

**THE MORAY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC  
GROUP**

**THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2009**

**COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN**

**PRESENT**

Councillor McGillivray (Chairman)	The Moray Council
Councillor Bell	The Moray Council
Councillor Hamilton	The Moray Council
Councillor Murdoch	The Moray Council
Councillor Russell	The Moray Council
Carin Schwartz & Rebecca Kail	The Moray Forum
Eileen Bush	MVSO
Elaine Brown	NHS Grampian
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Alastair Kennedy	Joint Community Councils
Mark McClelland Jones	Volunteer Centre Moray
Wing Commander McCord	RAF Kinloss
Squadron Leader Smith	RAF Lossiemouth

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Community Planning & Development Manager, Equal Opportunities Officer (in respect of Item 2), Community Planning Officer, Community Development Officer (RAF Kinloss) and Mrs C Carswell, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Martin Johnson (HIE Moray), Jim Johnston (Moray Chamber of Commerce), Chief Inspector Mackie (Grampian Police) and Dave Thewliss (Grampian Fire & Rescue)

**1. MINUTE OF LAST MEETING**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Community Engagement Group dated 16 October 2008 was submitted and noted.

**2. MORAY EQUALITY FORUM**

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager asking the Group to note the progress of the Moray Equality Forum.

The Equal Opportunities Officer advised that equalities training was available to all community planning partners. Following discussion the meeting agreed

that an invite be issued to all community planning partners to attend equalities training along with a draft remit for the Moray Equality Forum, on which feedback would be welcomed.

The Community Planning & Development Manager advised that the Council and community planning partners may wish to have access to the Forum for consultation purposes, providing it was not overwhelmed by requests.

Following consideration, the meeting agreed to:-

- (i) note the progress in the establishment of the Moray Equality Forum and to consider the first issue arising from the meetings; and
- (ii) an invitation being issued to all community planning partners to take part in equalities training along with a draft remit for the Moray Equality Forum.

### **3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager, asking the Group to consider the draft action plan.

Councillor McGillivray advised that there had been three long and arduous meetings to look at the action plan and he wanted to thank all those who had helped with the process.

In response to a question from Wing Commander McCord regarding the National Standards as mentioned in action 12, the Community Planning and Development Manager advised that the National Standards were set down by the Government and agreed to send a copy of the same to him.

In response to a question from Councillor Hamilton regarding action 11 and whether there should be an overarching community planning annual statement, the Community Planning and Development Manager advised that it was important that feedback on progress of Community Engagement objectives was provided to this Group and a summary of that feedback could be included in the annual statement.

The meeting discussed the need to have timescales included in the action plan and what would be put in place to measure the actions.

Following consideration, the meeting agreed the Community Engagement action plan.

### **4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

There was submitted a report by Community Planning and Development Manager asking the Group to identify how best to carry out the role and remit

of the Community Engagement Group and to develop and deliver the action plan.

The meeting agreed that an implementation group be formed to look at prioritising the actions contained in the action plan and to set timescales for the same so that all Community Planning partners would know what they were working towards.

Mrs Bush advised that there were resource implications which, in the main would be addressed through theme groups but in some instances there were discreet pieces of work which would require to be taken forward. The Community Planning and Development Manager advised that there was a requirement to look at the staffing implications, funding and the resources available, in particular if an external consultant was to be taken on.

The meeting agreed that costs were required to be put against each action contained in the action plan prior to being submitted to the Community Planning Board.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to the establishment of a Community Engagement Implementation Group, which would consist of the same members involved in the Action Plan Co-ordinating Group;
- (ii) to take the action plan forward with costs and timescales identified for each action; and
- (iii) that a report would be taken back to the next Community Engagement Strategic Group meeting.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FUNDING CONSULTATION**

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager asking the Group to consider carrying out a consultation on the future of Moray Council arrangements for support of Community Engagement in Moray.

In response to a question from Councillor Hamilton regarding whether the Council would facilitate the consultation, the Community Planning and Development Manager advised that existing officers within the Council would carry out the consultation.

Mrs Bush advised, that in her opinion, there was a need to check with other partners as to whether they wished to take advantage of the consultation and what support they could provide.

Mrs Brown advised that NHS Grampian would like to become a partner and be involved in the consultation process.

Councillor Bell suggested that a special meeting could take place once more information was in place before the end of the financial year since there were likely to be financial implications for the Moray Council, once the results of the consultation are known.

Following consideration, the meeting agreed that the implementation group would arrange a consultation for the Moray Council's proposals alongside those of other partners, for support of Community Engagement in Moray and report back to a special meeting for approval.

#### **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 at 9.30am.