



MINUTE OF MEETING OF WEALTHIER & FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2010

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor J Russell (Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor S Cree	The Moray Council
Councillor G McDonald	The Moray Council
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Calum McPherson	HIE Moray
Donna Breen	Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray
Mike Duncan (Substituting for Jean Grimshaw)	Federation of Small Businesses

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Chief Executive, The Moray Council, Councillor P Paul, Cllr A Wright, Gordon Holland HITRANS, Lesley Ann Parker, Moray Chamber of Commerce, Jean Grimshaw, Federation of Small Businesses, Susan Chalmers, Skills Development Scotland and Casey Mainland, Moray Youth Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Anderson, HIE Moray; Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager, The Moray Council; Stewart Halkett, Head of Direct Services, The Moray Council; Gordon Sutherland, Planning & Economic Development Manager, The Moray Council and Shelley Flett, Project Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 10 JUNE 2010

The Minute of the Meeting of the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group dated 10 June 2010 was submitted and approved as an accurate record subject to the following change being made:

Under Item 2 Single Outcome Agreement 2009/10, paragraph 5 should be amended to read "...Ms Ryan responded that HIE Moray are looking at all methods of getting projects going including working with the private sector."

2. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2010/11: QUARTER 1 MONITORING STATEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services providing the Group with an update against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) milestones relating to the Wealthier & Fairer theme as at the end of June 2010.

In response to a query raised by Mr S Halkett, as to whether it was necessary to provide individual exception reports Mrs B Mustard explained that this request came from the Community Planning Board. It was further explained that if the action is complete prior to the report being written then a paragraph can be included in the main report to explain this, but, if there are any barriers or issues then a separate more detailed report is required.

Councillor G McDonald raised the issue of oral reports, explaining that people not present at the meeting do not get a full picture of the discussion so requested that written reports were submitted.

Following discussion, the Group agreed to:

- (i) Scrutinise the performance against milestones, due to be completed by June 2010, for which the Wealthier & Fairer Group is responsible;
- (ii) Scrutinise the progress of each key action and the overall progress made against each local outcome at the end of the first quarter; and
- (iii) Identify to the Community Planning Board resource issues which would prevent delivery of any key actions

3. ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME: APPROVE/DELIVER 10 GROWTH PROJECTS

Mr C MacPherson, HIE Moray gave an oral update on the Account Management Programme. Mr MacPherson explained to the Group that although there was slow progress in quarter 1, this is not untypical and by the half year stage 12 of 20 major projects have been agreed. He further advised that 2 Social Enterprises were about to be signed off.

Following discussion it was agreed that a further update would come back to the next meeting of the Group.

4. TOWN REGENERATION: AGREE WITH THE RELEVANT STEERING GROUP A 2 YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR THE MORAY TOWNS PARTNERSHIP

Mr S Halkett, Head of Development Services gave an oral update on the Town Regeneration Programme. Mr Halkett advised the group that this project has not stopped but is investigating new opportunities for funding and that the milestones relating to this action will need to be amended.

Councillor J Russell was concerned that an application was made to LEADER for funding which was refused but the first stage of the programme worked well

with the focus being on tourism. He felt that this rejection should be discussed immediately with the Partnership and that they should not waste a further 3 months in the anticipation of match funding.

Mr Halkett explained that the current intention is to go forward with the long term approach and try to secure some European funding.

Following discussion it was agreed that discussions take place between The Moray Council and Moray Towns Partnership to define "innovations within applications". In addition it was agreed that the proposals be re-submitted for consultation as quickly as possible

5. ENTERPRISE PARK, FORRES: COMPLETE FURTHER EXTENSION OF SOUTH SIDE LOOP ROAD

Mr C MacPherson gave an oral update on the Enterprise Park Forres project. Mr MacPherson advised the Group that this was almost complete with one section still to be done once funding is available. He further advised that there are two 100,000sq ft sites available for development.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF A MORAY LIFE SCIENCES CENTRE: COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGER AND DESIGN TEAM

Mr M Devenney, Moray College gave an oral update on the Development of a Moray Life Sciences Centre. Mr Devenney advised the Group that £1million of funding from NHS has now been committed. He explained that the procurement process that had been completed over a year ago was now no longer appropriate with the change in funding levels so this would need to be re-visited.

Mr Devenney further explained that he is hopeful of having a project manager in place in December 2010 with the project team being in place in December or January and that although there has been a 6 month slippage in this project, he is aiming for the centre to be open in August 2012.

7. RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: APPROVE AT LEAST £75,000 OF LEADER FUNDING TO LOCAL PROJECTS

Mr S Halkett gave an oral update on the Rural Development Strategy. Mr Halkett explained to the Group that the LEADER staff will be carrying out a marketing exercise to educate people on the contents expected from a LEADER application. He further advised that although the target for this quarter has not been met, it is dependent on the number and value of applications received and is confident that over the year the target will be met.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Russell as to whether the Wealthier & Fairer Group would appreciate a presentation from LEADER representatives, it was agreed that the Wealthier & Fairer Group and all Elected Members would be invited along to the presentation already being organised for The Moray Council.

8. A NEW ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR MORAY: NEXT STEPS

There was submitted a report by Mr C MacPherson, HIE Moray outlining the threats and weaknesses, strengths and opportunities for the economy going forward.

Mr MacPherson explained that the special meeting of the Wealthier & Fairer Group held on 27th August, focussed on the need for a new economic strategy. He explained that this would be a whole Community Planning Partnership document not simply a HIE Moray document.

Mr MacPherson asked for some thoughts on whether the £25,000 figure mentioned in the report would be a realistic figure to be spending on such a project, to which the Group agreed.

Following discussion the Group agreed:

- (i) The terms of reference for the study;
- (ii) The study be funded by partners, who should advise HIE Moray of the resource they might provide;
- (iii) The procurement exercise be lead by HIE Moray and the Moray Council;
- (iv) The chosen consultants make a presentation on progress on the study to the next meeting of the Strategic Group; and
- (v) Mr MacPherson, on recommendation from the Wealthier & Fairer Group, write to Community Planning Partners asking for a contribution.

9. INFORMATION REPORT: GRAMPIAN JOINT HEALTH PROTECTION PLAN 2010-2012

There was submitted a report by the Director of Environmental Services on the Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan 2010-2012 which was presented to the Planning & Regulatory Services Committee on 6 April 2010.

Following consideration, the Group noted the report.

10. OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

There was submitted a report by the Planning & Development Manager advising members on the proposed offshore windfarm development in the Moray Firth, and the economic opportunities this may present for the Moray economy.

Councillor G McDonald explained to the Group that this is a huge potential for the area with Buckie already having facilities in place to be able to service an offshore wind energy development and a large skill force already in the offshore industry. He further explained that this has the potential for the creation of large amounts of jobs but that marketing would be important to ensure that Buckie is not missed as an option for this development.

Mr M Duncan, Federation of Small Businesses alerted the Group to the Oil Energy Exhibition held in Aberdeen in May which would be an opportunity to talk to the relevant people in the field and to market Buckie and Moray as an area able to take on this development.

Following discussion it was agreed that HIE Moray would progress it.

11. MORAY BUSINESS PANEL: AUTUMN 2010 STEPS

There was submitted a report by Mr C MacPherson on the Moray Business Panel. Mr MacPherson explained to the Group that this report was seeking additional items that they felt should be raised at the upcoming meeting of the Moray Business Panel.

Following discussion, the Group agreed to recommend that Renewables and Broadband infrastructures be discussed at the meeting.

12. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The Group noted that a Statement of Outstanding Business would now be submitted to each meeting to allow the Group to monitor any outstanding items. In relation to the Single Outcome agreement 2009/10 action relating to the A96/A95 report, Councillor Russell informed the Group that the report was available on CD if any wished a copy. It was also agreed that this report be added to the Community Planning Website.

13. PRE-PLANNED AGENDAS

The Group discussed items for discussion for the next meeting and agreed that the following milestones relating to the Local Delivery Action Plans would be up for discussion:

- (i) Account Management Programme – Calum MacPherson
- (ii) Town Regeneration – Stewart Halkett

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be arranged.