



Your Moray - Your Environment

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

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor F Murdoch
Councillor S Cree
Councillor G Leadbitter
Councillor J Russell
Susan Haslam
Jennifer Heatly
Matt Young

The Moray Council (Chair)
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Scottish Natural Heritage
Forestry Commission Scotland

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Ogilvie, and Alex Tait, NHS Grampian, M Johnson, HIE Moray, David Bale, SNH and Tom Inglis, SEPA.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 19 JUNE 2008

The Minute of the meeting of the Group dated 19 June 2008 was submitted and approved, subject to amendments raised at the meeting.

It was also agreed that given the time between meetings consideration be given to the earlier posting of Theme Group Minutes on the Community Partnership website.

Under reference to Paragraph 2 (vii) of the Minute relating to joint action on travel plans the Group noted that reports are to be submitted to relevant Strategic Groups, if appropriate, following consultation/discussions with other Group Lead Officers.

2. ACTIONS FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING DATED 7 AUGUST 2008

(i) Partnership Agreement

Under reference to Paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 7 August 2008 there was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Moray Council inviting the Group to consider and approve an updated version of the original Partnership Agreement which guides the operation of the Group. A copy of the amended Agreement was appended to the report

Following consideration the Group agreed to:-

- (i) approve the terms of the revised Partnership Agreement, which guides the operation of the Group; and
- (ii) note that similar Partnership Agreements will be created for each of the other Strategic Theme Groups and the Community Engagement Group and that each Agreement will be circulated to all Groups for reference purposes.

(ii) Role and Remit of the Greener Strategic Group

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Moray Council seeking the Groups approval of the key elements of the role of the Group and the process for setting up the Co-ordinating and Operational Groups within the Theme structure, details of which were set in Section 3 of the report.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:-

- (i) approve the key elements of the role of the Group and the process for setting up the Co-ordinating and Operational Groups within the Theme structure; and
- (ii) note that at Section 3.6 reporting mechanisms for the Council will also include the Economic Development & Infrastructure Services Committee in respect of waste and flood alleviation.

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. A copy of the Strategic Assessment relative to the Greener Strategic Group was appended to the report as an Appendix.

The meeting noted that the aim of the Strategic Assessment is to assist the Group to achieve not only its own outcomes and objectives but also those set by the Moray Council administration and the Scottish Government ultimately making Moray a safe, clean, pleasant and sustainable environment to live in.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the current Greener Strategic Assessment which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010;
- (ii) that if any of the partner organisations have further information for possible inclusion in the Strategic Assessment this should be forwarded to the Corporate Policy Unit Manager, as soon as possible, and thereafter the document will be reviewed annually;
- (iii) that consideration of the introduction of a plastic bottle recycling scheme, particularly in schools, be progressed through the Carbon Management Plan Group and report further thereon to the next meeting; and
- (iv) that it be remitted to the Head of Development Services, Moray Council, to ascertain what other local authorities are doing in regard to seagulls, in terms of litter, health and safety and effect on the built and natural environment and further thereon to the next meeting on possible actions in Moray.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES LIST

Under reference to Paragraph 2 (iv) (a) of the Minute of the Group dated 19 June 2008 there was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services, Moray Council providing the Group with an overview of the work ongoing within the partner organisations of the Greener Strategic Group to address Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) objectives 12 and 14 alongside other relevant legislation, policies and guidance, details of which were set out in Appendix 1.

During discussion reference was made to lift sharing and in particular the scheme recently introduced by HITRANS and the benefits of joint procurement.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents on the table in Appendix 1 to the report and to use the information to assist in the identification of priorities, opportunities to work in partnership, to add value and share in best practice;
- (ii) that information on the HITRANS lift sharing scheme be obtained and actively promoted across Moray and on the Council's Internet/Intranet sites;
- (iii) that the possibility of joint procurement with Community Planning partners be investigated and a report submitted to the next meeting;
- (iv) that brief statements be enlarged to indicate what organisations are actually doing in respect of each of the headings; and
- (v) that, in terms of best practise on sustainability, the Community Planning Board note the Environmental Activities List.

5. ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTING

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development services, Moray Council providing the Group with an overview of 'Ecological Footprinting', what it is and what it can do, as well as its relationship and relevance to the Single Outcome Agreement.

The meeting noted that within the Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement document, an ecological footprint is identified as the indicator to demonstrate progress in delivering National Outcomes 12 and 14 relating to "to protect and enhance the environment" and "to reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production" which is one of the tasks of this Group.

During discussion the meeting noted that the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) footprint, which is the standardised ecological footprint prepared for all local authorities, does not allow for local data input and therefore there is no way to influence outcomes nor is there any way to evidence that a particular policy or plan has a negative or positive impact on the footprint. An alternative to this is the REAP software tool, which offers the flexibility to include locally sources data to the SEI footprint and can measure environmental performance and identify key areas for improvement. This would be beneficial to the Group in assisting to deliver Single Outcome Agreement commitments. It was also noted that a number of Councils, including Aberdeenshire Council, had signed up for the REAP software tool at a cost of £5,000 with an annual license fee of £450. The costs significantly reducing if acquired in bulk by a group of local authorities

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) note the options for measuring Ecological Footprinting described in this report;
- (ii) that further investigation be carried out into the implications of undertaking an ecological footprint; and
- (iii) that it be remitted to Officers of the Council to ascertain the benefits to the Council in acquiring REAP software tool and future resource implications, financial & staffing, and prepare a report thereon for submission to a meeting of the Economic Development & Infrastructure Services Committee. Copy of draft report to be circulated to the Group prior to submission to Committee.

6. MORAY COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND AND AWARD

Under reference to Paragraph 2 (iv) (b) of the Minute of the Group dated 19 June 2008 there was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services, Moray Council updating the Group on the Environmental Awards Scheme and progress on the feasibility of establishing a Community Environmental Fund, details of which were set out in Section 3 of the report.

The meeting noted that the establishment of a Community Environmental Fund will meet some of the priorities of the Group by supporting community projects. There will be direct benefit to the environment be this by means of environmental improvements, carbon emission reductions or supporting local sustainable food. It is anticipated that projects will also benefit local tourism and create local economic development opportunities.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) to approve the details outlined for the awards scheme;
- (ii) in principle, to the establishment of a Community Environmental Fund, subject to obtaining funding contributions from Community Planning partner/external organisations and if forthcoming a report thereon be submitted to the appropriate Committee of the Council seeking the Council's contribution;
- (iii) to actively promote the Climate Challenge Fund and other alternative sources of funding to the wider community and note the opportunity to work in partnership with community groups to access funds from the scheme and draw down match funding from the LEADER programme; and
- (iv) that the Group be kept informed as matters progress.

7. BUSINESS SEMINAR

Under reference to paragraph 2 (iv) (c) of the Minute of the Group dated 19 June 2008 there was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services, Moray Council inviting the Group to consider general proposals in regard to arrangements for hosting an Environmental Awareness Seminar in early 2009, details of which were set out in Section 4 of the report.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) to approve the general proposals for a Business Seminar, and to note that further information on the arrangements for the Seminar will be made available to Members of the Group as appropriate; and
- (ii) that consideration be given to combining an exhibition with the seminar and invite HIE to take the lead or jointly with SEPA with the preferred venue being Elgin Town Hall.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting noted that the next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 11 December 2008 at 9.30 pm within the Committee Room, Moray Council Office, Elgin.

9. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were circulated and noted for the Group's information the undernoted items:-

- (i) Copy of the Action sheet from meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 7 August 2008
- (ii) Former Community Safety Partnership : Tackling Dog Fouling – Report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager

10. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT (SOA) 2009/10

In response to a question relating to the submission of the draft 2009/10 SOA and the Groups involvement in its preparation relating to outcomes 12 & 14 the Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Moray Council, advised the meeting in regard to the proposed timetable for the submission of the 2009/10 SOA.

Following discussion the meeting agreed:-

- (i) to note the time frame for the preparation and submission of the 2009/10 SOA;
- (ii) to note that details of draft outcomes 12 & 14, which are delivered by the Greener Strategic Group, will be submitted to the Group for comment in late January/early February 2009; and
- (iii) that as an item for the next meeting members consider collectively and individually the priorities for the outcomes relative to this Group