



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

**THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2008**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Russell (Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor S 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

### **APOLOGIES**

The meeting noted apologies from Councillor A Wright and Robin Key, Federation of Small Businesses

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

The Head of Direct Services, the Planning & Development Manager, the Community Planning & Development Manager, the Community Planning Officer and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

#### **1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 21 AUGUST 2008**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group dated 21 August 2008 was submitted and approved.

#### **Strategic Assessment: Level of Self-Employment.**

Reference was made to Paragraph 3 of the Minute and page 4 of the Strategic Assessment (Profile section) which indicates that 9% of the Moray working population is self-employed. The Community Planning Officer advised the meeting that, on checking these figures on NOMIS (Official Labour Market Statistics) it currently stands at 9.2% self employment in Moray against a

national figure of 7.6%. There is slight difference between Male (10.5%) and Female (7.7%) but the overall figure remains 9.2%.

### Revised Moray 2020 Activity List: RAF Bases in Moray

Under Reference to the third paragraph of Paragraph 4 of the Minute, Ian Fraser advised the meeting that the information relating to RAF Leuchars was accurate. Martin Johnson also advised the meeting that whilst he was still awaiting confirmation from the MOD on the future of the two RAF Bases in Moray there was no foreseeable risk at this time.

## **2. ACTIONS FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING DATED 30 OCTOBER 2008**

The Meeting noted the following actions arising from the Community Planning Board Meeting dated 30 October 2008:

- (i) Protocol for Addressing Cross-Cutting Issues – The Meeting noted that this issue would be discussed under item 8 (a) on the agenda
- (ii) Life Sciences Centre - The meeting noted the update on the project from Mike Devenney, Moray College and Andrew Fowlie, NHS Grampian.

## **3. THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MORAY 2020)(REVISED SCHEDULES FOR THE ACTIVITY LIST)**

Under reference to the Meeting of this Group dated 21 August 2008, there was submitted a report providing the Group with templates comprising those 12 projects for which Moray Council is the 'lead partner' in the updated Moray 2020 Activity List and which also match the outcomes/benefits to the Single Outcome Agreement priorities. Similar templates, listing projects where they are the 'lead partner', were circulated by HIE prior to the meeting and by Moray College at the meeting.

Following discussion the Group agreed that it be remitted to the Planning & Development Manager, Moray Council, in consultation with Martin Johnson, HIE Moray & Mike Devenney, Moray College, to bring the three lists together and to rationalise and prioritise them for submission to the next meeting of the Group.

## **4. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT – QUARTER 1 UPDATES**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Performance Indicators relating to the Wealthier and Fairer theme, and advising the Group on the progress made against the SOA required actions relating to the Wealthier and Fairer theme.

Following consideration the Group agreed, in principle, to:-

- (i) note the update of performance regarding the Performance Indicators relating to the Wealthier and Fairer theme that are laid down in the Single Outcome Agreement 2008/09;
- (ii) note progress made against the Required Actions relating to the Wealthier & Fairer theme that are laid down in the Single Outcome Agreement 2008/09;
- (iii) recommend to the Community Planning Board that the Strategic Groups receive the most up to date performance information available and that the projects currently listed under National Outcome 13 be moved to National Outcome 1.

## **5. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT - NATIONAL GUIDANCE**

There was submitted and noted the national guidance circular on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOAs) Guidance 2009 & Key Messages.

## **6. BUSINESS SEMINAR**

The Planning and Development Manager, Moray Council provided the Group with an oral update on the proposals for the Group to develop opportunities for engagement with the local business community through the holding of a business seminar.

The Group noted that the business seminar, in the form of a working dinner with a presentation from HIE Moray, will be held in the Sunninghill Hotel, Elgin on Tuesday 18 November 2008. The purpose of the seminar is to seek signatories to the establishment of a Moray Business Panel.

## **7. BUSINESS GATEWAY**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services reporting progress made in the transfer of Business Gateway functions from Local Enterprise Companies to Local Authorities.

Following consideration the Group agreed that given the timescale for the transfer of Business Gateway functions, the matter be progressed on a cross party basis.

## **8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The Group agreed to note the following items, which had been submitted for information:-

- (i) Protocol for Addressing Cross-Cutting Issues;
- (ii) HITRANS Annual Report 2007/2008 and Strategy Delivery Plan;
- (iii) Business Gateway Transfer; and

- (iv) Action sheet from meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 30 October 2008

## **9. DEVELOPMENT OF HARBOURS AND BUCKIE HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Direct Services, The Moray Council, informing the Group of a report presented to The Moray Council Policy & Resources Committee on investigations and progress to date in consideration alternative management arrangements for Moray Harbours and future operational arrangements for the Council dredger Shearwater and inviting the Group to note the decisions of The Moray Council Policy & Resources Committee.

Following consideration the Group agreed: -

- (a) to note the decision of the Moray Council Policy & Resources Committee on 21 October 2008 to:-
  - (i) suspend the search for third party operators for all of the harbours, and instead invite expressions of interest for specific uses/proposals for land/premises in its ownership in and around harbours, in accordance with strategies for each harbour;
  - (ii) instruct officers to proceed in taking forward specific aspects of the Buckie harbour study, with a view to utilising Economic Development budget monies to do so;
  - (iii) agree to the preparation of a business plan for the future delivery of dredging services;
  - (iv) Instruct officers to consider the level of external support needed to develop these proposals;
  - (v) present the report and decision to the Community Planning Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group for consideration;
- (b) that research be undertaken with regard to the possibility of obtaining funding from a European 'Fisheries Fund' referred to at the meeting; and
- (c) that consideration be given to hosting a future workshop with business interests in Buckie.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting noted that the next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 19 February 2009 at 2.00 pm within the Committee Room, Moray Council Office, Elgin. Items for the Agenda to be forwarded to the Clerk by Friday 6 February 2009.