

## **THE MORAY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTE OF MEETING OF SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP**

**THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillors D. Ross (Standing in as Chair), M. McConachie, D. Stewart, Mrs L Tait, Superintendent S. Milton and Mr R Cameron.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Housing Programmes Manager, Miss S. Flett, Project Officer, Payments Manager and Mrs C. Carswell, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the meeting.

#### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor A. Wright

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors E. McGillivray and R. Shepherd.

### **1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 21 MAY 2009**

The minute was agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.

### **2. LOCAL DELIVERY ACTION PLANS**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Group to note the current progress against the development of the Local Delivery Action Plans, the comments for the Community Planning Board and revision which are required.

The meeting noted that the Corporate Policy Unit Manager would work with Community Planning Partners to get their amendments included alongside the Council's and the full suite will then be placed on the Community Planning website.

Following consideration the Group agreed:

- (i) to note the current Local Delivery Action Plans and changes sought by the Community Planning Board;
- (ii) to remit the response for the change to the Corporate Policy Unit Manager and Lead Officers; and
- (iii) to note that the first quarterly monitoring report for quarters 1 and 2 would be submitted to the next meeting and progress against the milestones would be reported.

### **3. REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL GROUPS**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager instructing all Strategic Theme Groups to review their operational groups to ensure they reflect the local delivery action plan priorities and have appropriate representation.

The meeting discussed the operational groups and agreed that there should be a de-clutter where the same people sit on various groups and therefore remits could be combined. Superintendent Milton asked that lists of all partners who sit on groups be compiled in order for the partners to look at the commitment, which was currently being undertaken.

Following consideration the Group agreed:

- (i) to review membership of the operational groups;
- (ii) to list the remit of each operational group;
- (iii) to report back to the Community Planning Board on 19 November 2009 on progress; and
- (iv) that the full suite of operational groups would be submitted to the next meeting of the Safer & Stronger Group.

### **4. FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Housing Officer informing the strategic partners of the Council's intended actions to address fuel poverty issues during 2010 - 2013.

The Housing Programmes Manager advised the meeting that the Fuel Poverty Strategy would be a chapter within the Local Housing Strategy. The national statement was that no one should spend more than 10% of their income on heating their home. He further advised that they were looking to

make a bid for Fairer Scotland Funding to employ a member of staff to give advice in targeted areas. The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that the Greener Group were interested in this issue as they were looking at ways to reduce fuel consumption.

Following consideration the Group commented on the actions to be taken to address fuel poverty issues and that this information would be forwarded to the Greener Group for their information.

## **5. PROGRESS REPORTS - HOUSING STRATEGY GROUP AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY GROUPS**

There was submitted 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.

In response to questions from Councillor Ross as to why the Homelessness Strategy Group did not always meet and whether the fourth sub-group on information and advice would be set up, the Housing Programmes Manager advised that that they now had the correct partners on board and were getting full co-operation and that they would establish the fourth sub-group before the end of the year.

Following consideration the Group noted this report.

## **6. CONGREGATION OF YOUTHS IN THE ELGIN AREA**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager highlighting the actions taken when youths congregate in various locations in Moray on a Friday and Saturday night and the associated issues.

Superintendent Milton advised that vandalism was going down and the scheme had been very successful and that there was no other area within Grampian on top of these issues like Moray and that the partnership should be proud of what it has achieved.

Following consideration, the Group agreed to note the identified issues in relation to congregations of youths within communities throughout Moray and the actions taken by the various agencies to address any identified issues occurring.

## **7. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION RESULTS FOR ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SERVICE**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group to note the progress

being made by the antisocial behaviour service in terms of customers using the Antisocial Behaviour and Community Warden Services.

## **8. SAFER CO-ORDINATING GROUP**

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

Councillor Stewart advised that the Fire Service's visit to Lossiemouth Schools appears to have paid off as the numbers of wilful fires have dropped.

In response to a query from Councillor Ross regarding the rise in domestic abuse on males, the Local Authority Liaison Officer advised that these incidents also relate to males in male/male relationships as well as male/female relationships and there was a plan to have more publicity surrounding this issue near the end of 2009 as men were more reluctant to come forward to report incidents.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that this group would continue to report on issues quarterly and keep track of information to highlight trends.

Following consideration, the Group agreed to note the progress being made by the Safer Co-ordinating Group in relation to identifying and tackling community safety priorities through the four Operational Groups.

## **9. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING - ASB PILOT INITIATIVE**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Safer & Stronger Group to give support to the participatory budgeting proposals with the remaining funding from the Community Planning Board budget.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that the Council had been approached by COSLA to make a bid for funding for technology, designed in Germany, to assist and understand the budget process whereby they would be working with the Youth Council to take information out to communities. The software, since it was web-based, could also be used by other departments/organisations. The Scottish Government was extremely interested in the project as it could be rolled out to other bodies.

On the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Wright advised that the Community Planning Board had been extremely impressed and had approved the project due to the anti-social implications involved, therefore he would highly commend the same to the group.

Superintendent Milton asked that the Corporate Policy Unit Manager investigate as to whether other Authorities could obtain the same software at a reasonable price. The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that there would be a one off purchase price but that the yearly maintenance would cost

roughly £3,000. Councillor Ross asked for clarification on revenue costs and length of licence. The Payments Manager advised that if the cost was over £30,000 then the scheme would have to go out to tender to see if other businesses could offer the same.

Councillor Ross asked that the Safer & Stronger Group also receive the presentation, which was given to the Community Planning Board.

Following consideration the Group agreed:

- (i) to apply to the national participatory budgeting-antisocial behaviour (ASB) match fund to progress the community engagement proposals;
- (ii) note the establishment of a project team with representatives from the organisations listed in para 3.24 including Police and all other partners from the Community Planning Board which are given the opportunity to come on board; and
- (iii) that the Safer & Stronger Group be given the same demonstration as to what the Community Planning Board had received and receive clarification on costs, the length of the licence and maintenance costs.

## **10. FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2009 - CONSULTATION**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Legal Officer asking the Group to consider the draft of the Second Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2009 document which has been issued by the Scottish Government for consultation.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that the Chief Legal Officer had submitted a report to the Full Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and it had been agreed that the report would also be presented to the Safer & Stronger Group in order to make everyone aware of the national perspective. Mr Cameron also advised that it set out what the Fire Service were trying to achieve in terms of the Single Outcome Agreement.

Following consideration, the Safer & Stronger Group:-

- (i) agreed to note the draft of a second Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2009; and
- (ii) noted that any responses by the Council be forwarded to the Chief Executive in order that he may formulate the Council's formal response to the Scottish Government.

## **11. DELPHINUS GROUP**

There was submitted a report by Superintendent S. Milton to raise awareness of members in relation to the Government's CONTEST Strategy and the obligations this places on Statutory Authorities and also to seek agreement regarding the establishment, remit and representation of a Delphinus Group within Moray Community Planning Structures.

Superintendent Milton advised that she did not want to be seen as scaremongering. There is no specific intelligence to suggest that the Moray area will be targeted but the threat from terrorism is currently assessed as 'SUBSTANTIAL' which means a terrorist attack within the UK is highly likely and there needs to be preventative measures put in place. This was not only a high priority for the police and there was a need to take forward an action plans specific to threats, which may affect Moray. She felt that it was good practice to keep this as a community planning project and in the first instance, an invitation would be circulated to RAF, licensing, etc.

Following consideration, the Safer & Stronger Group agreed to:-

- (i) note the content and recommendations associated with the Government's Contest Strategy;
- (ii) establish a Delphinus Group within Community Planning Structures as a separate sub-group which reports to the Safer & Stronger Group; and
- (iii) develop and progress an Action Plan for delivering on the Contest Strategy.

## **12. ACTION SHEET FROM MEETING OF COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD DATED 27 AUGUST 2009**

There was submitted and noted an action sheet from the Community Planning Board Meeting on Thursday 27 August 2009