

## RECORD OF WORKING GROUP MEETING

<b>GROUP NAME:</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (SCP)</b>	
<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	<b>Cllr Gordon McDonald</b>	<b>(GMcD)</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>26 June 2015</b>	
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Committee Room, HQ</b>	
<b>ATTENDING:</b>	<b>Cllr Gordon McDonald, Chair</b> <b>Rhona Gunn, Corporate Director (EDPI) as Lead Officer</b> <b>Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services</b> <b>Jim Grant, Head of Development Services</b> <b>Moray MacLeod, Design Manager</b> <b>Grahame Davidson, Housing Strategy &amp; Development Manager</b> <b>Anita Milne, Moray Forum of Community Halls &amp; Associations</b> <b>May East, CIFAL</b> <b>Michael Shaw, CIFAL</b> <b>Ann Davidson, REAP on behalf of TSI</b> <b>John Thomson, Forestry Commission</b> <b>Cllr Margo Howe</b>	<b>GMcD</b> <b>RG</b> <b>SC</b> <b>JG</b> <b>MM</b> <b>GD</b> <b>AM</b> <b>ME</b> <b>MS</b> <b>AD</b> <b>JT</b> <b>MH</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Richard Anderson, Head of Housing &amp; Property</b> <b>Anne Lindsay, UHI, Moray College</b> <b>Pam Gowans, Chief Officer (Health &amp; Social Care Integration)</b> <b>Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface</b> <b>Grahame Newman, SEPA</b> <b>Don Vass, Third Sector Interface</b> <b>Gavin Clark, Scottish Natural Heritage</b> <b>Glen Adcook, Moray Housing Partnership</b>	<b>RA</b> <b>AL</b> <b>PG</b> <b>FV</b> <b>GN</b> <b>DV</b> <b>GC</b> <b>GA</b>
<b>MINUTES:</b>	<b>Caroline Oconnor, Corporate Secretary</b>	<b>CO</b>

<b>AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION POINT</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<b>1. Minute of Meeting of 14 April 2015</b>	Approved subject to changing "Moray Federation of Community Halls & Associations" to "Moray Forum of Community Halls & Associations" for Anita Milne.	<b>CO</b>
<b>2. Updates from Working Group</b>	<b>a. CIFAL</b> ME circulated separately by email a document giving an overview of the work of CIFAL for the whole year. During this time they were mainly working on doing an energy survey to create a communication strategy to promote energy saving behaviours for Moray Council staff. There were 512 respondents and 20 energy saving ideas from the survey. This was taken to the Energy Group and the final version of the campaign is waiting to be launched together with new activities. Another aspect is for ME to arrange meeting between JG, RA, GMcD and consultants	

on how to reduce carbon omissions and save energy. Meantime a schools campaign has been presented to headteachers for schools.

MS gave a presentation on ORIGIN which is an intelligent ICT system for the management of energy in a community. It is about shifting demand to match supply and features an excellent weather predictor therefore when there is wind, renewables kick in so communities can identify the best time for usage. MS, from Findhorn Foundation where it is being piloted, advised so far they have managed to shift about 18% of general energy use into renewables powered use. Noted this project meets 3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is about making the information available so any citizen or company can use it. ME added it would be ideal to find one building to pilot this outwith Findhorn to establish how useful it is. Noted there are currently no incentives from council buildings, other than for buildings with solar panels, so the only interest for the council meantime would be in reducing the carbon footprint, although there were issues with measuring this impact. However ME suggested Moray Council could create an incentive within their own departments and GMcD suggested there could be incentives for schools. SC queried whether there are ways to automate the load to meet the supply. Noted this can be done but systems would have to be purchased. GMcD queried how localities are managed. MS advised the system gathers information from 35 weather stations across the UK and it is GPS adjustable however this is still under development for completion by 31 October. In Findhorn, surplus energy can be exported to the grid. GMcD suggested it may also be of use to NHS so it would be worthwhile to pass the information onto community planning partners to identify what interest can be found.

**RA**

Agreed the Council look at whether there is a building which could be pilot for use of the ORIGIN system.

Biomass initiative - 0.75 of cost comes from grant funding – wait until after July to see if FF was successful through phase 1 and if so the Council may want to look at joining this scheme.

**RA**

ME gave a further update advising 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals will require to be implemented by all countries. There is a post 2015 group which has been meeting in central Scotland and a meeting was held in Elgin Town Hall 2 weeks ago. Moray has had training and there is a grant from the Scottish Government for 10 training sessions, of which Moray was one of first. Another training programme is scheduled for November. It is

**RA**

important for Moray to consider how they are going to tackle sustainable development goals as every council will need to implement them. GMcD stressed this is a Community Planning Group rather than a Council however he would like to see Moray getting credit for taking the lead. Noted SDGs should be embedded in documents and how these should be taken forward. The documentation will be signed on 26/27 September and ME stressed it is essential to do what we can before that. ME thought it would be beneficial to use students over the summer to cross reference the goals and targets and identify where the gaps are. JG believes cross referencing the goals with Moray 2023 will tick off a number of the goals and help to show the relevance for the Community Planning Partnership. JG thought that a workshop with the Community Planning Officer's Group would be essential before the Community Planning Board itself was engaged. RG to check timings of CPOG meetings. ME asked if cross-referencing could be done by end of September to tie in with the documentation being signed. GMcD advised there is pressure on elected members to deliver and workshop along with the presentation by MS would help to show we can deliver. JG to task a member of staff to cross check SDGs with Moray 2023. GMcD happy to be involved with publicity or workshops concerning other councils. If there is a tie in and CPOG have time to consider this, then RG suggested including reference to it in the report being prepared to CPB on 13 August to get recognition from that meeting that Moray is already well on the way to meeting some goals.

**RG**

**JG**

**b. Energy Group**

MM gave an oral update on the work of the Energy Group. The main work turned on the Consultant's Report by Pick Everard. The 1<sup>st</sup> part looked at survey results and appraisal methods as well as key areas like waste and LED lighting. Finance had advised that although our consultants had favoured NPV as an appraisal model, they saw this as being only one of a range of factors to be considered in deciding which options to take forward. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the report is the Action Plan. Based on the surveys and audits of buildings, they have been looking at those falling below the targets and those that fall below good practice. The next step is for the consultants to come up to explain the rationale behind the report and JG/RA/MM to interrogate them, which it is hoped will be done in the next few weeks.

**JG/MM**

Noted the LED lighting figure is to be scrutinised and gives a payback time of 10 years where the finance policy for spend to save projects normally is 3 years. Noted the LED Business case is based on current figures however these

could change drastically. JG is clear there is a recommendation from officers endorsed by the consultants as robust and asked the group to make the decision to refer it to Asset Management Working Group. GMcD noted the payback time for LEDs in schools is 5 years so why not start there? MM advised projects such as this are only done during school holidays to minimise disruption and only so much work can be done in holidays. He advised a strategic decision would need to be made if it was decided to go ahead with implementation in all schools first.

SC is keen to check assumptions on how the 10 year payback across all areas was derived. He advised there is an option is to phase it in over a longer period which may reduce costs. Noted the Asset Management Group will expect to see options from SC. ME suggested tying it in with the national year of light however she would require information on this by the end of December.

Agreed group is supportive based on figures being worst case scenario and SC would produce alternative options for AMWG. SC intention is to work from outside in re replacement to reduce maintenance costs at greatest rate. JG to check whether all new housing developments are required to install LED lights. GMcD queried whether there is also a policy for halls for LEDs as needs to be right across the council for all our buildings and if so, do all departments know about the policy.

SC

JG

RA

It was noted there are 4 schools that were refurbished where gas boilers have been installed rather than renewables. MM had to leave the meeting at this point but RG advised that she had seen the rationale for this which was tied into the need for a gas boiler back up to meet insurance requirements and relative NPV between gas and biomass.

### **c. Housing Strategy Group/Homelessness Group**

GD advised the Group is meeting next week and will be reporting to the August Communities Committee on LHS.

They are currently delivering the home energy efficiency programme with £1M funding from the Scottish Government. Part of this is external insulation to council properties such as cruden houses. These have to be completed by the end of October to complete the 2014/15 allocation. Properties covered in Moray are widespread in Dufftown, Findochty, Portknockie, Forres totalling approximately 180 properties. The costs for each house range from £6,000-£14,000. This is funded from a grant of £7,500 per house from the Scottish Government along with money from Ecco funding however it was noted this has

	<p>recently decreased from £5,000 to about from £500 per house. Internal insulation work has been undertaken to more traditional properties however this has not been very successful so they are moving away from these and concentrating on external insulations.</p> <p>Noted new builds are how being completed to silver level standard and there is a grant of £4,000 per house.</p> <p>The Home Energy Advice Programme is working with REAP and they are looking to rebrand that.</p> <p><b>d. Transport – Community Transport Forum/ HTAP (Health Transport Action Plan Strategic Group)</b> AM advised a community meeting had been held in Speyside and they were looking at setting their up own community transport forum for use of the council fleet when not in use. This will cut down on those having to use their own cars. A monitoring system will be put in place to see how it is measured. Noted this will be working alongside the Speyside Car Share Scheme.</p>	
<p><b>3. Progress with Action Plan</b></p>	<p><b><u>Number of Council houses –</u></b> GD advised the target is to build 500 council houses over the next 10 years (50 per year). This target has been achieved in the last 2 years and he does not envisage any problems in achieving targets. Noted the confidence rating is a 3 rather than 4 due to funding only allocated as far ahead as 2017. After that would be uprated to 4.</p> <p>New build completions – on target.</p> <p><b><u>Council house stock meeting energy efficiency standards –</u></b> GD advised this is mainly to the existing housing stock. New EESH standard starts in Oct/Nov 2015 which will set out the proposal to meet the standard over the coming years. As a result, confidence cannot be reassessed until October/Nov but meantime correct to hold at 3.</p> <p><b><u>Council housing stock meeting the Moray Housing Standard –</u></b> GD advised this on target to achieve. A query was raised as to whether a new target should be set for 2018/19 if all properties were meeting the existing target at that point. Agreed a note be added for SCP to review in 2018/19 as to whether to increase target. Meantime confidence is 4.</p> <p><b><u>Households in Fuel Poverty –</u></b> GD advised the targets are not achievable for factors outwith the Council and Scottish Government’s control such as fuel prices and income. He stressed the Council is</p>	<p>RA</p>

	<p>doing what in can in terms of insulation. RG drew the Group's attention to the alternative chart proposed for consideration and whether the figures should be about what outcomes we achieve rather than what we spend. RG queried whether increasing each house by 1 energy efficiency grade would be a better target? GD advised this would be covered in EESH for council housing so there was little point in replicating this in another target. JG advised that keeping target for fuel poverty is good as the information needs to tie in with 10 year plan and objective is to help address fuel poverty. Agreed to keep the original graph and but live with a low confidence rating and that reference be made in narrative to the wider global economy etc which affects the figure. Agreed to produce a more meaningful chart.</p> <p><b><u>Waste diverted from landfill</u></b> –  Maximising recycling – this is currently at 55.4% with a target of 58% by 2017 which we are on course to meet.</p> <p>Developing alternative – there are ongoing discussions with a view to having agreement on a shared treatment facility with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, based in Aberdeen, by end of the calendar year. If this doesn't go ahead we will have to export to other areas outwith the North East for treatment as Dallachy will close due to the ban on organics to landfill by 2020.</p> <p>ME raised the issue of carbon omissions regarding transportation to Aberdeen. Noted Carbon costs will be offset by carbon benefits and it is envisaged 2 vehicles per day would travel through to Aberdeen.</p> <p>Noted this was graded as a 3 rather than a 4 in terms of planning as such plants can be difficult to get through in terms of planning. As a consequence of this it was agreed to change this from green colour to amber to reflect 3s elsewhere, although it will be green in terms of meeting our targets when the agreement with all 3 councils is signed and planning permission is granted.</p> <p>ME queried what lorries could bring back on the return journey and suggested biomass, compost etc. This was noted for consideration in the long term.</p> <p>If the plant proceeds, in the future energy could be sold back to local authorities and heat distribution benefits will be considered in the future.</p> <p><b><u>Energy consumption</u></b> –  Noted the 20% target remains challenging. JG recommended this be referred to the Asset Management</p>	<p>RA</p> <p>SC</p>
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	<p>Group. It is specific to the council's energy consumption and does not yet cover community planning partners. Agreed the target should be widened incorporating both housing associations and UHI as well as others who could participate but for now the narrative should state it is council only but will be widened out once we receive the information from partners.</p> <p>The proposed additional graph for weather adjusted was approved to support the higher level energy target.</p>	<b>RG</b>
<b>4. Structure and Remit</b>	<p>RG spoke to the paper produced advising she had followed the style used for other Community Planning Partnerships based on the discussion at the previous meeting. Food network requires to be expanded as the council now has a duty to deliver a food strategy under the Community Empowerment Bill. Generally the impact of this Bill; should be shown. Reference also needed to be added to the fact that Biodiversity was currently largely addressed through the Local Development Plan and relevant planning regulations. The Forestry Commission could also add to the narrative here. The Group then agreed the structure and remit subject to those changes and some narrative around fuel poverty and coastal and marine issues.</p>	<b>RG</b>
<b>5. AOCB</b>	<p>GMcD questioned what the Central Efficiency Fund budget within the Council is allocated for and queried whether there was a role for this partnership to consider that funding. Agreed RG speak with RA and advise GMcD accordingly.</p>	<b>RG/RA</b>
<b>6. Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p>The next Energy Group meeting is to be held the first week in August. The Community Planning Board meeting which RG is to prepare a report for is to be held on Thursday 13 August.</p> <p>Agreed the next meeting of this partnership be held in late August/early September.</p>	<b>RG/CO</b>