

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 3 JULY 2008

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
Eileen Bush	MVSO
Eddie Brewster	Moray Area Forum
Elaine Brown	NHS
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Sandra Dow	Citizens Advice Bureau
Martin Johnson	HIE Moray
Alastair Kennedy	Joint Community Council
Chief Inspector Mackie	Grampian Police
Mark McLelland-Jones	Volunteer Centre
Wing Commander McCord	RAF Kinloss
Wing Commander Miles	RAF Lossiemouth

IN ATTENDANCE

Community Planning & Development Manager, Senior Performance & Planning Officer, Community Planning Officer, Principal Committee Services Officer and Mrs C Carswell, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Jim Johnstone (Moray Chamber of Commerce) and Dave Thewliss (Grampian Fire & Rescue).

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Community Engagement Strategic Group, which had been set up as part of the new Community Planning structure to scrutinise the services of all the partners and tasked with providing a vital link between the service providers (the professionals) and the service users (the Community of Moray). The Group will also have a key role in the preparation of the 2009-2010 Single Outcome Agreement.

2. ROLE AND REMIT

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, The Moray Council to consider the role and remit for the Community Engagement Group.

The Community Planning & Development Manager, spoke to the report and advised the meeting of the role of the Group which is to strengthen the relationship with the Community, Theme Groups Partners and the Partnership.

During discussion it was agreed that, for clarity, it would be useful for this Group to have an overview of the role and remit of the Community Planning Board and each of the Theme Groups before agreement can be reached with regard to this Groups role and remit.

Following further discussion it was agreed that there was a need for this Group to develop an overall engagement/communication strategy and that it was suggested that the Council's PR Department be asked to provide a template for this. It was also suggested that any engagement/communication strategies used by any of the Partners could also be looked at with a view to introducing areas of best practice from them into this Group's Strategy document.

Thereafter the Group agreed that:-

- (i) under paragraph 3.4.1 bullet point 4, the first sentence which refers to the Single Outcome Agreement be deleted;
- (ii) the Theme Group remits be brought to the next meeting;
- (iii) a Communication Strategy for the group be drafted and the Council's PR Department be asked to provide a template strategy;
- (iv) partner agencies bring forward any engagement /communication strategies that they may have; and
- (v) consideration of the remit of the Group be deferred to the next meeting.

3. MORAY EQUALITY FORUM

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, The Moray Council asking the Group to review progress and feedback information on establishing an Equality Forum.

Mr Devenney welcomed the proposal but advised that there is a need for clarity with regard to what the partners' roles are, to ensure that all legal obligations are being met and where the legal responsibility lies.

Following further discussion, the Group agreed to note the progress made towards the establishment of a Moray Equality Forum and that a further report be brought back to the Group addressing the issues raised, including legal responsibility, membership and resources, if appropriate.

4. CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY FEEDBACK

Mrs Brown left the meeting during discussion of this item.

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, The Moray Council providing the Group with feedback on the latest Citizens' Panel survey on 'Contacting Local Agencies'.

The Chairman advised that the Community Planning Board has requested that an evaluation of the previous arrangements relating to the use of the Citizen's Panel be undertaken prior to making a decision on the future of the Panel and that it would be useful for this group to have sight of the evaluation.

During discussion various issues were raised regarding how the Citizens' Panel could be used and by whom. Suggestion was made that each Theme Group could commission the Panel but that there would be a need to ensure questions being asked were appropriate. It was further suggested that this Group could review the Action Plans from the Theme Groups with a view to identifying common themes, which could be pooled together to save duplication or to prevent two groups going off in different directions.

Following further discussion it was agreed to defer consideration of this report in order that a further report be brought back on the outcome of the evaluation.

5. THE MORAY COMPACT

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, MVSO inviting the Group to note the existence and purpose of the Moray Compact and agree amendments made to it, including clarification of MVSO's role in relation to perceived breaches of the Compact.

During discussion Mr Kennedy raised an issue regarding Area Committees and the effect the creation of these Committees will have on those 'volunteers' who will be expected to attend them. In response the Chair advised that as the issue of Area Committees was currently out for consultation it was not appropriate for this Group to discuss the issue at this time, however he agreed that the wording in section 3 on page 5 of the compact should be amended to read that 'representation may include active involvement of Community Councils,...'.

Thereafter the Group agreed:-

- (i) To note the existence and purpose of the Moray Compact;

- (ii) That the last paragraph in Section 3 on Page 5 of the Moray Compact be amended to read "Later this year Area Committees will be established with representation from Local Elected Members and may include active involvement of Community Council, Area Forums Community Associations and other 'umbrella' groups and the forward to the Compact also be updated;
- (iii) That all Partners provide MVS0 with names of contacts within their agency along with names of deputies; and
- (iv) To an annual report being produced by the MVS0, on the operation of the Compact and of any reported breaches.

6. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

There was submitted a report by Chief Executive, The Moray Council inviting the Group to discuss and consider its role in the development of the 2009-2010 Single Outcome Agreement.

Following discussion the Group agreed to:-

- (i) defer consideration of this report until such time as a training seminar could be held to brief all partners on the roles and remits of the various Theme Groups, the Single Outcome Agreement, Community Engagement, etc.
- (ii) the Community Planning & Development Manager investigate how other Community Planning Partnerships are operating with a view to looking at areas of best practice, which could be considered by this Group; and
- (iii) note that Mr Johnson confirmed that he would be happy for the seminar to take place at HIE Moray and would work with the Community Planning & Development Manager to progress the same.