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### **The HALO Scotland joins forces with Barclays**

The HALO Scotland, today announces it will be partnering with Barclays at its Kilmarnock urban regeneration site, which will seek to develop entrepreneurship and the employability skills of young people and adults across Scotland.

The collaboration will see The HALO working with the bank's local business relationship managers, High Growth & Entrepreneurs specialists and the LifeSkills created with Barclays programme, which aims to provide 10 million young people and adults with skills to move forward into the workplace, by 2022.

Barclays and HALO will explore opportunities to:

- Enhance HALO's employability initiatives for individuals in Ayrshire - irrespective of age - through LifeSkills created with Barclays, access to education and application of digital technology.
- Help start-up and scale-up entrepreneurial businesses to capitalise on growth opportunities.
- Facilitate connectivity and collaboration with other businesses locally and across the UK.

Today's announcement builds on Barclays' long-standing commitment to Scotland. The bank recently announced a new state-of-the-art campus will be launched at Buchanan Wharf in Glasgow to accommodate up to 2,500 additional people and doubling Barclays' current workforce in Scotland.

The HALO Kilmarnock is an imaginative, innovative and inspirational regeneration initiative located on the site of the former Johnnie Walker bottling plant in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. It is being shaped as a multi-faceted brown-field regeneration that will create a unique urban park with a dynamic commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter.

Marie Macklin CBE, Founder and Executive Chair of The HALO Urban Regeneration Company, said: “In partnering with The HALO, Barclays is supporting an urban regeneration initiative that will provide young people and adults across Ayrshire and Scotland with the skills needed to thrive in the digital age. It will be fascinating to see Barclays utilise its expertise at The HALO and support the generating of economic growth, innovation, enterprise and digital skills development.”

Stuart Brown, Barclays Head of Business Banking in Scotland commented: “We look forward to working with HALO and providing our expertise and support - specifically around the upskilling of individuals and providing help to create and grow businesses locally.”

## **Ends**

### **Further enquiries:**

#### **The HALO**

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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **The HALO**

The HALO is an imaginative, innovative and inspirational regeneration initiative to revitalise the centre of Kilmarnock and support the growth and resilience of the Ayrshire economy.

It will create a dynamic commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter of the town, including a unique Enterprise and Innovation Centre.

This multi-faceted regeneration of a 23-acre site, formerly the home of Johnnie Walker, the world's leading Scotch whisky, will generate over £120m of GDP annually for the Scottish economy. The development will stimulate over 1,800 jobs.

For more information visit: <https://halo-projects.com/>

## **Barclays**

Barclays is a transatlantic consumer and wholesale bank offering products and services across personal, corporate and investment banking, credit cards and wealth management, with a strong presence in our two home markets of the UK and the US. With over 325 years of history and expertise in banking, Barclays operates in over 40 countries and employs 82,000 people. Barclays moves, lends, invests and protects money for customers and clients worldwide.

For further information about Barclays, please visit our website [www.barclays.com](http://www.barclays.com)

## **About LifeSkills**

The motivation behind the LifeSkills programme is to inspire millions of young people and equip them with the key skills to move forward into the 21st century work place. LifeSkills brings together educators, businesses, young people and parents to achieve this, as increasingly young people need to leave education not only with appropriate academic results but with the skills that we know businesses need now and in the future as technology reshapes our working world.

Educators, including schools, colleges, universities, charities and youth groups, are provided with more than 60 hours of free curriculum linked employability resources, through videos, quick fire activities, interactive tools and full lesson plans to teach young people, as well as dozens of interactive tools for young people to learn in their own time or in conjunction with their parents through our dedicated parents section. The programme focuses on teaching skills such as CV writing, interview skills, networking, problem solving, creativity, resilience, communication and managing online reputation.

LifeSkills also provides free support to UK businesses to help improve access to work experience opportunities – giving young people the key skills and experience they need.

Already LifeSkills is raising the aspirations of young people as they feel more confident about the future and we are seeing evidence that young people are using what they have learnt to secure employment and manage their finances more effectively. More than 6.7 million young people have already participated in the programme, with plans to support an additional 10 million people between 2018 and 2022, through the expansion of the programme to all ages.