wealth Building – Business Gateway Community Business Support
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UPDATE:

In response to the decision sheet for the Finance and Resource Committee on 7 December 2022, item 11.1 (ii), please find below requested information relating to Business Gateway’s Community Advisor post.

Since April 2022, Business Gateway has dedicated an officer to Community Business Support in priority areas in the City and Aberdeenshire. For the city, this includes Torry, Northfield, Tillydrone and the Job Centre at Ebury House, Dee Street.

The figures in the table below relate to progress in the priority areas from the post commencement date of April 2022 until 30 November 2022. The first two columns relate to Aberdeen City.

	Aberdeen City Nov 2022	Aberdeen City Year to Date	Aberdeenshire Nov 2022	Aberdeenshire Year to Date
Pre-Start Engagements	21	196	9	52
New Business Engagements	9	57	6	43
Established Business Engagements	3	17	2	16
Starts Supported	7	37	2	21
New Clients into Business Gateway	1	24	2	30

It should be noted that Business Gateway work in these areas is not limited to the Community Business Support role. Other BG advisors with a wider geographic region may have engagements, run events, support start-ups etc, within the same communities.

Due to demand, the Advisor is now spending 10 days per month (increased from 8) in the priority areas in the City and Aberdeenshire. This allocation will be reviewed at the end of March 2023 to understand impact and results.

Activities of the Community Business Support role include 'Meet the Advisor' drop-ins, networking sessions, one-on-one meetings and workshops. Local accessible venues are used, including Torry Skills Centre, Tillydrone Community Campus and Cummings Park Centre.