

## THE MORAY COUNCIL

### MINUTE OF MEETING OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 13 MAY 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL OFFICE, HIGH STREET, ELGIN

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor L. Bell	The Moray Council
Councillor J. Russell	The Moray Council
Mrs E. Brown	NHS Grampian
Mrs E. Bush	MVSO
Mr R. Cameron	Grampian Fire & Rescue
Mr A. Kennedy	Joint Community Council
Wing Commander McCord	RAF Kinloss
Chief Inspector H. Mackie	Grampian Police
Mrs A Marshall	Moray Area Forum
Mrs C Schwartz	Moray Area Forum

#### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor A. Wright (Ex-officio)

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Community Planning & Development Manager, Mrs D. Skene, Project Officer, Community Support Manager, Mrs M. Scott, Project Development Officer and Mrs C. Carswell, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors E. McGillivray and J. Hamilton. Wing Commander Carter, Mr E Coutts, Mr M. Devenney, Mr A. Keddie, Mr C. MacPherson. Mrs H. Milnes and Mrs L. Parker

### 1. CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Carswell, Committee Services Officer asked the meeting for nominations for the Chair. There was no-one within the committee put forward and Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Bell nominated Councillor Wright. There being no-one otherwise minded Councillor Wright took the Chair for the meeting.

## **2. MINUTE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP 18 FEBRUARY 2010**

Mrs Schwartz asked that under Item 3(d) "Moray Budget Consultation" in the third paragraph that the word "social" be entered in before benefit as she wanted the social return on investment investigated. The meeting agreed to this change.

Thereafter, the minute of the meeting of the Community Engagement Strategic Group of 18 February 2010 was approved.

### **2 . BETTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PILOT**

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager seeking to update members of the Community Engagement Group of the Moray Better Community Engagement (BCE) Pilot Initiative.

In response to a question from Mrs Schwartz as to whether the agreed projects were pre-existing or established for the purpose of the exercise, the Community Support Manager advised that the LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Group) had been in abeyance and it was agreed by the partners to come together and raise the project again. This was a group for young people under the age of 25.

Councillor Russell advised that he was pleased to see that there was a standard format for reporting and asked that acronyms not be used.

Mrs Bush advised that there would be lessons learnt from engaging with groups and whilst, some projects might fail the group would learn how and why this had occurred and adapt accordingly.

The meeting noted that the Steering Group had met every six to eight weeks but would now look at taking a step back to allow the groups to become more active. Each group would also meet on a six to eight week basis and would be allocated a member of staff from the community support unit, to guarantee that VOICE was updated whilst ensuring that groups were serviced ie meetings took place, minutes, etc. Actions raised at meetings would be carried out by members of the groups.

Councillor Wright advised that this group could not agree to extend the use of VOICE across the partnership but could recommend that the Community Planning Board consider this issue. The Community Support Manager advised that within Appendix 7 there was a list of partners and they could be trained as trainers. Councillor Wright suggested that these issues be raised with the Community Planning Board in the form of a report.

Mrs Bush suggested that a demonstration on VOICE and report be submitted to the next Community Planning Board. Mrs Brown advised that she had been at an event where VOICE 2 had been promoted and that NHS Grampian

have already committed to using VOICE as a tool for consultation and engaging with communities.

Following lengthy discussion, the group agreed to:-

- (i) support the development of the 6 BCE pilot projects;
- (ii) note the attached VOICE Analysis progress reports on the pilot progress;
- (iii) receive future progress from the BCE pilot projects in the format attached to the report with input from one or two of the project groups themselves; and
- (iv) note the use of VOICE (Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement) and recommend a report be submitted to the Community Planning Board to consider extending the use of VOICE across the partnership, including a demonstration of VOICE.

### **3. SHORTLIFE WORKING GROUP**

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager asking the group to consider the proposal of the Community Engagement Short Life Working Group to hold a seminar on Community Engagement in June 2010.

In response to a question from Councillor Wright as to the position of the "Sims City", the Community Planning & Development Manager advised that the bid for funding from the Scottish Government had been rejected but he believed that the aim was to forward it under a different format for funding which might be made available. He further advised that the PPR & Communications Officer was investigating tenders for a project to create software.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Bell that the event might not be cost effective should there not be a high level of interest, the Community Planning & Development Manager advised that the Short Life Working Group would meet before the event and the group would consider whether it would be worthwhile holding the event if numbers were low.

Following consideration, the group agreed to:-

- (i) support the proposal to hold a community engagement seminar to assist in the development of the community engagement framework; and
- (ii) a report being submitted to the Community Planning Board asking for their support in respect of the event.

#### **4. MORAY ENERGY EFFICIENCY FAIR 2010**

There was submitted a report by Councillor Russell, the Chair of Greener Strategic Group informing members of the outcome of the Moray Energy Efficiency Fair.

Councillor Russell spoke to the report and advised that the only negative issue had been that they had been unable to get a volunteer in Moray to attend the event to discuss cavity wall insulation as this was an issue raised by members of the public. He advised that the Greener Group would be considering whether to hold the event annually.

Councillor Wright stated that he was pleased that the community planning partners had worked together and shared the costs of the event.

Councillor Russell thanked Mr Devenney of Moray College for supplying a shuttle bus from the Town Hall to the College.

Following consideration, the group agreed to note the report.

#### **5. ITEMS FOR NOTING**

The Action Sheets from the Community Planning Board and Theme Groups were noted.

##### Community Planning Board Meeting – Wednesday 4 March 2010

Mr Kennedy sought clarification on the changes to the Fairer Scotland Fund. Councillor Wright advised that the Scottish Government had decided to discontinue the ring-fenced funding and incorporate it into the Council's allocated monies. In the future it would be for the Council to decide how monies should be spent. The work already in place would remain and projects completed.

Mrs Brown asked for clarification on the Governance Arrangements – Possible Merger of Community Planning & Council Committee Structures. Councillor Wright advised that at the Community Planning Board it had been agreed that the aim was to bring together the community planning strategic groups with the Council's service committees. There was to be a cross party meeting along with the Corporate Management Team to discuss the same in order to improve efficiencies i.e. number of meetings, etc. He further advised that there would be a report back to the Community Planning Board and to this group in due course.

### Greener Strategic Group Meeting – 15 April 2010

Mr Kennedy asked for clarification on what was meant by “exception comments” but Councillor Wright advised that this referred to not reporting on everything only those subjects that required attention. Councillor Russell advised Mr Kennedy that the full report referred to would be on “YourMoray”.

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

The next meeting will be held on 2 September 2010