



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

**THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2010**

**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
Gordon Holland	HITRANS
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Kathleen Ryan (Substituting for Calum McPherson)	HIE Moray
Lesley Ann Parker	Moray Chamber of Commerce
Jean Grimshaw	Federation of Small Businesses
Susan Chalmers	Skills Development Scotland
Casey Mainland	Moray Youth Council

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Donna Breen, Moray Waste Watchers and Councillor A Wright

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Moray Council, John Ferguson, Planning & Development Manager, Moray Council, Sandy Ritchie, Head of Direct Services, Moray Council, Reni Milburn, Principal Officer, Economic Development and Donna Skene, Project Officer Clerk to the Meeting

#### **1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 18 MARCH 2010**

The Chair welcomed Casey Mainland, Youth Representative to her first meeting of the Wealthier & Fairer Theme Group meeting.

Ms Jean Grimshaw advised that she is now representing the Federation of Small Businesses in place of Alan Bodman.

The Minute of the Meeting of the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group dated 18 March 2010 was submitted and approved as an accurate record subject to clarification on Item 5 – East of Scotland Loan Fund ; query over the current position relating to the funds held by the Grampian Venture Capital Fund. It was agreed that Mr Halkett would investigate the matter and advise the Group.

Ms Kathleen Ryan entered the meeting at this juncture.

## **2. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2009/10**

There was submitted a report the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) milestones relating to the Wealthier & Fairer theme as at the end of March 2010.

Following consideration the Group:

- (i) scrutinised and noted the update of performance regarding the milestones due to be completed by March 2010, relating to the Wealthier and Fairer theme;
- (ii) noted that exception comments are made against the milestones below 75% complete at the end of the fourth quarter, within section 4.5 of the report;
- (iii) scrutinised and noted the progress of each Key Action and the overall progress made against each Local Outcome at the end of the fourth quarter; and
- (iv) noted that comments are made within section 4.8 against Key Actions below 75% complete in meeting 2009/10 targets.

A query was raised over the A95/A96 action as the Local Delivery Action Plan was dropped. There was concern from Councillors was this still to be addressed. Mr Holland advised that he was preparing a report for Scottish Government on the A95/A96 to enable them to incorporate our priorities into the national plans.

Councillor Russell asked Mr Holland to circulate this report to Elected Members prior to sending it to the Scottish Government.

Councillor McDonald asked for clarification over the Buckie Business Park with regard to the retail Design. He wished to know if this was about the buildings or the plot and that businesses should not be expected to build their own buildings. Ms Ryan responded that HIE are looking at servicing of the plot and the short term infrastructure and that businesses will not be expected to build their own buildings.

Councillor Paul queried the milestone on the appendix on "Award tender for Edgar Road extension/Access to the High School". Mr Halkett advised that the appendix was correct, but within the report for para 6.2 (i) this should be amended to read as follows:

- (i) Design works have been completed for Edgar Road extension/access to High School however future works on seeking tenders and planning permission has been delayed; and the deferral on the development of a Elgin car park strategy may impact on the achievement of the Local Outcome that 'Moray will benefit from an improved and safer transport infrastructure'.

Councillor Paul queried with regard to the Appendix, page 15, which Elected Member was being referred to. Mr Halkett responded that this was part of the quarterly report which went to the Economic and Development and Infrastructure Committee. Ms Milburn added that an annual report went in April on LEADER and that a copy of this report will be placed in the Members Library. Councillor Russell added that this information should be on the LEADER website.

### **3. MORAY 2020**

Mr Halkett advised that a report was submitted to The Moray Council's Audit & Performance Committee and the Wealthier and Fairer Group in March 2010 on the Moray 2020 strategy (created in 2005) and its updated links to the Single Outcome Agreement in 2008. It highlighted the main aspects of the strategy and accompanying action plan of eight overarching themes, five strands and 56 projects. It was concluded that a request for an update of the document from the Community Planning "Wealthier and Fairer" Strategic Group of all aspects of the Moray 2020 strategy is needed in time for the Defence Review and that a progress report be brought forward to the Audit & Performance Committee on 1 September 2010, which should include up to date information, measurements of performance and timelines.

Discussions between The Moray Council and HIE have taken place resulting in the following proposal:

- Update of the 2020 document should be an Economic Development strategy for Moray to address the fragile economy issues.
- To avoid duplication of work, the process will include reviews of data where possible in 2010, but the drafting of the update of 2020 will have to wait for the conclusion of the Strategic Defence & Security Review, HIE's International Benchmarking, other Economic updates and budget announcement & impact on public bodies later on this year.
- The strategy will build on the existing document with 2009 data and review of projects, taken into account the changed organisational priorities, commitments and resources.

The Strategic Defence & Security Review will conclude towards the end of the calendar year and procurement of consultants by HIE would be from October to December. The process of update and consultation with Community Planning partners should result in a draft document by March 2011 and reports to the Economic Development Infrastructure Committee, Wealthier & Fairer Group and the Audit & Performance Review Committee.

After discussion, it was agreed that a Special Meeting the Wealthier & Fairer Group be held in the middle of August to explore information and the options discussed.

### **4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 30 September 2010.

## **5. ITEM FOR INFORMATION**

The Group noted the terms of the Action Sheet from the meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 27 May 2010.