

REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP 5 AUGUST 2010

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN SEMINAR 14 SEPTEMBER 2010

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report is to advise the Greener Strategic Group of the proposal to host a Sustainable Design Seminar in September 2010. This was a key action within the Local Delivery Action Plan for 2009/10 and had been scheduled for completion in December 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- **The Group note arrangements for the Sustainable Design Seminar on 14 September 2010.**
- **The partners are asked to promote the event to appropriate colleagues within their organisations.**
- **The Group note a Sustainable Design Guide will be prepared and referred to the Group for input in 2011.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At a previous meeting on 15 April 2010, it was agreed that the Group organise a Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar in 2010. In hosting this event the Group is meeting a key action within the Local Delivery Action Plan by raising awareness of alternative fuels and building techniques.

3.2 Following lengthy discussions with local architects, timber manufacturers and house builders it became clear that there is a demand for this type of event. The timing of the event is very pertinent given the impending changes to the Building Standards Regulations in October 2010. As part of these changes there will be a requirement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in new buildings by 30%. This will have a significant impact on the design of buildings and use of materials and this has provided the basis for the focus of the sustainable design seminar. The event is to be held at Horizon Scotland in Forres, this venue has been chosen due to both the design of the building and the quality of lecture theatre facilities available.

3.3 The topics being presented range from use of local timber in construction to the use of renewable technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The speakers are from varied backgrounds and all have an expertise in their particular field. Many of the speakers are local and this reflects the work already ongoing in and around sustainable construction. Importantly, the

seminar highlights the fact that there are local products available and local companies and individuals with a wealth of knowledge. The event will also act as a platform to launch the Using Local Timber - Contributing to Sustainable Construction document produced by Forestry Commission Scotland in association with the Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Highland, and Moray Councils and Cairngorms National Park.

- 3.4 A draft programme of the day has been attached and provides information regarding the speakers and their presentations. As part of the day there is also an optional guided tour of Findhorn eco village. The eco village is has a number of excellent examples of sustainable design and is at the forefront of innovation in terms of sustainable construction.
- 3.5 There has been a significant level of interest from local architects, developers, house builders and officers within Moray Council including Building Standards Officers, Planning Officers and Architects as sustainable design will impact on their roles and responsibilities. The lecture theatre holds approximately 65 people and based on expressions of interest up to 45 delegates plus 6 guest speakers could be in attendance. There are spaces available for partner organisations to send delegates to attend.
- 3.6 The event is also intended to act a catalyst for the development of a Sustainable Design Guide for Moray. The seminar will bring together various disciplines and allow access to local expertise that will assist in the preparation of the document.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The event will achieve the Local Delivery Action Plan Objective relating to holding a 'Building Standards, Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction Techniques Seminar'. It will also help achieve the Service Plan of the Environmental Services Department regarding Sustainable Construction Techniques.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Greener Group is one of five Strategic Theme Groups, established in March 2008 as part of the revised Community Planning Partnership structure, with responsibility to address identified national and local outcomes within Moray's SOA.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

Financial

The costs to host the event are as follows:

Hire of venue and catering £ 595.00

Fees for Speakers and Expenses	£1,200 (exact amount to be confirmed)
Guided Tour of Eco-village	£ 30.00
Hire of Bus to Findhorn	£ 140.00
Total	£1,965.00

The costs of approximately £2,000 will be met by a £1,000 contribution from The Forestry Commission Scotland.

Staffing

Staffing resources will be accommodated within the existing staff resources of Partners.

(d) Consultations

There have been informal consultations with organisations who could present at or attend the Seminar.

5. CONCLUSION

By hosting the Sustainable Design Seminar the Group will meet a key action within the Local Delivery Action Plan. The seminar will promote sustainable design to local professionals and raise awareness of local solutions and products. This event will provide a starting point for research and discussions on the development of a Sustainable Design Guide for Moray.

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Background Papers:

Ref: