



MINUTE OF MEETING OF WEALTHIER & FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 21 MAY 2009

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
Councillor A Wright	The Moray Council
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Martin Johnson	HIE Moray
Jim Johnston	Chamber of Commerce

APOLOGIES

The meeting noted apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Alan Bodman, Federation of Small Businesses and Gordon Holland, HITRANS.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Planning and Development Manager, the Head of Direct Services, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager Officer (in respect of items 2 & 3) Community Planning & Development Manager, the Community Planning Officer, the Fairer Scotland Manager, (in respect of item 5) and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 19 FEBRUARY 2009

The Minute of the Meeting of the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group dated 19 February 2009 was submitted and approved subject to the Elgin City for the future project to be added in under item 2 of the minute in regard to wealthier and fairer group priorities".

There were no matter arising.

2. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT (2009-10) - PROGRESS UPDATE

Mrs B Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager, updated the Group with regard to the Single Outcome Agreement. She advised that the SOA 2009/10 had been agreed by the Moray Council at a special meeting held on 12 May 2009 and by the Community Planning Board at its meeting on 07 May 2009.

Thereafter, a series of special meetings had been arranged for the theme groups to agree their key actions and templates had been sent to lead officers for definition of milestones to measure future progress. She also advised that a report would be submitted to the Community Planning Board on 10 June 2009 to sign off the SOA for 2008/09.

3. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2008/09 - QUARTER 4 UPDATES

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to consider an analysis of performance in addressing the national and local outcomes over the first year of the SOA (2008/09).

Mrs Mustard, the Corporate Policy Unit Manger advised the group that quarter 4 information had been compiled, and extra columns had been added to the report to address progress and impact over the year. She further advised that a lot of actions had been dealt with by this group over the 1st year and a lot of activity was ongoing and to deliver a target of 79% after the first year, in her view was a very good position for the group to be in.

In response to concerns expressed by the group in regard to the lack of data in pages 17 onwards for 2007/08 the Corporate Policy Unit Manager agreed to investigate this. With regard to page 12 of the report in regard to Keith regeneration the group noted that funding for this project had not yet been agreed. With regard to the terminology used on page 3, para 3.5 of the report it was noted that reference to the Elgin By-pass should be removed. With regard to page 12 about increasing the potential and number of diverse businesses the figure in green in the report should read 40.

Members also requested that in future they receive this information electronically in advance of the meeting.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (i) approve the analysis of performance against the actions addressing the national and local outcomes over the first year of the SOA;
- (ii) note the current performance against the indicators and that this position will be updated as information becomes available; and
- (iii) note the recommendations for improvement in the monitoring of the new SOA (2009/10) based on lessons learned from the conduct of the process during the first year.

4. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES - PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning Officer inviting the Group to agree to the implementation of proposals to ensure that cross-cutting issues identified within the new SOA (2009/10) are efficiently and effectively addressed.

Mr R Anderson, Community Planning Officer advised the Group that this item had to be carried over from the special meeting of the Group on 15 May. He

then ran over the recommendations suggested and invited any comments from the Group.

During discussion the group intimated that they would prefer to have Action Sheets circulated at meetings rather than minutes and it was noted that all recommendations would be submitted to the Special meeting of the Community Planning Board being held on 10 June 2009.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to the implementation of proposals to ensure that crosscutting issues identified within the new SOA (2009/10) is effectively addressed.

5. WEALTHIER AND FAIRER PRIORITY ACTION PLAN 2009/10

There was submitted a report by the Planning & Development Manager inviting the Group to consider and approve the Wealthier and Fairer Priority Action Plan (2009/10).

The Planning and Development Manager advised that the report contained the actions that this Group would supervise for one year on their priorities. He advised that additional columns had been added in to the priorities in regard to "links to SOA Local Outcomes" and "who the responsible officer is".

The Community Planning & Development Manager clarified an issue expressed by the group in regard to economic fairness and advised that the fairer element was being addressed through the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group and there would be cross cutting links to employability and More Chances and Choices.

During discussion concern was expressed with regard to progress on the Elgin City of the Future project, particularly around where this fitted in the Community Planning structure and who was involved. It was agreed that it should report to this Group and a full report would be brought to the next meeting.

There was also clarification sought about which operational groups existed under the theme. The Community Planning Officer clarified that the operational groups should be established to address the key actions within the Single Outcome Agreement. Some are already in place and others would be set up, once the key actions for the Group had been finally agreed. A report on progress would come back to the next meeting of the group.

In respect of the Priority Action Plan, the Planning & Development Manager intimated that the group needs to be clear who is leading on each action, which partners are providing the budget and which partner is reporting on the item.

Thereafter the Group agreed:

- (i) to approve the Wealthier and Fairer Priority Action Plan (2009/10);
- (ii) that the Planning and Development Manager would submit a report on each of the 6 priorities targets to the next meeting of this group;
- (iii) that Mr M Devenney, the Moray College would submit a report on Elgin City of the Future for next meeting of this group; and
- (iv) that HIE produce a report on account management.

6. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND PROPOSALS

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager inviting the Group to consider how it can contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives and to note progress on investment on the fund.

The group welcomed Jacqui Taylor, Fairer Scotland Manager to her first the meeting of this group and noted that she had been in post since February 09.

The Group noted the update from Mr J Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager and Ms J Taylor, Fairer Scotland Manager with regard to the Fairer Scotland Fund. Mr Ferguson advised the group that theme groups had been asked to contribute to their own single outcome agreement aims and objectives.

He further updated the group on the current position in regard to the 1st stage proposals advising that there had been bids received with 3 proposals being referred to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group for consideration and that there were also a number of bids being supported through the procurement process which will go out to tender. He intimated that the way the Fairer Scotland Fund works is that it looks for people within the theme groups to see if an application fits the criteria of Fairer Scotland Fund.

Jacqui Taylor suggested that Councillor Russell as chair of the group take on the responsibility for looking over the proposals to see that they meet the criteria of the Wealthier and Fairer theme group before they are presented to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group. The Group agreed to delegate this responsibility to Councillor Russell, in his capacity as chair of the group. However concern was expressed in terms of monitoring of the fund as it had been envisaged that the Community Planning Board would undertake this role.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (i) delegate authority to Councillor Russell as Chair of the Wealthier and Fairer group to oversee the proposals; and
- (ii) note the progress being made in the development of the fund.

7. ECONOMIC RECOVERY RESPONSE PLAN

There was submitted a report by HIE, Head of Operations asking the Group to note the Economic Recovery Response Plan, which has been drawn up by HIE to help local businesses address the worst effects of the economic recession.

The group noted the update from Martin Johnson and Ian Fraser, HIE Moray with regard to the background to the economic response recovery plan as detailed in appendix 1 of the report. It was further noted that Business Gateway was now up and running and that there were good working relationships in place and arrangements were working well.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (I) note the economic recovery response plan which has been put in place by HIE Moray to help local businesses address the worst effects of the economic recession; and
- (II) note that an updated report would be submitted by HIE to the Community Planning Officer for the next meeting of this group.

8. STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW: MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

There was submitted a report by the Head of Direct Services informing the Group of a recent meeting with the Minister for Transport regarding the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) in relation to Moray.

Mr A Ritchie, the Head of Direct Services updated the group on the outcome of the recent meeting with the Minister for Transport. He referred the group to para 3.4 of the report, which identified the progress that had been reached to date. It was further noted that the Minister for Transport had requested a further meeting over the summer months and that dialogue would be on going. It was noted that a representative of Transport Scotland would be in attendance at the Transport Scotland STAG Awareness presentation at Committee on Tuesday 26 May 2009 on STAG.

Thereafter, the Group agreed to:

- (i) note the outcome of the meeting with the Minister for Transport concerning the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR);and
- (ii) note that the Council's Transportation Manager will prepare an assessment of Elgin's traffic flows on the A96 in Elgin for a subsequent meeting with the Minister and will present a report of that meeting to this Group.

9. MORAY TOWNS PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted a report by the Planning & Development Manager asking the Group to note the implementation of the Moray Towns Partnership 2009/10 action plan which is aimed at the economic development of the towns of Buckie, Forres, Keith and Lossiemouth.

The Planning and Development Manager updated the group on the implementation of the Moray Towns Partnership 2009/10 which were aimed at the economic development of the towns of Buckie, Forres, Keith and Lossiemouth. He advised that funding had been agreed from the Economic Development budget and that match funding would be sought from LEADER and the Scottish Government. He further advised that funding could be accessed through the town centre regeneration fund. It was also noted that town centres have to be defined and plans indicating town centre areas were circulated to the group. Bids for funding have to be submitted by June for the first round of funds and August for the second round and it was noted that officers would contact the Community Planning partners to see what stage projects were at and he was confident that Moray would secure some funding.

Mr J Johnston, Chamber of Commerce asked that Moray Chamber of Commerce be removed from paragraph 3.4 of the report.

Thereafter, the group agreed to:

- (i) back the bid for match funding of Towns Partnership funding to the Town Centre Regeneration Fund and asked for progress reports, if the bid is successful, that this will come back to this Group.
- (iii) note the implementation of the Moray Towns Partnership action plan which is aimed at the economic development of the towns of Buckie, Keith, Forres and Lossiemouth; and
- (iv) note that a funding contribution of £100,000 was agreed from the 2009/10 Council Economic Development budget for the action plan which is cosseted at £200,000; and
- (v) note that appropriate external funding applications will be submitted in order to match the Council's contribution.

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING WEBSITE

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning Officer asking the Group to endorse actions agreed by the Community Engagement Group to address a number of issues around information provided for the Community Planning website.

The Community Planning Officer advised the group that the new site had been live for 4 months, however there was a need to update the site and identify contact people and partners involved. Thereafter, the aim would be to promote the website to ensure that information is being passed down the line to the relevant people.

- (i) agreed to participate in establishing a network of content providers to provide regularly updated information for the Community Planning website;
- (ii) noted that guidance on the content management of the site will be provided by the Community Planning Officer;
- (iii) noted that the website will be a standing item on all future Theme Group agendas; and
- (iv) agreed to actively promote the site as a key source of information about Community Planning in Moray.

11. AOCB

The group noted that the Sederunt would be amended to include Gordon Holland as the HITRANS member of the Wealthier and Fairer Group and that Alan Bodman would replace Robin Key as the representative for the Federation of Small Business

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Group noted the Action Sheet from the meeting of the Community Planning Board, dated 7 May 2009.