



## **MINUTE OF MEETING OF WEALTHIER & FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP**

**THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2008**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Russell (Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor J Cree	The Moray Council
Councillor G McDonald	The Moray Council
Councillor P Paul	The Moray Council
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Ian Fraser	HIE Moray (Substituting for Martin Johnson)
Jim Johnston	Chamber of Commerce
Kim Campbell	Federation of Small Businesses (Substituting for Robin Key)

### **APOLOGIES**

The meeting noted apologies from Councillor A Wright, The Moray Council, Martin Johnson, HIE Moray and Robin Key, Federation of Small Businesses

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Kathleen Ryan	HIE Moray
Alan Bodman	Federation of Small Businesses

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

The Head of Direct Services, the Head of Development Services, the Planning & Development Manager, the Community Planning & Development Manager, the Community Planning Officer, Peter Fidgett Project Development Officer, Neil Stables, Research and Information Officer and the Principal Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

### **1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 5 JUNE 2008**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group dated 5 June 2008 was submitted and approved subject to the inclusion of apologies being submitted from representatives from Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Business who stated that they had not received any notification of the previous meeting.

Under reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute the meeting noted that the revised Role will be circulated to all Members of the Group when amended.

## **2. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

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

During discussion concern was raised regarding the wording within section 3.4 of the Strategy relating to the Groups responsibilities and it was suggested that the wording be amended by removing the words 'in particular' and that these responsibilities be noted for consideration only at this time and this was agreed.

Following consideration it was agreed :-

- (i) that Section 3.4 of the Strategy 'Terms of Reference' be amended by deleting the third bullet point ' We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity' which had been transferred to the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group;
- (ii) that the reference within Section 3.4 of the Strategy relating to what 'in particular' the Group shall be responsible for be noted for consideration only at this time;
- (iii) to note the report at this time and that a further report be brought back to the next meeting of this Group rationalising and placing in order what should be priorities for this Group.
- (iv) To 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.

## **3. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager presenting the Group with the first Strategic Assessment for the Wealthier and Fairer Theme, which will be used to develop Strategic Priorities for the partner organisations and to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.

In response to a query raised in regard to the figures quoted relating to the number of self employed as stated on page 7 of the report, the Project Development Officer advised that this could be an interpretation of 'self employed' and agreed to investigate this further and report back on the outcome.

Following further discussion during which issues were raised regarding the skills profile, targeting of initiatives by skills/businesses, need for affordable premises and rail freight issues, the Head of Direct Services suggest that a further report be brought back to the next meeting providing information on how the Strategic Assessment links into other priorities and what action should be taken. He further stated that there was a need to address the Strategic Agreement subject to the withdrawal of National Outcome 13.

The Project Development Officer further advised the meeting that a report will be provided to the next meeting which will outline the Single Outcome Agreement and performance indicators.

Thereafter the Group agreed:-

- (i) to delete the word 'Administration' at paragraph 3.2;
- (ii) that the figures quoted on page 7 of the Assessment in regard to the number of self employed be looked at and reported back;
- (iii) that a further report looking at how the Strategic Assessment links into other priorities and what action should be taken be brought back to the next meeting of this Group; and
- (iv) to note the current 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.

#### **4. REVISED MORAY 2020 ACTIVITY LIST**

There was submitted a paper by Martin Johnson, HIE Moray which listed the main live economic development projects in Moray. The report was augmented by an oral overview by Mr Johnson of each of the activities listed.

During discussion the Head of Direct Services advised the meeting that a report on the development of Buckie Harbour was due to be presented to the meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee on the 14 October 2008 and it was agreed that this be made available to the next meeting of this Group.

Following further discussion the Chairman stated that he had read a recent press article which reported that the MoD had announced that the future of the RAF base at Leuchars, Fife was assured for the next 30 years and asked why this assurance had not been made in respect of the RAF bases in Moray.

In response Mr Fraser, HIE Moray advised that he was not aware of this press article and stated that he would look into the matter further.

In regard to 'Moray's connectedness' as detailed on page 25 of the report the meeting agreed that this should be the focus of a constructive lobby and it was agreed that it be referred to the Community Engagement Group to seek the community's feedback on Moray's connectedness to the rest of the country and beyond. It was further agreed that in respect of issues raised regarding the current position relating to the transition of 'Business Gateway' from HIE to the Moray Council that the Head of Development Services prepare a report clarifying the situation for the next meeting of this Group.

Thereafter the Group agreed :-

- (i) to note the revised Moray 2020 Activity List;
- (ii) that a report on the Development of Buckie Harbour be included on the Agenda at the next meeting of this Group;

- (iii) that HIE look into recent newspaper report regarding an MOD statement made in relation to the future of RAF Leuchars and whether this will apply to the Moray bases;
- (iv) that it be remitted to the Community Engagement Group to look into the setting up of a focus group within the community to constructively lobby re Moray's connectivity;
- (v) To note that a report was being submitted to the Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee regarding transportation and which would be submitted to this Group;
- (vi) that a report clarifying the situation regarding the handover of 'Business Gateway' from HIE to The Moray Council and that this include information regarding how The Moray Council will move forward with this, and
- (vii) that the Head of Development Services prepare a template which brings together the revised Moray 2020 Activity List and The Moray Council's list of projects and matches these to the Single Outcome Agreement and an update regarding priorities

## **5. PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Development Services which presented proposals for the Group to develop opportunities for engagement with the local business community.

Following consideration the Group agreed to proposals for:-

- (i) a Dinner and Seminar with representatives of the business community; and
- (ii) further engagement with the local business community, arising from that meeting, be developed in consultation with members of the Group, prior to the next meeting of the Steering Group.

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

The meeting noted that the next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 13 November 2008 at 2.00pm within the Committee Room, Moray Council Office, Elgin. Items for the Agenda to be forwarded to the Clerk by Friday 31 October 2008.

## **7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The meeting noted the Action Sheet from the meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 7 August 2008, which had been submitted for information.

## 8. CO-ORDINATING AND OPERATIONAL GROUPS

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services, The Moray Council asking the Group to approve the setting up of the Wealthier and Fairer Co-ordinating Group and to give authority to the Co-ordinating Group to set up appropriate mechanisms to deliver the theme priorities.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) to the setting up of the Wealthier and Fairer Co-ordinating Group to oversee the implementation of the strategic priorities agreed by this Group;
- (ii) that the Head of Development Services be the lead officer of the Co-ordinating Group which would consist of representatives from The Moray Council,
- (iii) to grant authority to the Co-ordinating Group to set up appropriate mechanisms to deliver the theme priorities.