



Your Moray - Your Environment

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLANNING GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor F Murdoch	The Moray Council (Chair)
Councillor S Cree	The Moray Council
Councillor G Leadbitter	The Moray Council
Councillor I Ogilvie	The Moray Council
Councillor J Russell	The Moray Council
Alex Tait	NHS Grampian

APOLOGIES

David Bale	Scottish Natural Heritage
Alastair Scott	Scottish Natural Heritage
Tom Inglis	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Phil Whitfield	Forestry Commission Scotland

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Development Services, the Environmental Protection Manager, Emma Gordon, Planning Officer (Planning & Development), the Community Planning Officer and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the Council's Greener Strategic Theme Group.

2. ROLE & REMIT OF GROUP & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There was submitted by the Head of Development Services providing the Group with an overview of the former Moray Environmental Forum, background information to allow discussion of the role and remit of the Group and to note ongoing commitments. There was appended to the report as Appendices 1, 2 & 3 respectively, details of national outcomes 12 & 14 from the draft Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which are to be delivered by the Greener Strategic Group, a copy of Moray Council's commitment to 'Scotland's Climate Change Declaration' and an

overview of Community Planning Partners actions on environmental issues, which is to be completed by the individual partners.

The meeting noted that, as well as preparing the Environmental Strategy, the former Forum has been involved in raising awareness through the preparation and launch of a green office guide. It was also noted that in 2007 the Forum, in partnership with CEIM, hosted a very successful award scheme that attracted a lot of media interest. There is an ongoing commitment to host the event again this year and funding has been secured from HIE Moray and the Moray Council.

Details of the proposed role of the Group was set out in Section 3.4 of the report with the strategic, co-ordinating and operational remits, which are common to all the Council's Strategic Theme Groups, set out in Section 3.5 of the report.

The meeting discussed the Group's proposed role in the context of delivering the local outcomes in regard to national outcomes 12 & 14 of the SOA, during which it was noted that the Group would have an input into these for the 2009/2010 SOA. The meeting also noted that there will be a number of issues which will be common to more than one Strategic Theme group, such as reducing car journeys, alternative means of transport, reducing Moray's carbon footprint and litter, therefore there will be a need to consult and co-ordinate joint actions where applicable. Support for current and the establishment of other smaller community/business led initiatives was also discussed with a view to those living and working in Moray taking more personal responsibility and pride in the environment of Moray.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) that the role of the Greener Strategic Group will be to protect and enhance the environment within Moray and to deliver, in consultation with other Community Planning Strategic Groups, outcomes 12 & 14 of the SOA ;
- (ii) to note the remit of the Group;
- (iii) that the main objectives of the Group will be as set out in the report, notwithstanding the need to liaise with other Strategic Groups in regard to cross-cutting issues;
- (iv) that the initial main priorities will be:-
 - (a) complete the overview of the partner's ongoing activities in meeting SOA objectives and other legislation policies and guidance for submission to the next meeting;
 - (b) report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Group on the establishment of a community-wide environmental awards scheme and/or Community Fund, including costs and identification of lead partners to progress the proposals and sponsorship;
 - (c) report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Group on hosting an environmental awareness seminar to be held in early 2009 to be held

(possibly) in the Horizon Scotland Centre, Forres to which representatives from local businesses and CIFAL Findorn be invited to attend;

- (d) to investigate the feasibility and resource implications of establishing carbon and ecological footprints for Moray, taking account of the RAF Bases, to provide baseline information with which to monitor improvements or changes;
- (v) to note that the relevant indicators are in respect of the current SOA and that once signed-off work will commence on the 2009/10 SOA into which the Group will have an input;
- (vi) to note that dog fouling control had been taken up by the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group and that in regard to 'poor standards of litter' the Smarter Strategic be requested to consider the educational aspect of this issue; and
- (vii) to note that the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group dealt with transportation matters and that the opportunities for joint action on travel plans and reduction in car journeys with be discussed with that Group.

3. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to note that Strategic Assessments will be submitted to each of the Community Planning Strategic Theme Groups which will contain evidence-based information from the Single Outcome Agreement and priorities from the previous theme group.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:

- (i) use the Strategic Assessment to assist the Group to establish and monitor it's priorities; and
- (ii) note that the Strategic Assessment for this Group will be submitted to the next meeting.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting noted that the next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 18 September 2008 at 2.00 p.m. within the Committee Room, Moray Council Office, Elgin.