

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors M McConnachie, E McGillivray, D Ross, R Shepherd, D Stewart, L Tait, NHS Grampian, Superintendent A Smailes, Grampian Police and D Thewliss, Grampian Fire & Rescue

IN ATTENDANCE

B Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager, A Jamieson, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Sergeant G McCutcheon, 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, P Fidgett, Project Development Officer, I Terry, Housing Programmes Manager and C Carswell, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. WELCOME

Councillor McGillivray welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the length of the reports but advised that they would be shortened in the future.

2. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A(4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the Items of Business appearing at the relevant Paragraphs of this Minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Para. No. of Minute

Para. No. of Schedule

16

7A
1

3. MINUTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 05 JUNE 2008

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

4. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking that the Group consider and approve a Partnership Agreement, which guides the operation of the group.

Mr Anderson advised that equalities had been transferred to this Group from the Wealthier & Fairer Group and the final agreement would reflect that.

Following consideration the Group agreed to approve the partnership agreement, which guides the operation of the Group and noted that similar Partnership Agreements would be created for each of the other Strategic Theme Groups and the Community Engagement Group and that each Agreement would be circulated to all Groups for reference purposes. This was pending the addition of national outcome 13 in 3.4.

5. ROLE & REMIT OF THE SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Group to agree the role and remit for this group.

The Group noted that at a previous meeting it had been agreed to establish a safer co-ordinating group to address the safer issues and that there were already in place existing housing and homelessness groups which could become a co-ordinating group.

Councillor McGillivray advised that he would like progress sheets from co-ordinating group brought back to this group for information, as there would be cross fertilisation between groups.

Following consideration the Group agreed the role and remit of the group including equalities.

6. SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

There was submitted a report by the Chief Housing Officer asking the Group to note the existing information from the Local Housing Strategy which would be used as the strategic assessment in relation to housing.

Councillor Wright advised that it was the Board's role to prioritise the priorities and monitor progress on achieving outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement.

Mrs Mustard advised that the first quarter would be reported to the next meeting but due to the tightness of timescales, the report would always be a quarter behind. She further advised that this was the first time doing this but there was a need for a mechanism to be in place and a need to be consistent with all theme groups.

Following consideration, the Group agreed that they would monitor only items within the strategic group.

7. PASS PLUS INITIATIVE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Group to approve the removal of the Pass Plus project and Funding.

Councillor Ross advised that he had taken the Pass Plus course and felt it had been extremely useful as it encompassed night-time and motorway driving. He further advised that the £4,000, which it cost the Council was very little in terms of the benefits the course could have and that road safety was one of the administration's priorities.

Ms Tait advised that there are other schemes in place which are targeting a wider audience of young drivers whereas the Pass Plus course only targeted a few of those who would probably have taken the course anyway. Mrs Mustard advised that within the statistics there was nothing to prove that Pass Plus was having an impact on young drivers.

Superintendent Smailes agreed that the Pass Plus course was not a bad thing but it did not necessarily target the right groups of young people.

Following consideration, the Group agreed to remove the Pass Plus project and funding.

Councillor Ross expressed dissent at the decision taken as the Group were saying that it was a good scheme but that they were not putting money into it.

8. SAFER & STRONGER OPERATIONAL GROUP – BUDGETS 2008-2009

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to agree a budget for each of the three Operational Groups.

Following consideration, the Group agreed the allocated spend for each of the Safer Operational Groups based upon the submitted business plans and the priorities for each of the Operational Groups from the evidence produced in the Strategic Assessment.

9. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager asking the Group to note the final Fairer Scotland submission to the Government.

Mr Ferguson advised that the monies would help in looking at how intelligence was gathered, engage those who are disadvantaged through poverty, inject monies into projects to increase life chances and those who are at risk of

never getting employment. He further advised that it was hoped that they would hear of the outcome at the end of the month.

Following consideration the Group agreed to note the final Fairer Scotland submission made to the Scottish Government.

10. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager asking the Group to consider the evaluations of projects funded under the transitional arrangements of the Fairer Scotland Fund and decide on the continued funding of these projects.

Councillor Wright advised that there was an ongoing review of youth services taken on by the Council and when this came to fruition it would give a guide on the Council's priorities.

Following consideration, the Group agreed to continue the funding of the projects to the end of the financial year.

11. SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY 2008-11

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager asking the Group to note the approved Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and to undertake the responsibility for the promotion, development and monitoring of the strategy.

Mr Ferguson advised that the strategy had been approved at the Community Planning Board and that this group was given the task of promotion, development and monitoring of strategy.

Following consideration, the Group agreed to refer this to an operational group.

12. PROGRESS ON EQUALITIES

There was submitted and noted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Group to note the requirements for Partners with regard to equalities work.

13. RACE EQUALITY SUB-GROUP

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Group to discuss the possibility of disbanding the Race Equality Sub-Group.

Mrs Mustard advised that the Race Equality Sub-Group had always struggled to get representatives on board and that there was a need for a group to look at disability equalities. She further advised that the work would still be on-going but it would be re-focused.

Following consideration, the Group agreed to disband the Race Equality Sub-Group at present.

14. MORAY ROAD SAFETY PLAN (2008-10)

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking that the Group notes that the draft Moray Road Safety Plan (2008-10) is about to go out for consultation.

Mr Holland advised that there have been different degrees of co-operation from various organisations but that this year it had not been as effective. He further advised that there was a joint north-east road safety initiative which would look at the bigger picture and that the draft document would be going to the Economic Development & Infrastructure Services Committee to get approval for the consultation.

Following consideration, the Group noted that the draft Moray Road Safety Plan (2008-10) was about to go out for consultation and agreed that the Partnership Development Officer would put forward the Group's views but that this did not preclude individual members putting forward their personal comments on the same. Mr Anderson advised that the consultation document was on the Community Planning website and that the deadline for responses to the consultation was 17 September 2008.

15. FORMER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – TACKLING OF DOG FOULING

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to review the measures undertaken by the then Moray Community Safety Partnership to tackle dog fouling in Moray.

Further to a question from Councillor Ross, Mr Jamieson advised that there have been 301 verbal warnings but only 2 fixed penalties for dog fouling/litter. He further advised that Edinburgh and Glasgow do not give warnings although the law states that a warning must be given and he was currently looking into this at present.

Councillor Stewart stated that he wondered if the group could do a press release to show the public that the Council are trying to eradicate dog fouling.

Further to a question from Councillor Ross, Mr Bruce advised that the cost for installing a dog bin is £300 and he felt that the educational aspect needs to be addressed more.

Following consideration, the Group agreed that the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator would report back to the Group regarding the legislation and that Mr Anderson would give a copy of this report to the Greener Strategic Group.

16. COMMUNITY WARDENS – FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to note the evaluation of the role and duties undertaken by the Community Wardens in Moray since they were established in June 2004 and that discussions are required in advance of setting the Council's budget for 2009-2010.

Following consideration, the Group agreed that the Chief Executive would have discussions with Superintendent Smailes and would put forward a report to the Policy & Resources Committee.