



## Your Moray - Your Environment

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

**THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2010**

**COUNCIL OFFICE ELGIN**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Russell	The Moray Council
Councillor S Cree	The Moray Council
Councillor G Leadbitter	The Moray Council
Councillor F Murdoch	The Moray Council
Councillor I Ogilvie	The Moray Council
Sue Walker	Scottish Natural Heritage
Grahame Newman	SEPA
Matt Young	Forestry Commission Scotland
Gordon Holland	HITRANS

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the Chief Executive, The Moray Council, Alex Tait, NHS Grampian, David Bale, Scottish Natural Heritage, Anne Anderson, SEPA and Hannah Rossiter, Moray Youth Council

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor A Wright, Stewart Halkett, Head of Development Services, Chris Thompson, School Travel Co-ordinator, Ian Bruce, Environmental Protection Manager, Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager and Shelley Flett, Project Officer, as clerk to the meeting.

#### **1. PREVIOUS MINUTE**

The minute was submitted and approved as an accurate record subject to the following items being noted:

Under Item 5 It was noted that the suggestion that the formation of a reference group include Moray Council member representation had not been picked up and will now be dealt with by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager.

Under Item 9 it was noted that the Head of Development Services has spoken with the Consultancy Manager who will attend the next meeting of the Greener Group on 5 August to give a visual presentation on the flood alleviation schemes.

## **2a. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009/10 Q3 MONITORING STATEMENTS**

There was submitted a report by Mrs B Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update against the Single Outcome Agreement milestones relating to the Greener theme as at the end of December 2009.

Following consideration the group agreed to:

- (i) Scrutinise and note the update of performance regarding the Greener milestones due to be completed by December 2009, of which 84% are completed or are well progressed;
- (ii) Note that exception comments are made against the milestones between 0 and 49% complete, at the end of the third quarter, within section 4.5 of the report;
- (iii) Scrutinise and note the progress of each Key Action and the overall progress made against each Local Outcome at the end of the third quarter; and
- (iv) Note that comments are made within section 4.8 against Key Actions identified as being at risk of not achieving 2009/10 target.

### **2b(i). AWARENESS RAISING OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS, SOURCES AND BUILDING REQUIREMENTS**

There was submitted a report by Mr S Halkett, Head of Development Services advising members of the group of the progress relating to awareness raising of alternative fuels, sources and building requirements.

Mr Halkett advised the group that on 1 October 2010 new building regulations will come into force across Scotland and that the Council will be holding a seminar prior to this in order to brief developers on the new regulations. A suggestion was made that this could be combined with information on sustainable construction techniques. Mr Young informed the group that the Forestry Commission are working on a Timber and Sustainable Construction Planning Guidance which would also tie in with this. Mr Young will prepare a report detailing further information for submission to the next meeting of the group.

In response to a question from Councillor Murdoch, the Chair agreed that elements from this seminar would be included in the future Moray Energy Efficiency Fair to be held in April 2011.

Councillor Murdoch raised a question in relation to the Biomass Event which Moray Council held on 2 March 2010 where it was stated that Moray Council would be given the criteria used by Highland Council in relation to biomass. Mr Halkett advised that he would obtain this and ensure that it is presented to Moray Council.

Following consideration the group agreed in principle to arrange a seminar for Building Regulations in 2010, which will include elements of sustainable construction techniques with involvement of partners.

## **2b(ii). MORAY'S CORE PATH PLAN**

There was submitted a report by Mr I Bruce, Environmental Protection Manager, providing the group with information on why the Improvement, Promotion and Management of Moray's Core Path network Key Action Milestones will not be met by Quarter 4.

Mr Bruce explained that there were no real blockages to this action other than workload and lack of staff time and that a new target date of December 2010 had been set.

Discussion took place around the possibility of obtaining funding from some external sources in order to help with this and it was noted that in general it is easier to obtain capital funding than revenue for maintenance once a project has been established. Mrs Walker informed the group that she was aware of other local authorities obtaining money from LEADER specifically for core paths but highlighted that these were small amounts of money. Mr Halkett then informed the group that to apply for money through LEADER, the submission needs to be based around a strategy. He explained to the group that the best of going forward with funding was to wait until the Moray Core Paths Plan has been completed and then progress from there.

Following consideration the group noted the reasons for the delays in fully completing the Key Action and agreed that revised milestones be included in the 2010/11 SOA Action Plan to reflect the realistic timescale for getting Scottish Government approval of the Core Paths Plan.

## **2b(iii). WASTE MANAGEMENT**

There was submitted a report by Mr I Bruce, Environmental Protection Manager, providing the group with information on why the Development of Waste Recycling and Diversion Key Action milestones will not be fully met by Quarter 4.

Mr Bruce explained to the group that the recycling rate has levelled at 45% and although the 2010 target for recycling had been exceeded, there will need to be further work done to reach the 2013 target.

Discussions took place around the separation of food waste from other waste in order to raise recycling levels with Mr Bruce explaining that estimates with analysis show that food waste accounts for approximately 5% of household waste. Mr Newman updated the group on the potential problems caused to landfill dynamics by separating food waste as the food waste produces fuel making the process quicker. Councillor Cree made a suggestion that home compacting systems be introduced which would reduce the space taken up by plastic waste.

Following consideration the group noted the reasons for the delays in fully completing the Key Action and that no major increase in recycling and waste diversion will be possible until additional funds are available to develop the service.

## **3. ENERGY EFFICIENCY FAIR**

There was a report submitted by Mr R Stewart, Director of Environmental Services informing members of the group of the outcome of the Moray Energy Efficiency Fair.

Mr Halkett informed the group that 500 people attended the fair throughout the day and that the fair served its purpose which was to raise awareness. He credited the success of the fair to the marketing that was done and acknowledged that this was possible due to partners and other contributors coming forward with a sum of £4100 for the advertising and marketing of the fair.

Discussion took place within the group as to whether it would be best to hold a future event on a Saturday or to retain the weekday approach. As there were split opinions within the group, it was decided that Mr Halkett would do some further investigation into whether it would be more appropriate to hold the fair on a Friday, Saturday or over both days. A report detailing the outcome of this further investigation will be brought back to the next meeting of the group.

Following consideration the group agreed to note the report and agreed in principle to hold a similar event in March or April 2011.

#### **4. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

There was circulated and noted for the Group's information a copy of the Action Sheet from meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 4 March 2010.

#### **5. A.O.C.B**

There was circulated and noted an information report from the Planning & Development Manager alerting members to the UK Government Consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and its potential to reduce climate change as well as its potential for the development of the renewable heat sector.

Following consideration the group noted the paper.

Mr Halkett also advised the group that the Government are proposing a Climate Change Action consultation document during the summer of 2010. Mr Halkett will prepare a report with details for submission to the next meeting of the group.

#### **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 5 August 2010 within the Committee Room, Council Office, Elgin.