



<b>Title of Report:</b>	Go Succeed
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure and Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tues 18th March 2025
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	Decision
<b>To be discussed In Committee YES/NO</b>	No

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Local Economy
Outcome	Council contributes to increasing business start-up and survival rates
Lead Officer	Head of Service - Prosperity & Place

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£165,857(includes £42,102 contingency provision for 6-month PMO resource extension)
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1102/30184
Staffing Costs	Within budget

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on Go Succeed, the 11 council Entrepreneurship Support Service funded by UKSPF, via the NI Investment Plan.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 Members are reminded that, in March 2023, Council approved participation in the NI Enterprise Support Service until the end of March 2025, to continue to meet its statutory obligations in respect of supporting local businesses to 'start' and 'grow'. Go Succeed service delivery pillars are:

1. Engage;
2. Foundation;
3. Enabling Growth; and
4. Accelerated Scaling.

2.2 The service represents a continuum of support from pre-start support, through start-up and the growth journey thereafter and to transition to Invest NI support and/or acceleration of high-growth potential at any point. Go Succeed also provides funding for businesses via delivery of a grant of up to £4,000 at a 70% intervention rate, available to eligible businesses via the Foundation or Growth stages of the service.

2.3 NI councils have delivered the service since November 2023 and it is the primary mechanism to support local entrepreneurs to 'start', 'grow' and 'scale' their businesses. Governance is overseen by the SOLACE Economic Development Group.

2.4 NI Councils have now received the Commission from UKSPF seeking an application to support local entrepreneurs and businesses, for the period 2025-2026, via Go Succeed.

2.5 The indicative fund is £9.2 million which represents a cut of 8%. The service delivery budget will be maintained and deductions achieved via adjustment across management and supporting architecture, where costs have reduced since the service has mobilised.

2.6 UKSPF has confirmed that they will scrutinise spend across all NI programmes on a quarterly basis and, should additional monies become available, Go Succeed can bid for enhancement in-year. Go Succeed is also required by the funder to include additional provision for Economically Inactive within the 2025/26 application, to support individuals overcome barriers and take steps into self-employment. In Causeway Coast and Glens, we will explore opportunities via LMP entrepreneurship activities.

## **3.0 Service Delivery**

3.1 The programme is delivered in Causeway Coast and Glens by:

- **Engage and Foundation** – Enterprise NI and Partners via local Enterprise Agencies
- **Growth and Scaling** – Deirdre Fitzpatrick and Associates.

3.2 Additionally, regional contracts for supporting architecture as follows:

- **Tele-handling** – Like Us NE
  - **Marketing & Communications** – Ardmore
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- 3.3 In parallel, a regional Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is utilised to underpin all programme delivery and ensure GDPR compliance.
- 3.4 Procurement of the service included provision for Councils to extend/renew contracts up to a further 30 months (1 year + 1 year + 6 months). Total Contract Period including all extension options is 4 years (48 months).

#### **4.0 Local Outputs**

- 4.1 In Causeway Coast and Glens, to date:
- 127 grants awarded to businesses totalling £419,000;
  - 12,723 individuals engaged via Community Outreach activity;
  - 301 businesses registered for 'Growth' support;
  - 382 individuals registered for 'Start' support;
  - 73 early-stage businesses registered for 'Foundation' support;
  - 628 individuals attended Go Succeed Masterclasses;
  - 4 peer support networks in tourism & hospitality, food & drink, creative sector and for female founders; and
  - 3 high-growth businesses supported to 'Scale'.
- 4.2 Members are reminded that current programme delivery continues to financial year-end.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to council match funding of Go Succeed in 2025-2026 totalling £165,857 – this includes contingency of £42,102 for a 6-month resource extension should challenges with future funding arise. Core match-funding for the service from Council equates to £123,755, maintained at the same level as 2024/25 council contribution.
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