



Your Moray - Your Environment

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 19 JUNE 2008

SUBJECT: ROLE AND REMIT OF GREEN STRATEGIC GROUP AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report provides an overview of the former Moray Environmental Forum, background information to allow discussion of the role and remit of the Greener Strategic Group and to note ongoing commitments.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Group agree, in principle to:

1. Determine the role of the Green Strategic Group based on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and other commitments;
2. Note the remit of the Group;
3. Prepare an overview of the partner's ongoing activities in meeting SOA objectives and other legislation policies and guidance (see Appendix 4 for details); and
4. Organise a community wide environmental award scheme and give further consideration to organising an environmental awareness event for local businesses (as previous commitments of the Moray Environmental Forum) and identify lead partners for the events.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Background to the Environmental Forum

3.1.1 The Moray Environmental Forum was formed in July 2004 as a Community Planning Theme Group with the remit of protecting and enhancing the environment. The main objectives of the group are defined in an Environmental Strategy prepared by the Forum and published in April 2007 and are as follows:

- Audit and review the principles of support for Sustainability and the Environment within the partner organisations.

- Prepare a protocol and guidelines for inclusion of environmental sustainability principles and actions in Strategies and Action Plans.
- Raise the profile of, and exchange of information and best practice in environmental issues and sustainability in Moray.
- Expand and support community based actions and issues raised in sustainability and environmental matters.
- Promote and enhance the natural, cultural and built environment which supports tourism, business investment and quality of life.
- Contribute to proposals regarding improving energy efficiency and sustainable use of resources.
- Ensure that all Community Plan Theme Groups adopt a co-ordinated approach to incorporating and achieving sustainability principles.

3.2 Actions and Commitments

3.2.1 As well as preparing the Environmental Strategy, the Forum has been involved in raising awareness through the preparation and launch of a green office guide. The Forum also allowed partners to exchange best practice and experience on various environmental topics. In 2007 the Forum in partnership with CEIM hosted a very successful award scheme that attracted a lot of media interest. There is an ongoing commitment to host the event again this year and funding has been secured from HIE Moray and the Moray Council. At the last meeting of the Forum it was suggested that the Forum organise an environmental awareness event for local businesses.

3.3 Framework of Relevant Legislation, Guidance and Policies

3.3.1 Since the formation of the Environmental Forum and during the preparation of the Environmental Strategy, there has been a change of Government and a raft of new legislation, policies and requirements in terms of the environment. The Group will be working within the context of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which is outlined below.

3.3.2 Following the Community Planning Board Meeting on 29 May 2008, it was agreed that the Green Strategic Group delivers the following national outcomes from the SOA, the latest draft of which is attached see Appendix 1 (note this is a working document and may be subject to change).

12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

13. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

3.3.3 In addition to this the Scottish Government has set a challenging target of 80% reduction in CO² levels by 2050 in the Scottish Climate Change Bill. Moray Council has signed the Scottish Climate Change Declaration (attached Appendix 2) and in doing so is committed to preparing a Climate Change Action Plan. The Council has agreed that this should be a community wide strategy and best delivered through community planning.

3.4 **Role of the Greener Strategic Group**

3.4.1 The role of the Green Strategic Group needs to reflect a challenging and crosscutting brief that impacts on the work of all the Strategic Groups. The aims of the Environmental Strategy are still pertinent and could be used as the basis of a Moray Climate Change Action Plan as per the Climate Change Declaration commitment and provide a focus for input from all partners. Preparing and implementing the strategy with the wider engagement of the local community and the other Strategic Groups should meet both the Single Outcome Agreement objectives and other commitments. The Greener Group should seek to support and establish smaller community/business led initiatives. The environmental award scheme and business seminar would fall into this category.

3.4.2 Below and reporting to the Strategic Group, co-ordinating groups will be established to implement actions agreed at the Strategic Group. The table in Appendix 3 requires to be filled out to provide an overview of all the partner activities across a wide range of environmental topics. When complete the table will demonstrate common interests, provide a foundation to build upon and assist in identifying co-ordinating groups to bring forward the Greener Groups agenda.

3.5 **Remit of the Greener Strategic Group**

The remit of the Group, which is common to all the Community Planning Strategic Groups is:-

Strategic -

- Identifying the theme groups' focus and priorities, referenced to the CPP strategic priorities, outlining the steps to meeting these priorities and committing the necessary resources
- Evaluate performance, holding each other to account and supporting problem solving with the Partnership.
- Complete strategic assessment for theme – review annually

Co-ordinating -

- Target resources effectively to deliver priorities
- Ensure overall delivery and monitoring of the priorities
- Target intervention and actions based on evidence based data
- Evaluate impact of intervention or action based on evidence
- Compile focused assessments to consider specific problems relating to agreed priorities including any specific changes and predictions for the next period; identify any new issues; progress made in relation to the current problem solving activity; and identify any potential resource requirement

Operational -

- Management meetings – cross partner
- Topic based group –to deliver specifically against one of the activities or issues identified by the Co-ordinating group

Author of Report: Emma Gordon, Planning Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: