



MINUTE OF MEETING OF WEALTHIER & FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2011

COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor J Russell (Chair)	The Moray Council
Councillor S Cree	The Moray Council
Councillor G McDonald	The Moray Council
Councillor G Coull	The Moray Council
Councillor A Wright	The Moray Council
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Andrew Anderson	HIE Moray
Jean Grimshaw	Federation of Small Businesses
Susan Chalmers	Skills Development Scotland
Donna Breen	Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray (Moray Social Enterprise Network)
Casey Mainland	Moray Youth Council

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Chief Executive, The Moray Council and Gordon Holland, HITRANS.

IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Jones, PPR & Communications Officer, Moray Council, David Duncan, Principal Planning Officer Development, Moray Council, Gordon Sutherland, Planning & Economic Development Manager, Moray Council and Emma Armit, Project Officer Clerk to the Meeting.

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 3 MARCH 2011

The Minute of the Meeting of the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Group dated 3 March 2011 was submitted and approved as an accurate record subject to the following updates as requested by Councillor Russell;

Item 5

- HIE regarding the site at Barmuckity. Mr A. Anderson from HIE confirmed that they have had no approach as yet from Springfield.
- HIE regarding the gypsy travellers located at the Enterprise Park in Forres. Mr A Anderson confirmed that The Moray Council were seeking a court

order from the Sherriff Court on 24 June due to the increasing mess. He further confirmed they were in the final stages of letting their large unit at the Enterprise Park.

Item 6

- Moray College regarding the Life Science Centre. Mr M Devenney confirmed that case work is anticipated to start in the next few months with the technical design stage now progressing and expected to be complete late 2011/2012. It is anticipated that the doors to the facility will be open in time for the start of the session 2013/14.

Item 8

- Regarding the press release required for the Economic Strategy. Mr D Duncan confirmed that the need for this had been superceded by the report for the Strategy which will be reported to the next meeting of E, D & I on 28 June 2011.

2. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT 2010/11: QUARTER 3/4 MONITORING STATEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services providing the Group with an update against the Single Outcome Agreement milestones relating to the Wealthier & Fairer theme as at the end of March 2011.

Councillor McDonald questioned para 4.3.1 of the report in relation to Moray Towns Partnerships not receiving appropriate support by way of resources. It was decided that a request be made for a senior officer from Economic Development be present at the next meeting of the Moray Towns Partnership.

The Group discussed the point raised by Councillor McDonald in 5 (d) of the report which states relation to 'Non-fulfilment of SOA priorities approved with the Scottish Government may result in a loss of funding and/ or reputation'. Reference was made to the 0% targets highlighted in Section 4 of the report and if this therefore meant there has been a loss of reputation as a result.

Following discussion the Group:

- (i) scrutinised the performance against the milestones, due to be completed by March 2011, for which the Wealthier and Fairer Group is responsible;
- (ii) scrutinised the progress of each key action and the overall progress made against each local outcome at the end of the fourth quarter; and
- (iii) agreed to identify to the Community Planning Board resource issues which have prevented delivery of key actions.

3. BUSINESS GATEWAY

There was submitted a report by the Development Officer updating members on the progress of Business Gateway in Moray. Mr G Sutherland informed the Group that all targets have been met and there is a potential bid for additional

funding been identified. Councillor Russell passed on his congratulations that all actions were 100% complete whilst Councillor Wright further appraised the figures as highlighting effective work having been carried out.

The Group discussed a possible gap identified between the work of Business Gateway and that of HIE and to look at ways of filling this gap by adding support, workshops, seminars to a further 3,000 business'. Business Gateway is currently developing a business portal whilst Skills Development Scotland cover business' up to £250,000 which covers some of the 3,000 identified in the gap.

The Group noted the contents of the report and appraised the success of the work undertaken to date.

4. HIE ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

There was submitted a report by Calum McPherson, Highlands and Islands Enterprise in response to the Group's request for an update on "account management" of Moray businesses.

Mr A Anderson highlighted the need for HIE to be more focused due to limited resources.

The Group noted the contents of the report.

5. MORAY ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND ELGIN – CITY REGION FOR THE FUTURE (CONFIDENTIAL)

There was submitted a report by the Principal Planning Officer providing the Group with an update on progress being made on the preparation of the Final Reports on both the 'Moray Economic Strategy' and 'Elgin – City Region for the Future' projects.

The Group noted the contents of the report.

6. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

The Group noted that the Statement of Outstanding Business had all been addressed.

7. PRE-PLANNED AGENDAS

The Group discussed items for discussion for the next meeting and agreed the following:

- (i) Moray Tourism Development Group – Report on Current Status of Tourism in Moray (Mr G. Sutherland and Mr A. Anderson to invite the Chair to the next meeting of Greener)
- (ii) Update on Economic Strategy
- (iii) Completion of Rural Action Plan

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 29 September 2011 at 9.30am in the Committee Room, Council Headquarters, Elgin.