

RECORD OF WORKING GROUP MEETING

GROUP NAME:	SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (SCP)	
CHAIRPERSON:	Cllr Gordon McDonald	(GMcD)
DATE OF MEETING:	14 April 2015	
LOCATION:	Committee Room, HQ	
ATTENDING:	Cllr Gordon McDonald, Chair Rhona Gunn, Acting Corporate Director (EDPI) as Lead Officer Richard Anderson, Head of Housing & Property Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services Jim Grant, Head of Development Services Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface Anita Milne, Moray Forum of Community Halls & Associations Glen Adcock, Moray Housing Partnership	GMcD RG RA SC JG FV AM GA
APOLOGIES:	Anne Lindsay, UHI, Moray College Pam Gowans, Chief Officer (Health & Social Care Integration) Don Vass, Third Sector Interface John Thompson, Forestry Commission Gavin Clark, Scottish Natural Heritage Cllr Margo Howe May East, CIFAL	AL PG DV JT GC MH ME
MINUTES:	Caroline Strong, Corporate Secretary	CS

<i>AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC</i>	<i>ACTION POINT</i>	<i>ACTION BY</i>
1. Minute of Meeting of 30 January 2015	<p>Approved subject to the following amendments:-</p> <p>(i) change spelling of Cllr McDonald's name; and</p> <p>(ii) Item 4 – reference to talk to “joint community association” to be changed to read “Federation of Community Halls and Associations”.</p> <p>FV mentioned it would be beneficial to invite a representative of REAP to attend future meetings. Agreed Ann Davidson would be invited to future meetings of the Group. FV to provide contact details to CS.</p>	<p>RG/CS RG/CS</p> <p>CS FV</p>
2. Updates from Working Group	<p>a. CIFAL</p> <p>AGM coming up. Ongoing behavioural work is being taken up. If the CEEF fund ceases and is not replaced, the Council will lose a source of funding for Energy Efficiency Projects. This was effectively a spend to save fund and will only affect non-housing properties. This matter will now be referred to the Asset Management Working Group</p>	

to enable the full implications of the proposed changes to be considered.

b. Energy Group

Appendix 3 produced was a letter from Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism regarding the Central Energy Efficiency Fund and the expiry of the grant agreement on 31 March 2016. All savings had been reinvested in the fund and so some continuing spend was still possible. RA's service handles this spend and capital funding is progressed through the Council's Asset Management Working Group. Noted that principles of spend to save already exist within capital programme and will continue to fund projects in this way. RA advised we are still waiting for the finalised report from the consultants. There are a few areas contained in the specification document that the consultants have not reported back on in the current draft and so we are to go back to them asking for more detail as data analysis, in particular, is currently weak. In terms of street lighting, the figures point towards a 10 year pay back based on a £5million capital investment. We are looking for clear recommendations otherwise consideration would require to be given to whether council money could achieve a better return spending on other projects. The final report will be considered first at the Energy Group, then this Group and for capital spending proposals, then onto the Asset Management Working Group and finally the Community Planning Board. SC advised the report will also need to go to ED&I then P&R for approval. He also thinks in terms of street lighting and funding the only opportunity from the Scottish Government is an interest free loan.

RA

JG referred to the Strategic Environmental Action Plan (SEAP) which involves Moray, Aberdeenshire, Angus in partnership looking at renewables/gas/electricity/transport, looking at region as a whole, what the barriers are and what projects/mechanisms can be put in place to encourage renewables. Liverpool has already achieved savings through a shared approach like this. To date the initiative has mainly involved local authorities but JG expects an opportunity to involve RSLs and others soon. The SEAP is still progressing slowly and they are looking at partners committing £12,500 each so this will need to be reported to a future P&R meeting. JG to bring a briefing paper on SEAP to the next meeting.

JG

GA advised MHP are signing up to "Our Power" which is a project where approximately 38 housing associations have got together to bulk buy fuel at reduced costs for tenants. Noted SEAP is not involved with housing associations. GA expressed concern that there is much work being done

in respect of energy but it is not widely known. RA queried the numbers of houses "Our Power" will affect and GA advised it was in the region of 200,000 houses across the 38 housing associations. RA thought it may be worth the Council considering this again given the large numbers involved.

c. Housing Strategy Group/Homelessness Group

In terms of the Strategy Group the action plan charts action within group. Noted there are no major issues and the new build and other actions are on track.

In respect of the Homelessness Group, noted the homelessness strategy 2010-2015 is now at an end. Much work has been achieved in terms of reducing homelessness. RA advised we are now able to turnaround 550-595 housing applications a year, there is a reduced reliance on B&B accommodation due to more available temporary accommodation, housing benefit costs have been reduced by about £1.5 million, 91% of tenants are still in tenancies after 12 months and there is a restructured charging policy.

d. Transport – Community Transport Forum/ HTAP (Health Transport Action Plan Strategic Group)

SC advised the Community Transport Forum (CTF) is sub group of the Community Forum borne out of meeting a year and a half ago and concern about a lack of knowledge of what transport was available. A transport guide has been produced which is good and it is about trying to make better use of what we've got, opening up assets and seeing what works best for Moray. The target was to look at how we can review transport in relation to integration of health & social care, however transport is just one in a long list of things partners need to consider. GM indicated he would like to be involved in future meetings of the Group as he is very supportive of local forums. SC advised while officers of the council attend meetings, the lead is very much from the community. SC to ensure GM is included in circulation lists. AM advised there is to be a meeting tonight which will consider an event in Speyside to discuss use of council vehicles at evenings and the weekend with the Council being paid for them.

SC

SC spoke about Health Transport Action Plan Strategic Group (HTAP) which is a partnership between Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray Councils and their respective health boards which has been focussed on the Transport for Health Care Information Centre Project. This is a central call centre for patients to find out what transport there is across the region. This project was not well used and the pilot has been extended to see if it is used if better publicised otherwise the council will need to consider if it is worth staying in it. SC advised when patients now receive an appointment card there is information on it about who to contact about transport options. AM advised there had also been a presentation at passenger forums. FV mentioned there was a national group which presented national recommendations

	<p>following which a Moray health and care short life transport working group was formed to look at these recommendations and how these might be implemented in Moray. It was noted that in Moray the pilot was not successful but there may be information available from other pilots which is relevant.</p>	
<p>3. Progress with Action Plan</p>	<p>RG advised that whilst this is a first attempt at an action plan, there is quite a lot of information contained within it already.</p> <p><u>Number of Council houses</u> – RA advised the figure of 500 houses by 2023 (50 houses per year) is achievable though it was noted some years may be more and others less. GM queried whether the figure was ambitious enough and RA agreed that we do need to be more ambitious. JG advised there is a need for a greater rate of housing to keep pace with economic growth and demand. The assessment states 424 houses would be required in terms of demand to keep up in respect of Moray 2023 but there are currently 3700 on the housing waiting list and 340 deemed to have the right to permanent accommodation. The Local Plan reflects the housing needs assessment in terms of ground available but we need to also look at current market build out rates and what RSLs can provide. FV queried whether the percentage target should be changed to numbers rather than percentages. It was agreed to change the left hand axis from percentages to numbers of houses added. GM asked for this to be changed when the Plan is next updated. RG asked whether the Partnership wished to use red, amber and green indicators. It was agreed to see what other groups are using then consider using these further down line and the last column of the table should give as much information as possible.</p> <p><u>Council house stock meeting energy efficiency standards</u> – RA advised we are meeting 95% of targets for Scottish EES other than exemptions which are mainly due to areas where best fuel is not available. The energy efficiency standard referred to in column 1 is a Scottish figure. The European EES is more challenging. GA queried whether the Partnership would wish to add similar figures for RSLs in respect of SEES/ESSH as he would be happy to provide these from MHP and would ask others to provide the same information. GM confirmed it would be helpful given we are trying to have Moray wide picture. It was agreed to change figures to show how many are neither compliant nor exempt rather than those that are compliant. It was agreed to change the heading of this target from “council” to “social” and that the narrative from RSLs would be included by way of breakdown.</p>	<p>RA</p> <p>RA</p>

	<p><u>Council housing stock meeting the Moray Housing Standard</u> – noted this is still a relevant standard and the target to be achieved by 2018 is delivered through the housing stock investment programme.</p> <p><u>Households in Fuel Poverty</u> – RA advised that we are doing all we can in terms of improving insulation etc however we cannot control energy prices. He agreed it would be worth considering the “Our Power” project again now that there are more agencies on board, and approximately 6 local authorities have expressed interest, as procuring energy direct relies on economies of scale. He also believes that being involved with such a project would enable us to demonstrate that we are doing something creative to address the problem. SC mentioned the possible waste incinerator venture in Aberdeen which would be an arms-length company between the 3 local authorities and it will be up to those authorities who the power generated is sold on to. Noted there was much potential as to how this could be used.</p> <p><u>Waste diverted from landfill</u> – SC advised the target for diversion from landfill by maximising recycling was 95% of waste by 2025. The figures for recycling are 65% by the end of 2020 which equates to roughly 1000 tonnes a year more than at present and was the maximum achievable through recycling. It was noted there will be a ban on organic waste going to landfill by 2020 and the question was asked what the alternative was if the shared treatment facility fell through. SC advised the backup plan would be for the waste to go to other sites in the UK or abroad and we would be charged for it.</p> <p><u>Energy consumption</u> – RA is to provide an update for the next meeting as an updated report will have been received from the consultants by then.</p> <p>SC is keeping a watching brief on hydrogen buses project in Aberdeen. GM advised ME has been heavily involved with hydrogen buses so it may be beneficial to speak to her.</p> <p>RG advised the College had previously indicated they may be able to provide info on energy consumption and this could be followed up with them to widen out the evidence base. The NHS may also be able to provide figures. Both were to be invited to sit on the Energy Group.</p>	<p>RA</p> <p>RA</p> <p>RA</p>
<p>4. Structure and Remit</p>	<p>GM indicated the Partnership is mostly a combination of what doesn't sit under other CPB groups. JG advised in terms of carbon management we are mainly tackling it</p>	

	<p>through energy etc. Noted there could be a target set for carbon footprint reduction depending on the report from consultants however we would need to find out where we are and how we measure it. Noted these are actions we are already doing but it just needs to be recorded somewhere.</p> <p>RG asked for confirmation as to whether the main priorities are energy and climate change, housing and community transport. SC advised climate change is an aspiration but would be difficult to measure Moray's contribution. It was noted that the remit of the Group was wide and seemed to cover many areas.</p> <p>Noted the Scottish Government has now published a National Marine Plan and there is an intention that each region will produce their own plan which will require involvement from the Partnership.</p> <p>RG asked whether the Partnership thought a short formal remit narrative was required and all agreed this would be best. RG to create a formal remit narrative for the next meeting. This should start with a general narrative to illustrate the wide remit, then focus on the 3 or 4 main priorities and end with the catch all that SCP accepted key issues not accommodated elsewhere within the partnership.</p>	RG
<p>5. AOCB</p>	<p>FV made mention of guidance which has been circulated to the third sector advising them what is expected of third sector members on partnerships etc. It was agreed FV forward the guidance to CS for circulation to the Partnership. It was noted that in future AD and/or FV would attend this group.</p>	FV/CS
<p>6. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Thursday 25 June 2015 at 1.30pm in the Committee Room.</p>	