

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2009

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors E. McGillivray (Chair), M. McConnachie, D. Ross, R. Shepherd, D. Stewart, D. Thewliss, Grampian Fire & Rescue and Superintendent S. Milton, Grampian Police

IN ATTENDANCE

B. Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager, A. Jamieson, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Sergeant A. Moar, Partnership Development Officer, R. Anderson, Community Planning Officer, G. Holland, Transportation Manager, I. Bruce, Environmental Protection Manager, J. Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager, J. Stewart, Chief Housing Officer, N. Stables, Research & Information Officer and C. Carswell, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor A. Wright.

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 13 NOVEMBER 2008

Councillor Shepherd proposed and Councillor Stewart seconded the minute as a true record of the previous meeting.

Councillor McGillivray advised that he had received a letter from Mr A. Beresford, Moray Area Forum and this would be deferred until the next meeting. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that there was a lot of good work regarding litter initiatives, which has been done throughout Moray and that he would share this information with the area forums.

Sgt Moar advised that there was funding available for the supply of armbands for primary school pupils in the safer communities budget within road safety. Councillor Ross advised that this issue had been raised at the budget meeting of the Council and the Children and Young People Services Committee and if proposals by political parties were rejected at committees, would proposals be allowed to come to community planning groups. The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that they cannot stop community groups putting in requests for monies from community planning but that a report would come back to the next meeting regarding armbands with costs, etc and consultations would take place with Educational Services and Roads.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross regarding Item 4 “Single Outcome Agreement 2008/09 – Quarter 1 Updates” of the minute, that the Project Development Officer was to investigate and give an update on the projects within the Single Outcome Agreement for Quarter 1 “Young people will be supported within the community”, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that she would provide an update to Councillor Ross as soon as possible.

2. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2008 / 09 - QUARTER 3 UPDATED

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update of performance against the Single Outcome Agreement Performance Indicators relating to the Safer & Stronger theme.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross regarding the number of crimes of housebreaking, Mr Stables advised that they were awaiting an update but that he would follow this up. Superintendent Milton advised that they were probably awaiting the audited figures but that she would look into this and pass the information on to the Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross regarding the total number of cases completed, the Chief Housing Officer advised that not every case was completed within the year and it was only classified as being completed when milestones were reached at a certain point when fulfilling a statutory requirement. She further advised that the council has an uphill struggle as there is a shortfall in affordable housing.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that it was not a perfect system of reporting but that it was work in progress and would continue to be looked at so that every category would be completed.

Following consideration the group agreed:-

- (i) to note the update of performance regarding the Performance Indicators relating to the Safer & Stronger theme, as laid down in the Single Outcome Agreement 2008 / 09;
- (ii) to note progress made against the required actions relating to the Safer & Stronger theme, as laid down in the Single Outcome Agreement 2008 / 09; and
- (iii) that the Corporate Policy Unit Manager would report to the Community Planning Board on non-reporting of information by the NHS.

3. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009 / 10 - ORAL UPDATE BY CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that the final draft of the Single Outcome Agreement 2009/10 would be submitted to the Moray Council for

their approval on the 25th February 2009 and this would then be submitted to the Scottish Government by the end of the month. She further advised that all the Single Outcome Agreement outcomes need to be approved and signed up to by all community planning partners, including those which may not affect them.

In response to a question by Councillor Ross on the possibility of Grampian Joint Fire Board and Grampian Joint Police Board not being happy with the Single Outcome Agreement, Superintendent Milton advised that she was attending a meeting on the 20th February to see how it fits in with other areas and that the Community Planning Board have taken account of other area's commitments.

Following consideration the group agreed:-

- (i) to note that the final draft for the Single Outcome Agreement 2009/10 would be reported to the Moray Council on the 25th February 2009 for approval and submitted thereafter to the Scottish Government by the end of the month; and
- (ii) to note that Community Planning Partners require to sign up to all of the Single Outcome Agreement outcomes rather than just those which affect them.

4. SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

There was submitted and noted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager providing the Safer and Stronger theme group with an update on the establishment of the Social Inclusion Implementation Group.

5. SAFER CO-ORDINATING GROUP

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group to note the progress made by the Safer Co-ordinating Group.

Following consideration the group agreed to note the progress made by the Safer Co-ordinating in relation to its composition and the implementation of the Safer priorities through the four Operational Groups.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS - HOUSING STRATEGY GROUP AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY GROUPS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Chief Housing Officer providing a progress report from the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Groups, which develop and monitor the implementation of the Moray Local Housing Strategy and the Moray Homelessness Strategy.

7. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager asking the group to consider how investment from the Fairer Scotland Fund would be managed and utilised.

The Community Planning & Development Manager advised that all theme groups would be approached for ideas on how to use the monies for investment purposes rather than just being another fund for groups to bid for. He further advised that as a strategic body it was for this group to agree where the monies would be spent.

Councillor Ross advised that he was happy to delegate the decision making to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group and Councillor McGillivray agreed provided he was kept in the loop.

Following consideration the group agreed:

- (i) to consider and agree arrangements for the management of the Fairer Scotland fund;
- (ii) to ask the Social Inclusion Implementation Group to approach theme groups and the Community Engagement Group of the partnership to identify how they can contribute and any proposals on how the partnership should invest the fund; and
- (iii) to ask the Social Inclusion Implementation Group to examine impact assessments from those projects currently being funded under transitional arrangements and make recommendations to the Safer and Stronger theme group and arrange for a special meeting of the theme group to make decisions on transitional funding applications;

8. BUDGET PROPOSAL

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the group to note a budget proposal as agreed by the Community Planning Board on 5 February 2009.

9. EQUALITIES INCIDENT MONITORING FORM

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group to agree and adopt the Equalities Incident Monitoring Form.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross that if he made a complaint on an incident whether a "Hate" form or "Equalities" form would be used, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that it was dependent on who the complaint was made to as the Council would use "Equalities" and Grampian Police would use "Hate". Superintendent Milton advised that the content of

the form was the same and that the idea was to encourage people to come forward whether it was a crime or an incident.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross regarding the length of the form and questions on the assailant's sexuality or religion, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that the information was required for collection purposes to work out trends and that the person making the allegation was not required to complete the form as there would be a person helping them to complete the form. Sgt Moar advised that the information was recorded on a national basis.

Superintendent Milton advised that it was a live document and in 6 months the document could be reviewed.

Following consideration the Group agreed to :-

- (i) adopt the Equalities Incident Monitoring Form; and
- (ii) a further report being brought back in 6 months time regarding how the document is working and any training issues.

10. PROGRESS REVIEW AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS RELATING TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2008 TO DECEMBER 2008

There was submitted a report by the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator providing the Committee with an update of service performance against indicators relating to the Safer strand of the Safer & Stronger Community Planning theme.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that complaints regarding dog fouling had increased due to a high profile publicity campaign. He also advised that there was difficulty in obtaining information from the NHS with regard to Fire & Home Safety despite numerous attempts and the group agreed that this issue should be raised at the next Community Planning Board.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that he would contact Moray Youth Justice to remind them that the Fire & Rescue Services could carry out a course for a week on road safety.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross regarding the amount of fixed penalties, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that there had been a further fixed penalty issued in Lossiemouth.

Councillor Ross expressed his concern that there had only been 3 fixed penalties within 4 years as it was still a major concern within Moray compared to Edinburgh City Council who appear to issue so many more fixed penalties. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that the wardens within Moray issue a warning before a fixed penalty and they are complying with the

law and that they required evidence before issuing fixed penalties. He further advised that there was a lot of work ongoing with the dog warden, environmental health, schools, etc.

Councillor Wright advised that within the councillor's constituencies dog fouling and litter were the most common complaints received and the public are disappointed with the lack of action being taken and this may be why complaints are down.

Councillor Wright asked that, in future, performance indicators should be on the traffic light system agreed across the Council.

Councillor Stewart felt that, in his opinion, the wardens are providing an invaluable service in Moray.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the update of Service Performance regarding the Performance Indicators relating to Antisocial Behaviour and Community Safety; and
- (ii) that a report would come to the next meeting regarding current policy on dog fouling, initiatives currently in place, legislation, stringent proposals and policies within other areas.

11. SAFER AND STRONGER STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group to note the structure and membership of the key groups under the Safer and Stronger theme.

12. ACTION SHEET FOR THE COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2009

There was submitted and noted an action sheet from the Community Planning Board Meeting on Thursday 5 February 2009.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 21 May 2009 at 9.30am in the Committee Room, The Moray Council.