

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF SPECIAL COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD
MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2013
CHAMBERS, THE MORAY COUNCIL, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor A. Wright	The Moray Council
Councillor B. Jarvis (Substituting for Councillor J. Divers)	The Moray Council
Councillor S. Cree	The Moray Council
Councillor P. Paul	The Moray Council
Andrew Anderson (Substituting for David Oxley)	HIE Moray
Megan Palmer-Abbs	Moray College
Willie Findlay (Substituting for Mark McLaren)	Police Scotland
David Rout	Scotland Fire & Rescue Service
Don Vass	tsiMoray
Sean Coady (Substituting for Christine Lester)	NHS Grampian
Roddy Burns, Chief Executive (ex-officio)	The Moray Council

APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor J. Divers, Mark McLaren (Police Scotland), David Oxley (HIE Moray), Christine Lester (NHS Grampian), Anthony Standing Skills Development Scotland and Alistair Merrill (Scottish Government) (ex-officio).

IN ATTENDANCE

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager and Mrs Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the meeting (both of The Moray Council).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Gordon Neil, Portfolio Manager and Shelagh Stewart, Project Manager (both of Audit Scotland).

1. WELCOME

The Board joined the Chairman in welcoming Gordon Neil and Shelagh Stewart from Audit Scotland to the special meeting of the Community Planning Board.

2. PRESENTATION

There was a presentation by Gordon Neil and Shelagh Stewart from Audit Scotland. The presentation outlined the reason why Community Planning Partnerships are audited and detailed the lessons learned from the 3 pilot audits of Aberdeen City, North Ayrshire and Scottish Borders. It also detailed this year's programme of audits, outlined how the audit would be tailored to the Moray context and the timing approach that would be taken to the audit work.

At the conclusion, Councillor Wright thanked them for the presentation and thereafter the Meeting discussed progress by the Moray Community Planning Partnership.

Councillor Wright updated the Meeting on the progress the Community Planning Partnership has made over the last 2 years. He stated that as the original Community Planning system had been quite cumbersome and based on an outdated single outcome agreement, they had taken the opportunity to refresh the process and devise a new single outcome agreement which focuses on 6 outcomes. Five partnerships have been established, these being Economic Development, Health and Social Care, Children and Young People, the Green Agenda and the Community Engagement Committee.

An Area Based Review Working Party has been established which is a cross party grouping within the Council whose aim is to establish a 10 year plan for Moray. He advised that there have been a series of workshops and members of the Group were asked to think what the ideal situation would be for Moray in 10 years time. A 4 year plan has also been established which focuses more on budget reduction and the Community Planning Board will be consulted at the end of the Area Based Review.

He further stated that a major achievement to date has been with regard to Child Protection. A Child Protection Committee has been established and all Child Protection personnel are co-located to enable effective communication. A Child Protection Framework has also been established and communication has been encouraged in an effort to protect the children of Moray.

An overriding priority for Moray is economic development. There is a realisation that there is a need to diversify the economy of Moray and economic development is key to this.

With regard to the Integration of Health and Social Care, Councillor Wright advised that in his opinion Moray was well placed with the establishment of a shadow board which is made up of 3 Elected Members and 3 Members from NHS Grampian to take this forward.

The Chief Executive advised that Moray has a set of relationships which have allowed positive actions to take place. The Police and Fire reform went smoothly and there are positive relationships with Grampian Health. He advised that there are also excellent relationships with the 26 Elected Members and there is recognition of the difficult decisions they are faced with on a daily basis.

He further advised that it has been established that there are significant gaps in some areas of education, policing, employment, low wage income and health ie alcohol and smoking and that these issues can only be addressed by good relationships, shared understanding and shared leadership between the Partners, which will, in turn, make lives better for the people of Moray, both young and old.

Councillor Wright further stated that the Council could be better at advising members of the public what the Council is actually responsible for and community engagement will help the public understand what Community Planning is all about.

Councillor Cree, Chairman of the Community Engagement Group stated that the Group has an action plan that identifies where differences need to be made however ultimately the Group is about relative and innovative tactile engagement with the Community which will be person centred. Consultations need to be meaningful and Partners should participate in decision making and establishment of policies etc.

In response to a question from Mr Neill, Audit Scotland regarding community empowerment and the delegating of decision making down to communities, the Chairman advised that communities delivering services is straight forward however the relevant Community Councils/Associations deciding which service to deliver is more challenging. Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has been running for 18 months and the success rate has been high in terms of expression of interest but low in terms of achieving an end product however the Council does provide support in this area. Some examples of CAT are a museum, town hall and a toll booth.

In response to a question from Councillor Cree regarding communities making decisions in relation to service provision taken on by local community groups and how other authorities had dealt with this process, Mr Neill advised that he would look into this further and report back to Councillor Cree following the meeting. Ms Stewart, Audit Scotland further advised that in Edinburgh Council they had broken their Community Plan into smaller area plans that established service provision priorities for the smaller areas.

With regard to bridging the skills gap in Moray the Chief Executive advised that there were jobs but not enough skilled individuals to take up the employment and potential employers and the Federation of Small Businesses have agreed to assist in this area by providing work experience and apprenticeships aided by the Community Planning Partnerships.

Ms Palmer-Abbs, Moray College, advised that it was the aim of Moray College to bridge the skills gap by providing pupils leaving secondary school with the skills required to help them gain employment.

Mr Coady, NHS Grampian advised that they were happy with the approach that has been taken with regard to the Community Planning Partnership and that considerable progress had been made through joint working in terms of the work that has been completed with regard to the Early Years Collaborative and the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People.

With regard to tsiMoray, Mr Vass advised that over the past 6-8 months a Chief Officer had been appointed and strong relationships had been formed with the Moray Council as well as through Community Engagement and that issues were moving forward in the right direction.

With regard to Grampian Fire and Rescue, Mr Rout advised that they enjoyed a positive relation with the Moray Council. Fire reform had presented challenges and opportunities in particular with regard to fire prevention and this will be taken forward through the positive relationships with the Community Partners.

Chief Inspector Findlay advised that Grampian Police enjoyed a very good working relationship with the Partners. Police reform had brought a lot of changes structurally. He further advised that currently the Police are represented through attendance at Community Councils however this will progress to community engagement through the new multi member ward reporting in the near future.

With regard to data sharing, it was agreed that data sharing between Partners was important however Ms Palmer-Abbs asked if the way in which data is collated should be streamlined to enable each Partner to exchange information effectively.

Mr Neill sought clarification with regard to “access of services” as this was an area that had featured in their reading of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data in that 32 out of 116 zones in Moray struggled to access services. In response, the Chief Executive advised that the Moray 10 Year Plan would address issues such as access to services.

With regard to the new Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee, Mr Neill asked how this Committee fit in Community Planning and if it duplicated in any way. In response, the Chief Executive advised that the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee required to be established to ensure the operational robustness of the Police and Fire Services. The remits of the Public Protection Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership will fit in with the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee to avoid duplication.

In response to a question raised by Mr Neill regarding the restructuring arrangements in terms of management and what areas the Community Planning Partnership were still addressing, the Chairman advised that the Community Planning Partnership were working effectively and that 2 theme groups report to each meeting of the Community Planning Board. The governance was still a work in progress and, once completed, this was to be presented to Head of the Improvement Service in Orkney for proofing as he kindly agreed to do so.

In conclusion, Mr Neill advised that the Audit Scope would be provided towards the end of October 2013 which would detail the priority issues to be addressed. Thereafter, field work would commence in November/December 2013.

In response, the Chairman agreed that these timescales were acceptable and agreed that when the final audit report is due to be submitted that this should be presented at a scheduled meeting of the Community Planning Board.