



Your Moray - Your Environment

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLANNING GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2009

COUNCIL OFFICE ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor S Cree
Councillor G Leadbitter
Councillor J Russell
David Bale
Matt Young

The Moray Council
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
Scottish Natural Heritage
Forestry Commission Scotland

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors F Murdoch & I Ogilvie and D Bale, Scottish Natural Heritage, A Tait, NHS Grampian, A Anderson, SEPA, D Duthie, HITRANS and A Keddie, Moray Council

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Development Services, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager, the Environmental Protection Manager, E Gordon, Planning Officer (Planning & Development) the Energy Officer, S Flett, Project Officer (Moray Council), F Geddes, Housing Strategy Officer (in respect of Item 12), D Westmacott, Apprentice Committee Officer and the Senior Committee services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Clerk invited nominations for the appointment of Chair of the Greener Strategic Group, following the resignation of Councillor Murdoch from the Administration Group on the Council.

The meeting noted Councillor Russell's expression of interest in the appointment of Chair, subject to clarification as to the position of a Greener Strategic Group representative on the Community Engagement Group given that he is already a member in his capacity as Chair of the Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group.

Members concerns were also expressed regarding Councillor Murdoch's position on the Group and it was agreed that these to be raised with the Chief Executive with a view to a report thereon being submitted to the next meeting of the Council.

In the absence of a Chair and no nominations forthcoming to Chair the meeting as an interim measure it was agreed that the Corporate Policy Unit Manager (CPUM) Chair the meeting.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The meeting agreed to vary the order of business set out in the Agenda and take item 5 'Fuel Poverty Strategy' at the end of the meeting so that the author, who was at another meeting, could have the opportunity of being present when the item is considered.

3. ACTION SHEET FROM MEETING OF 26 MARCH 2009

The Action Sheet of the meeting of the Group dated 26 March 2009 was submitted and approved.

Matters Arising

Flood Alleviation

Under reference to Section 4 of the Action Sheet the meeting noted that there was no further development at this time and that a report on the scope for flexibility would be submitted to the next meeting.

4. LOCAL DELIVERY ACTION PLANS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manger inviting the Group to note the current progress against the development of the Local Delivery Action Plans, the comments for the Community Planning Board and revisions which are required.

The meeting noted that a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to develop the local delivery action plans which support the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-10. This is a developing process which will improve with time and milestones will provide a measurable indication of whether the action is being carried out and the impact against the outcome will provide information for the required public performance report.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:

- (i) note the current Local Delivery Action Plans and changes sought by the Community Planning Board;
- (ii) remit the response for the change to the Corporate Policy Unit Manager and Lead Officers;
- (iii) note that the first quarterly monitoring report for quarters 1 and 2 will be submitted to the next meeting and progress against the milestones will be reported; and

- (iv) note that the Group's preference for reporting for detailed information coming forward rather than just exception updating.

5. REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL GROUPS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advising the Group that the Community Planning Board had instructed that all Strategic Theme Groups review their operational groups, including membership and remit, so as to ensure that they reflect the local delivery action plan priorities and have appropriate representation. An organogram identifying the current operational groups associated with the Board, the Community Engagement Group and the 5 Strategic Groups was appended to the report.

During discussion clarification was sought in regard the Group discussing/considering items of interest outwith the scope of the SOA and it was noted that such items would be welcome and should, in the first instance, be referred to the Corporate Policy Unit Manager for consideration to be included on a future meeting agenda. Concern was also expressed in regard to an apparent lack of notice to members of the Group in regard to a recently held 'Urban Freedom' meeting.

Following consideration the Group agreed:

- (i) that a review of the membership of the operational groups be undertaken and that the Active Travel Group should have a healthier triangle attached;
- (ii) that a review of the remit of each operational group be undertaken;
- (iii) to report back to the Community Planning Board on 19 November 2009 on progress and the next meeting of this Group with the full suite of operational groups ;
- (iv) to note that whilst the SOA was a 3 year document other topics for discussion not included would be welcomed; and
- (v) that the Groups' concerns in regard to an apparent lack of intimation relating to an 'Urban Freedom' meeting be raised with the Active Travel Co-ordinator.

6. DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services inviting the Group to consider submitting comments on the contents of the Council's Draft Climate Change Action Plan by Monday 28 October 2009. A copy of the draft Action Plan was appended to the report.

The meeting noted that the preparation of a Climate Change Action Plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is consistent with the principles of the Council and those of the Community Planning Partnership. The plan offers the opportunity to galvanise all the work that is already being done and take a more inclusive and strategic approach to tackling climate change. The meeting also noted that it was proposed to submit a finalised draft of the plan to the Council's Policy and

Resources Committee on Tuesday 17 November 2009 after collation of responses from the Group and internal consultees.

Following consideration the Group agreed;-

- (i) to submit comments on the Moray Council's Working Draft Climate Action Plan to E Gordon, Planning Officer, by Monday 28 October 2009;
- (ii) that a copy of the draft report to be submitted to the Council's Policy & Resources Committee on 17 November 2009 be circulated to the Group in advance of that meeting;
- (iii) to note that subject to approval by the Policy & Resources Committee the Draft Climate Action Plan will be issued for wider consultation; and
- (iv) to receive a report and presentation on what greener issues are currently covered in the Local Plan.

7. PREPARATION OF USE OF HOME GROWN TIMBER GUIDANCE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services informing the Group of the Council's involvement in the development of Home Grown Timber Guidance.

The meeting noted that the guidance is a collaborative piece of work being led by Forestry Commission Scotland in conjunction with Highland, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils as well as the Cairngorms National Park. The development of guidance on the use of home grown timber in development proposals will assist efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the priorities of the Greener Strategic Group, Single Outcome Agreement and Scottish Governments targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:-

- (i) note the preparation of the guidance on the Use of Timber in Sustainable Construction which will be circulated to the Group for comment by 30 November 2009 ; and
- (ii) note that a further report will be submitted when the finalised document is complete seeking the agreement of the Group to promote the guidance within the respective partnership organisations as an example of best practice in the use of home grown timber.

8. AWARENESS RAISING EVENTS - GREEN BUSINESS SEMINAR AND RENEWABLES EVENT 2010

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services providing the Group with an overview of the Green Business Seminar held on 15 September 2009 and feedback on the success of the event. The Group was also invited to consider proposals for a further awareness raising event on renewable technologies aimed at householders to be held in early 2010. A copy of the delegate list relating to the Seminar held in September 2009 was appended to the report.

The meeting noted that the development of an awareness raising event to promote renewable technologies will assist efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this is consistent with the aims of the SOA and the Greener Strategic Group Local Delivery Action Plan.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:-

- (i) note the feedback from the recent Green Business Seminar;
- (ii) approve the proposals for a Renewables Exhibition in early 2010 and encourage Community Planning Partners to provide a financial contribution or allocate staff time and resources towards the organisation of the event;
- (iii) RAF representatives being added to the draft delegate list;
- (iv) a similar information report be submitted to the Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group in December 2009;
- (v) a detailed report on the finalised arrangements to be submitted to the next meeting; and
- (vi) approve the development of a Renewables Directory detailing local suppliers, installers, sources of advice and available funding.

9. PREPARATION OF MORAY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY AND PLANNING GUIDANCE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services advising the Group of the Council's intention to prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy and Planning Guidance document. The report detailed the aims of the strategy and how it will be developed as an economic development and land use planning document.

The meeting noted that the preparation of a Renewable Energy Strategy and Planning Guidance document is consistent with meeting the aims of the Single Outcome Agreement and Scottish Government targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. The document will also enhance economic development opportunities within the renewable energy sector in Moray and contribute towards sustainable economic growth.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:-

- (i) support the Council's proposal to lead on the development of a Moray Renewable Energy Strategy and Planning Guidance; and
- (ii) partner organisations being invited to identify staff to participate in a Renewable Energy Operational Group tasked with the delivery of the Renewable Energy Strategy and Planning Guidance.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting noted that the next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 21 January 2010 at 9.30am within the Committee Room.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There was circulated and noted for the Group's information a copy of the Action Sheet from meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 27 August 2009.

12. FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Group of the Council's intended actions to address fuel poverty issues during 2010 to 2013. Section 4 of the report set out the actions the Housing Service intends to take to address fuel poverty in Moray, along with information on how the Housing Service intends to develop its Interim Local Housing Strategy 2010 to 2013. A copy of the consultative draft interim Strategy 'Affordable Warmth for All' was appended to the report.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:

- (i) note the proposed actions to be taken to address fuel poverty issues; and
- (ii) forward any comments to F Geddes, Housing Strategy Officer by 30 November 2009.