

northayrshireforbusiness.com

A local community  
serving national  
and international  
markets

More than a business location

This is North Ayrshire



Situated on the West coast of Scotland, 30 minutes from Glasgow city centre, North Ayrshire is a great choice as a business location. Full of opportunities that offer great prospects for new and relocating businesses; with access to markets, skilled workers, and world class business support for a wide range of industries.

## This is North Ayrshire

### Two international airports

North Ayrshire is within close proximity to two international airports, Prestwick (15 minutes drive) and Glasgow (30 minutes drive).

Over 400 flights depart each week from Glasgow to London (Heathrow, London City, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London Stansted).



### International markets

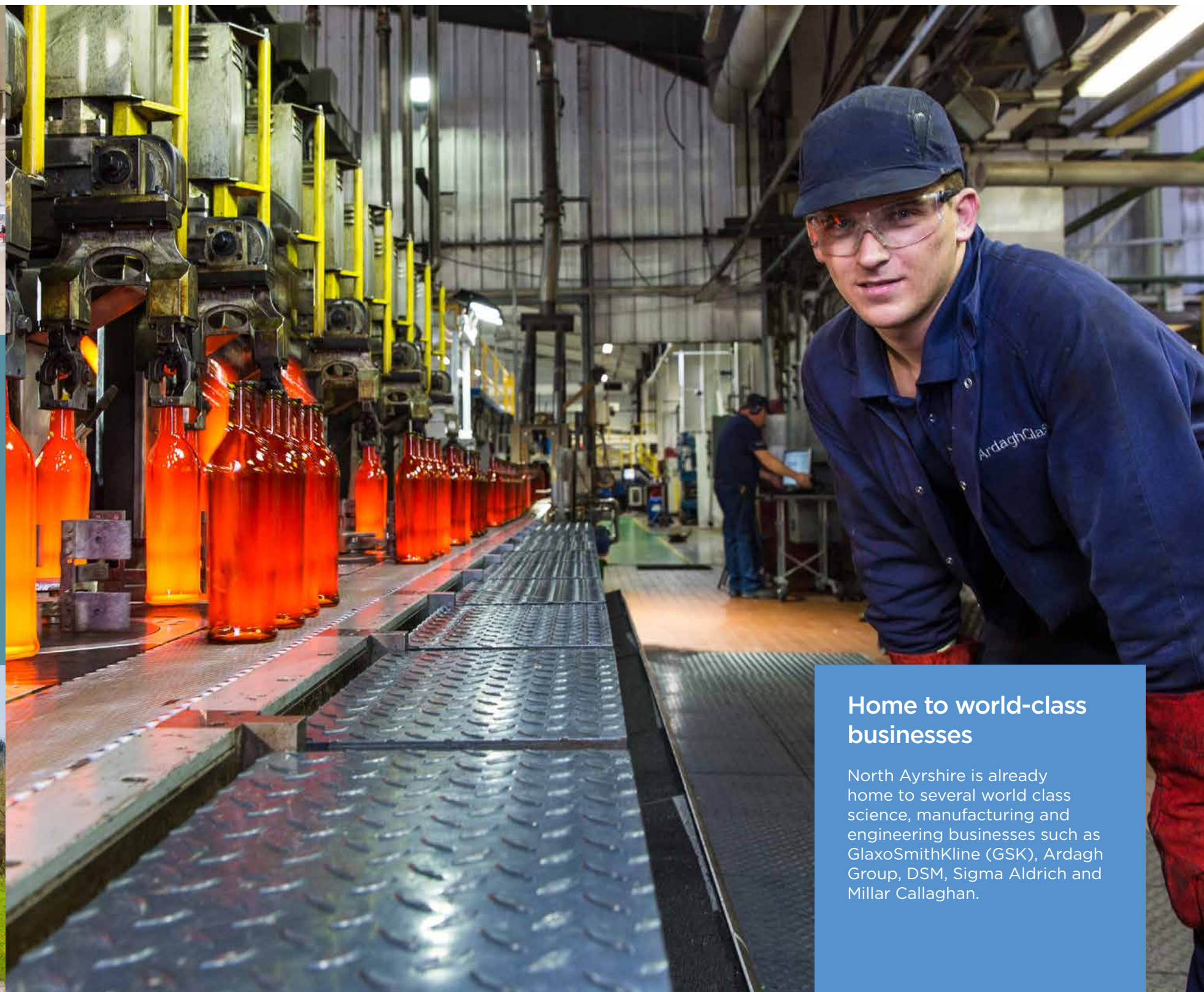
Offering access to serve UK, Irish, European and American markets the deep water port at Hunterston offers ship-to-ship transfer, deep sea, road and rail connectivity.

With two rail terminals and its own rail link to the Scottish and UK rail network, complementing its onsite cargo handling capabilities - Hunterston is a prime location for international markets.



### Access to major motorway networks

North Ayrshire's road networks provide the area with immediate access to Glasgow city region and links with UK markets.



### Home to world-class businesses

North Ayrshire is already home to several world class science, manufacturing and engineering businesses such as GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Ardagh Group, DSM, Sigma Aldrich and Millar Callaghan.

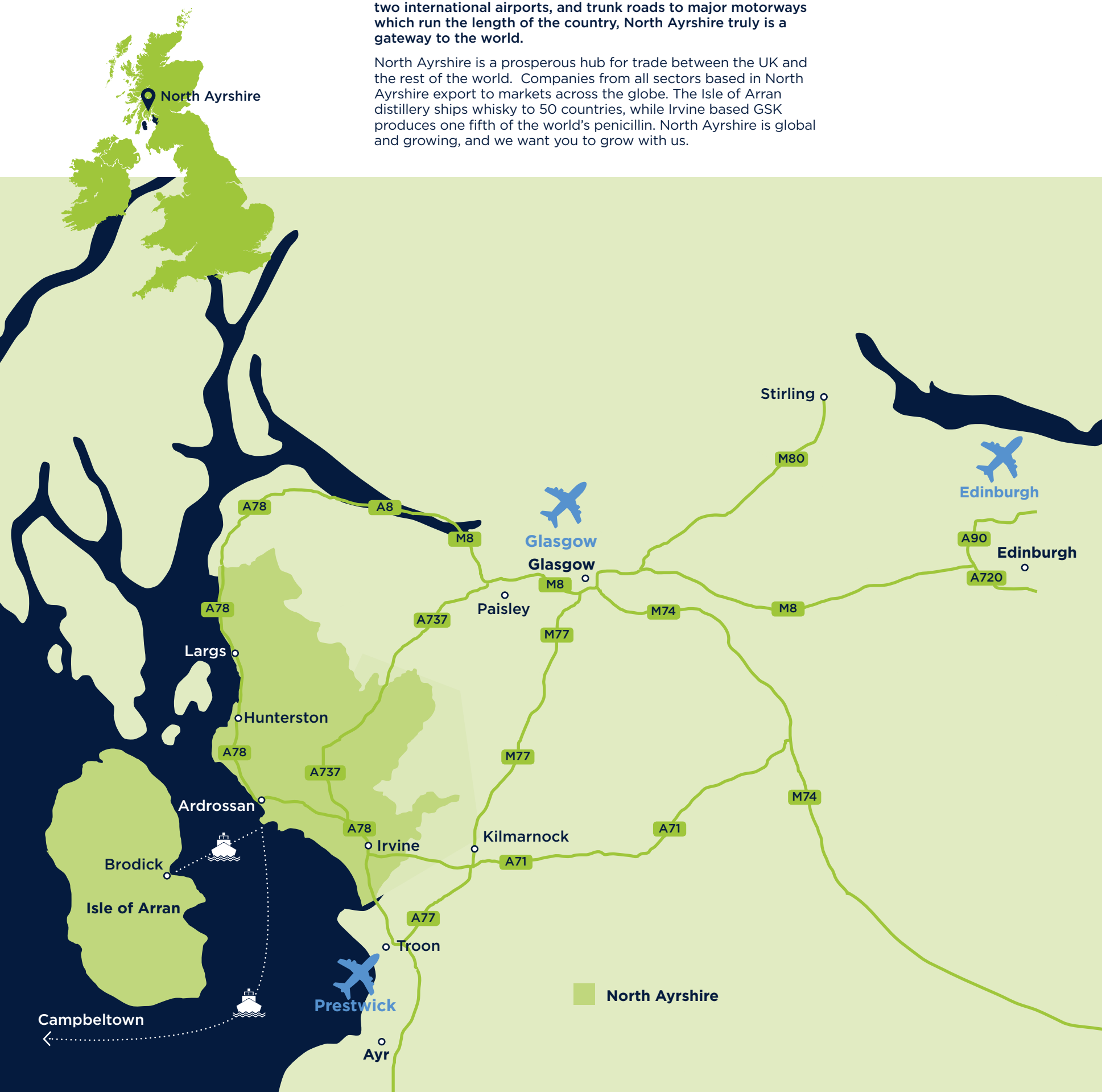


## Well connected

### Easily accessible by road, rail and sea

With high traffic sea ports to Europe and beyond, easy access to two international airports, and trunk roads to major motorways which run the length of the country, North Ayrshire truly is a gateway to the world.

North Ayrshire is a prosperous hub for trade between the UK and the rest of the world. Companies from all sectors based in North Ayrshire export to markets across the globe. The Isle of Arran distillery ships whisky to 50 countries, while Irvine based GSK produces one fifth of the world's penicillin. North Ayrshire is global and growing, and we want you to grow with us.



## This is North Ayrshire

### Excellent rail links

With rail links along the coast and over 1000 passenger trains weekly from Glasgow, North Ayrshire has excellent, frequent rail connections for goods and people.

A rail hub also connects Hunterston Port to the grid.



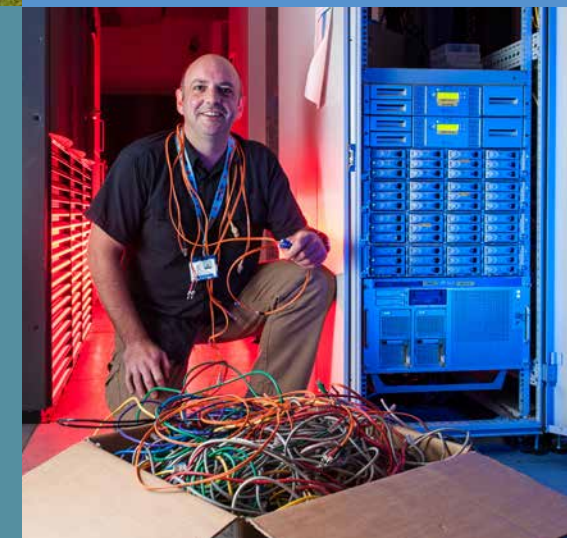
### Access to talent

There are almost two million people within an hour's drive of North Ayrshire.

North Ayrshire has four universities within a one hour drive: University of the West of Scotland, University of Glasgow, Strathclyde University and Glasgow Caledonian University.

### Digital connectivity

We recognise the importance of digital connectivity to ensure you are globally connected. By the completion of the Scottish Government's Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme in 2018, 96.14% of North Ayrshire premises will have access to broadband speeds in excess of 24 Mbps. This is above the current UK average of 91% as outlined in Ofcom's Connected Nations report published in December 2017.





World-class support: the best business support in Scotland

North Ayrshire's ground breaking initiative Team North Ayrshire is specifically designed to support businesses looking to invest and grow. Support tailored to individual business need creates the best environment for businesses to flourish.

Team North Ayrshire – business experts from the public and private sector – do some fantastic work helping local firms. They've helped create a really supportive and inclusive environment which puts North Ayrshire in a really strong position to take advantage of potential investments.

This is North Ayrshire



**Sustainable growth**

“The skills that underpin my business have been in my family for generations. As part of the North Ayrshire community we have access to world-leading clinical facilities and benefit from the Scottish Government’s support of the local Life Sciences Enterprise area, while Scotland’s renowned universities provide a highly qualified workforce for our sector.”

*David Richmond, RUA Medical*



**The Ayrshire Engineering Alliance**

Engineering is a key sector in North Ayrshire and the local manufacturing base underpins the wider Scottish and UK economies.

The Alliance aims to increase collaboration at a local, national and global level.

Within the local engineering sectors; the Alliance will support growth by providing business, marketing, and promotional assistance.

**Team North Ayrshire**

Team North Ayrshire has been recognised as an example of best practice by the Scottish Government – and we’re ready to help your business be the best it can.

We have a supportive planning environment with rapid decision making. Our major development planning decisions are made faster than anywhere in Scotland (9.5 weeks compared with an average of 33.6 weeks).



**Supporting investment**

“UPM has been investing in North Ayrshire since 1989. North Ayrshire is an excellent place to do business and all government and investment agencies in the area have been incredibly supportive to our organisation over many years.”

*Gordon McLean, Technical Director, UPM Caledonian*





Ayrshire growth deal

Working with the UK and Scottish Government the North Ayrshire Growth Programme comprises two key aspects – harnessing the area’s natural assets with its West of Scotland coastal location and supporting the development of our key commercial and industrial centres.

i3

i3 is our newest and growing strategic investment location. i3 includes Scotland’s largest Life Science Enterprise area with a range of associated benefits. The North Ayrshire Growth programme will help position North Ayrshire at the forefront of emerging technologies within Digital Automation.



Ardrossan Harbour and North Shore

Ardrossan Harbour has the busiest passenger port in Scotland with millions each year visiting Arran and the Scottish Islands. Significant development proposed will result in new investment in Marine, Commercial, Residential, Public Sector and Industrial infrastructure.



Great Harbour

The Great Harbour includes Irvine Harbourside and the Ardeer Peninsula. Irvine Harbourside is a tourism destination, with a fantastic heritage and retail offering. Home to the Scottish National Maritime Museum, the harbourside also includes a fantastic beach, supporting a range of leisure pursuits. Planned development of the Ardeer Peninsula offers superb opportunities with circa 350 ha of land available for development.



Hunterston

Hunterston is a strategically important site for Scotland and includes 2 nuclear power stations, a national offshore wind turbine test facility and a marine yard. The deep water port includes an impressive 2.5ha dry dock and 300 acres of development land. Key partners at Hunterston include EDF Energy, Peelports and Scottish Enterprise.



Revolutionising industries and shaping the future

Our world-class business support and workforce have attracted and helped support global brands such as GSK, Merck, Booth Welsh, EDF, Ardagh Glass, UPM and many more.

With our infrastructure and connected location, as well as the local collaboration and partnerships possible, the opportunities are endless for businesses to succeed in North Ayrshire.

This is North Ayrshire



Supplying domestic and global markets

The world-class Isle of Arran Distillery produces 400,000 litres of pure alcohol per year and exports its award-winning single malt whisky to 50 countries worldwide.

Manufacturing and engineering

Manufacturing and engineering employment represents 9.8% of all jobs in North Ayrshire, compared to 7.2% in Scotland and 8.1% in UK.

North Ayrshire is home to Booth Welsh, Abacus Valves International, McEvoy Engineering, Millar Callaghan Engineering with a robust supply chain to support new and growing businesses.



Life Sciences

North Ayrshire is home to global leaders in Life Sciences manufacturing generating £500m turnover and £251 GVA per annum.

Our Life Sciences cluster is located at I3 offering the best location in Scotland for Life Sciences manufacturing.

Tourism and hospitality

North Ayrshire and Arran tourism performance generates over 1.7m visits and spend of over £186m.

Our coastline offers residential, marine and leisure investment opportunities at key sites in Irvine and Ardrossan.

With easy access to the islands and the city, North Ayrshire is a well-positioned destination.





**Education and skills**

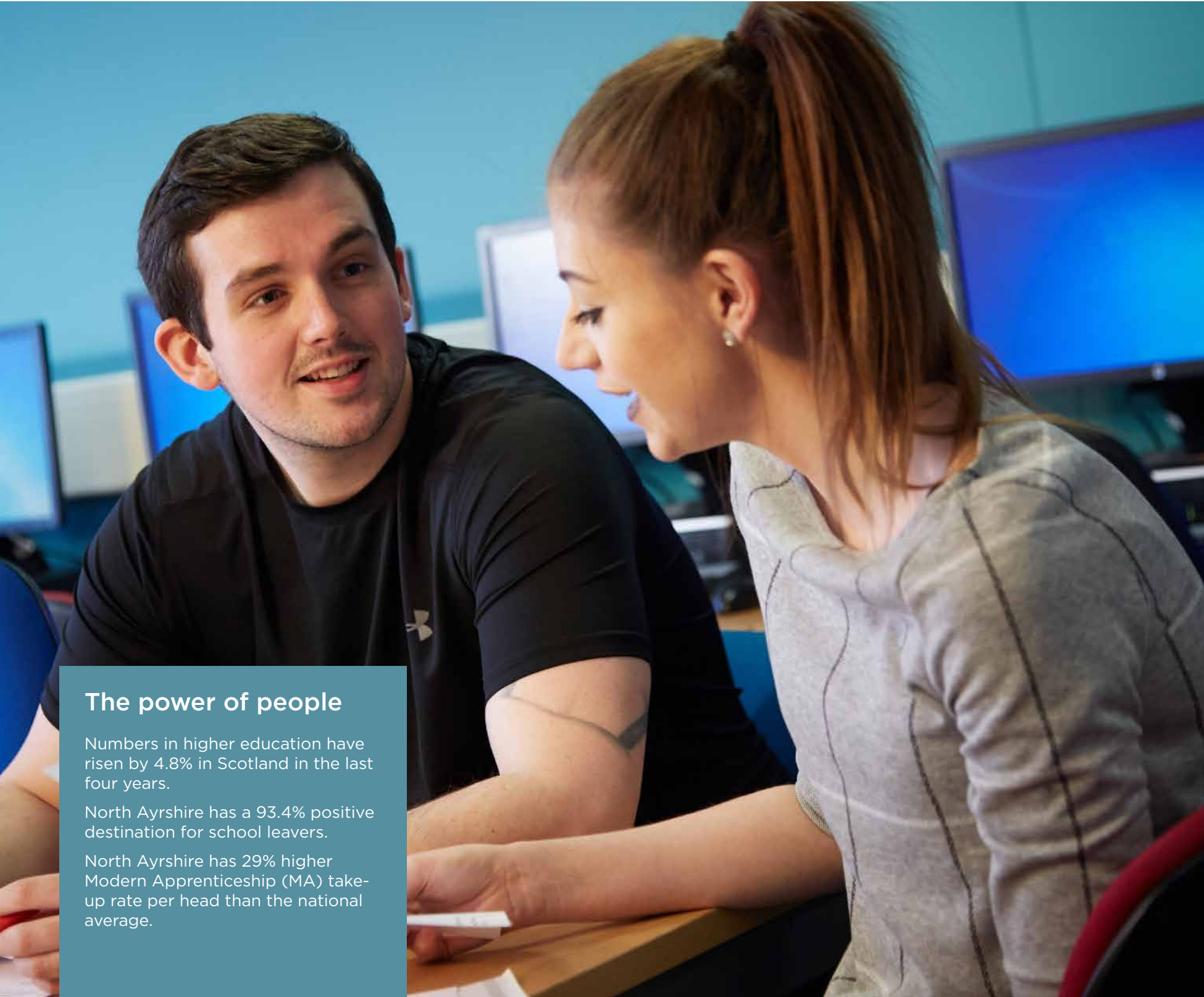
Scotland has the most highly qualified workforce in the UK and North Ayrshire's travel-to-work area covers over 700,000 potential employees.

North Ayrshire has strengths in a number of high productivity sectors including engineering, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and energy.

With four universities within an hour of North Ayrshire and Ayrshire College developing vocational skills our business base has access to highly skilled talent.

The proportion of North Ayrshire residents with degree level qualifications has increased by 33% in the last seven years.

# This is North Ayrshire



**The power of people**

Numbers in higher education have risen by 4.8% in Scotland in the last four years.

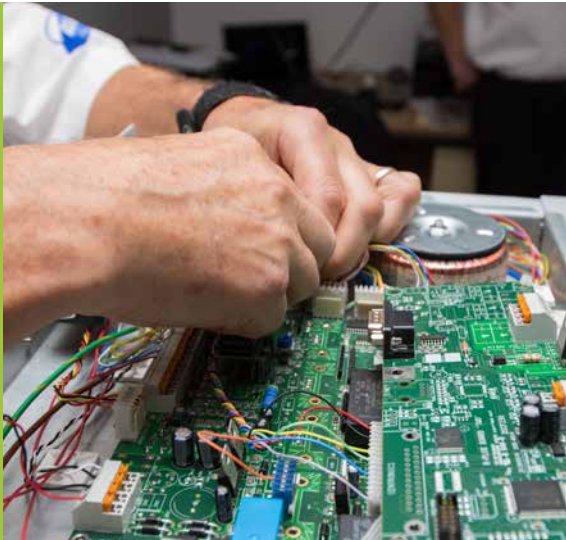
North Ayrshire has a 93.4% positive destination for school leavers.

North Ayrshire has 29% higher Modern Apprenticeship (MA) take-up rate per head than the national average.

**Industrial heritage**

North Ayrshire has an envied history in manufacturing and engineering.

Manufacturing productivity per head GVA is 42% higher than the national average while still maintaining nationally competitive labour costs.



**Education**

North Ayrshire is investing almost £90m in our schools through a 10-year capital investment programme.

Nearby, University of West of Scotland is ranked as the highest in Scotland for both teaching quality and student experience in a range of subjects, including engineering disciplines (The Times/The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018).

**Strategic relationships with colleges and universities**

As part of the Team North Ayrshire partnership, both Further and Higher Education partners help develop bespoke business and industry courses and support programmes that are co-created with our business base.





A welcoming environment

Situated on the beautiful west coast of Scotland, North Ayrshire's rich history and culture draws visitors from around the world, supporting a healthy and growing tourism and hospitality sector.

North Ayrshire is not just a great place to invest but also to live. With access to open countryside, small towns and villages and our wonderful coast and islands, there are great lifestyle choices. We have 21 golf courses on our doorstep including a number of championship links courses, some of the finest sailing waters and a wealth of great places to eat. All of this comes with a choice of great housing.

This is North Ayrshire



More than a business location

A move to North Ayrshire is an investment not only in the future of your business, but also in your family's future. House prices are appreciating faster than the Scottish average, and top-quality education is on your doorstep. The local economy and environment have been shaped by family-owned companies and SMEs, and those locating to the area are quickly embraced as part of the local community.

Leisure

North Ayrshire has a thriving leisure, arts, music and cultural community.

We have award winning restaurants, hotels, music and arts venues and home to the National Sports Training Centre. Our natural assets provide us with access to wonderful outdoor activities from walking, cycling, sailing to climbing our highest mountain Goat Fell - on the Isle of Arran.



Festivals and events

North Ayrshire hosted the Men's and Ladies Scottish Open in 2017 - around 60,000 spectators flocked to North Ayrshire for these flagship events. Scotland's Year of Coast and Waters 2020 brings fresh opportunities for us to celebrate our wonderful coastline and Islands.



Houses to match every need

With house prices 33% lower than the Scottish average and one of the country's most stunning locations, North Ayrshire provides great value for money.





Contact North Ayrshire

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business contact:

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