

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor J Divers	The Moray Council
Councillor G McDonald	The Moray Council
Councillor E McGillivray	The Moray Council
Councillor P Paul	The Moray Council
Councillor A Wright	The Moray Council
Martin Johnson	HIE Moray
Mike Devenney	Moray College
Andrew Fowlie	NHS Grampian
Hugh Mackie	Grampian Police
Eileen Bush	MVSO

N ATTENDANCE

Mark Palmer, Chief Financial Officer The Moray Council, Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager The Moray Council, John Ferguson, Community Planning & Development Manager The Moray Council, Roy Anderson, Community Planning Officer The Moray Council, and Moira Patrick, Principal Committee Services Officer, The Moray Council, Clerk to the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor G McIntyre, The Moray Council, Councillor J Hamilton, The Moray Council, Alan Smailes, Grampian Police and Andy Couselant, Grampian Fire and Rescue.

1. CHAIR

In the absence of Councillor McIntyre, Councillor Wright chaired the meeting.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 29 MAY 2008

The Minute of the Meeting of the Community Planning Board dated 29 May 2008 was submitted and approved.

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute it was noted that a report providing information regarding named substitutes would be brought back to the next meeting.

It was further agreed that the Membership of the Smarter Strategic Group include one representative from the Moray College and that the name of that representative be passed to the Corporate Policy Unit Manager.

3. REVISED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Board to agree the changes made to the Partnership Agreement in the light of the revised Community Planning Structures.

During discussion clarity was sought regarding the voting rights of Members of the Partnership, in particular the issue that the Local Authority Members would hold the majority in any vote and it was suggested that for the purposes of this Partnership that consideration be given to a negotiated position as being more sustainable.

In response the Chairman stated that it would be extremely disappointing if this Board was required to go to the vote on strategic matters and he was of the opinion that any decisions would be reached through negotiation. However he reiterated that the Council is charged by the Scottish Government to lead Community Planning and referred to the political balance for Councillors but believed that this would not become an issue for the Board.

Following further discussion it was agreed that whilst most of the work done by the Board would be agreed by a consensus approach, no other organisations were governed in the way a local authority was and the issues raised regarding the voting procedure would be something each organisations legal department would need some assurance on. It was therefore agreed that a caveat be included within the Partnership Agreement relating to this issue which would allow the Partner Organisations to pass it through their governance requirements.

Thereafter the Board agreed the changes made to the existing Partnership Agreement to reflect the revised membership, administration arrangements and remit of the Board within the new Community Planning Structures subject to the inclusion of a caveat relating to the issues raised regarding voting being included and it was agreed that it be remitted to Andrew Fowlie, NHS and Bridget Mustard, The Moray Council, to formalise the appropriate wording of a caveat and thereafter distribute copies of the Agreement to the Theme Groups.

The Board also noted that similar Partnership Agreements will be created for each of the Strategic Theme Groups and the Community Engagement Group and that each Agreement will be circulated to all Groups for reference purposes.

4. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

Councillor Paul joined the meeting at this juncture.

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Board to consider the next stages in the progression of the Single Outcome Agreement 2008-2009 and the developments for the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010.

The Chairman advised the Meeting that due to the possible industrial action scheduled to take place on 20 August, a new date for the official signing off of the SOA, to which all the statutory Partners were invited, was awaited. He further advised that whilst the Scottish Government was urging the Council to sign off the SOA on its own this year, the Chief Executive had insisted that the SOA for Moray was endorsed by the statutory Partners of the Community Planning Board.

During discussion it was noted that the monitoring of the SOA, along with 'prioritising the priorities will be major items for this Board in the future.

Concern was raised regarding the issue of the advice given by the Scottish Government and the conflicting advice received from the Improvement Service in regard to how local authorities set targets with the Scottish Government stating that it preferred targets which related to the 'direction of travel' as opposed to the Improvement Services' preference for 'SMART' targets. Following discussion it was agreed that further advice be sought from the Scottish Government in regard to this issue and that the issue also be raised with COSLA. It was further agreed that, in the interim, a report be brought back to the next meeting of the Board detailing the benefits or otherwise of both types of target or whether a mixture of both should be used.

Following consideration the Board:-

- (i) noted the next stages in progressing the Single Outcome Agreement;
- (ii) noted that due to possible industrial action on 20 August a new date for the official signing off of the SOA was awaited;
- (iii) agreed that further guidance be sought from the Scottish Government as to whether targets within the SOA should relate to 'direction of travel' or 'SMART' targets;
- (iv) note that Councillor Wright, The Moray Council, will raise this issue at COSLA;
- (v) noted that monitoring the SOA and 'prioritising the priorities' will be major items for consideration by this Board in the future, and

- (vi) agreed that a report be brought back to the next meeting of the Board detailing the benefits or otherwise of both types of target or whether a mixture of both should be used.

5. HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS ERDF (PRIORITY 3) AND ESF EUROPEAN FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager seeking the Board's endorsement of the bid for European funding to be submitted under the Highland and Islands ERDF (Priority 3) and ESF (Priority 1) European Funding Programmes.

During discussion concern was raised in regard to what was being asked of the Board at this meeting in relation to those projects where the Council was not the lead applicant as it was considered that this was seen, in particular by HIE Moray, as the first stage of the process and that what was being asked for at this meeting was approval in principle of 'speculative bids' at this stage.

Following further discussion it was agreed that for the purposes of this Meeting, in regard to those projects where the lead applicant was not The Moray Council, that these be agreed in principle only at this stage and would require to be considered in more detail should the European funding bid be successful.

Thereafter the Board:

- (i) endorsed the bid from the Community Planning Partnership for European funding submitted under the Highlands and Islands ERDF (Priority 3) and ESF (Priority 1) European Funding Programmes.
- (ii) agreed that regular monitoring reports on progress be provided to the Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Theme Group and information disseminated, as appropriate, through the other Strategic Theme Groups.
- (iii) noted that a similar bid for European funding is being submitted jointly by a number of Community Planning partners through the Lowland Scotland Funding Programme;
- (iv) noted that in regard to those projects where the lead applicant was not The Moray Council, that these were agreed in principle only at this stage and would require to be considered in more detail should the European funding bid be successful.

6. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager asking the Board to note the final Fairer Scotland submission to the Government.

Following consideration the Board agreed to refer consideration of the final Fairer Scotland Submission made to The Scottish Government to the Stronger & Safer Strategic Group.

7. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager asking the Board to consider the evaluations of projects funded under the transitional arrangements of the Fairer Scotland Fund and decide on the continued funding of these projects.

Following consideration the Board agreed to refer to the Stronger & Safer Strategic Group, consideration of the evaluations of projects funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund and whether funding should be continued to the projects receiving transitional funding to the end of this financial year.

It was further agreed that that progress of the Fairer Scotland Fund against the Single Outcome Agreement be reported back to the Community Planning Board and that where there are issues, which cross over several Theme Groups, these Groups would feed into the Safer & Stronger Theme Group.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager asking the Board to note the way current funding is agreed by individual partners for community planning.

Clarification was sought regarding the direction of the report and the Chairman advised that in his opinion what needed to be considered was the day to day organisation of the Community Planning framework, i.e. clerking of meetings and the secretarial/administrative support required in putting meetings together. He stated that whilst the Scottish Government has charged local authorities with leading and facilitating Community Planning this did not necessarily mean funding it as well. He stated that he was keen to look at the running and management of Community Planning and suggested that the cost of running the Partnership might be contributed to on a 50/50 approach between the local authority and Partners which could include contributions in kind such as the provision of meeting space etc.

During discussion it was suggested that there may be an opportunity to look at a pan Grampian' formula and it was noted that in the past such a formula was used where the contributions were agreed at 40/40/20 although it was recognised that this was likely to have been superseded.

Following further discussion the Board agreed:-

- (i) to note the way current funding is agreed by individual partners for community planning;

- (ii) that information be brought back regarding how other Partnership bodies provide funding to their partnerships and that this include information on what the current cost is at present;
- (iii) that a 'pan Grampian' type formula be investigated through the North East Partnership, and
- (iv) that information regarding the budget setting for future Community Planning Projects, as part of the SOA 2009-10 development, be brought back to a future meeting.

9. YOUTH STRATEGY REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Chief Legal Officer asking the Board to note the outcomes of the recent review of progress with the Moray Youth Strategy and agree to a further meeting later in the year between Partnership representatives and Moray Youth Council members.

Following consideration the Board agreed to:-

- (i) note the outcome of the recent review of progress in addressing the key objectives within the Moray Youth Strategy;
- (ii) a further meeting being arranged later in the year involving representatives of the Partnership and members of the Moray Youth Council and that Elected Members also be invited to participate in this meeting, and
- (iii) consideration being given to webcasting the meeting to encourage more involvement of young people.

10. SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY 2008-2011

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager asking the Board to approve the Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11.

Following consideration the Board:

- (i) approved the Moray Community Planning Partnership Social Inclusion Strategy 2008-11 and outcome statement.
- (ii) agreed to refer the Strategy to the Safer and Stronger Strategic Theme Group in order that they can oversee the promotion and development of the Strategy.

11. EQUALLY WELL (HEALTH INEQUALITIES TEST SITE)

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning & Development Manager providing the Board with information regarding asking the Board to consider participation of Moray as an Equally Well (Health Inequalities) test site.

Following discussion the Board agreed to the participation of Moray as a test site around the issue of Health Inequalities and to prepare a bid for inclusion as a test site.

It was further agreed that NHS Grampian lead on the preparation of the bid.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There was submitted for information, the Action Sheets relating to the undernoted Community Planning Theme Groups, which had met to date:

- (a) Greener Strategic Group dated 19 June 2008
- (b) Safer & Stronger Strategic Group dated 5 June 2008
- (c) Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group dated 5 June 2008
- (d) Community Engagement Group dated 3 July 2008

The Meeting noted that the Smarter and Healthier Strategic Theme Groups had not yet met but would be meeting within September.

Following discussion it was agreed that the memberships of each of the Theme Groups be included on the Action Sheets for future meetings.

Following further discussion it was agreed that Partners be invited to submit items for inclusion on future agendas of this Board.

13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Meeting noted that the next meeting of the Community Planning Board is scheduled to take place on Thursday 30 October and it was agreed that Grampian Police, Moray Division, in their Moray Street offices, Elgin, would host it.