

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 21 MAY 2009

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors E. McGillivray (Chair), M. McConnachie, R. Shepherd and D. Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE

Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Partnership Development Officer, Community Planning Officer, Transportation Manager, Community Planning & Development Manager, Chief Housing Officer, and C. Carswell, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor D Ross (The Moray Council), L. Tait, (NHS Grampian), Supt S. Milton (Grampian Police) and Mr D. Thewliss (Grampian Fire & Rescue)

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 19 FEBRUARY 2009

The minute was agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.

2. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager updating the Safer and Stronger Theme Group on progress made in the development of the fund, consider how it could contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund and how to agree proposed changes to the investment process.

The Community Planning & Development Manager advised that they wish to amend the process to involve theme groups by asking them to propose two members to approve proposals submitted which were relevant to their theme group. These would then be forwarded to the Social Inclusion Board for their consideration before putting forward proposals to the Community Planning Board.

Following discussion it was agreed that the proposer should approach the Chair of the relevant group to insure that it was aligned with the aims of the theme group, in order to go forward to the Social Inclusion Group. Councillor McGillivray asked for the proposals to also be emailed to members of the Safer & Stronger Group for their comments before going to the Community Planning Board.

Following consideration, the Group agreed:-

- (i) to note progress made in the development of the fund.
- (ii) to consider how it could contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives and put forward ideas on how the fund could be invested in line with its key priorities.
- (iii) to consider and agree proposed changes to the process for investment of the Fairer Scotland Fund.

3. FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND - MORAY YOUTHSTART

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning and Development Manager asking the Group to consider how to develop improved working among services supporting disadvantaged groups.

Following consideration the Group agreed to ask the Social Inclusion Implementation Group to carry out an investigation into the feasibility of the Moray Youthstart Partnership being used to develop initiatives to improve co-ordination and integrated working among services aimed at young people

4. PROGRESS REVIEW AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS RELATING TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2009 TO MARCH 2009

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update of service performance against indicators relating to the Safer strand of the Safer & Stronger Community Planning theme.

Councillor McGillivray asked that for these updates to continue coming to this group but that they should also go to the Communities Committee. The Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that there was a co-ordinating group next week and following that a report would be written for the next Communities Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor McGillivray as to who Members should contact if they have any issues within their areas, the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that if they were operational issues they should be directed towards the Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and the Development Officer. Councillor McGillivray asked that Members be made aware of this and the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that she would do so.

The Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that the warden had issued a fixed penalty in Burghead and this had now been forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal to decide whether it should go to court.

Following consideration the Group agreed to note the update of Service Performance regarding the Performance Indicators relating to Antisocial Behaviour and Community Safety.

5. REVIEW OF DOG FOULING PROCEDURE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to note the progress undertaken by the Safer Co-ordinating Group to address dog fouling and agree the amendments to the procedure for issuing fixed penalties.

Councillor McConachie suggested that there should be a press release sent out regarding the change in the dog fouling procedure and it was agreed that the press release would be sent from this group.

Councillor Stewart suggested that the dog fouling procedure should be sent to all Community Councils to advise them of the changes.

Following consideration, the group agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made by the Safer Co-ordinating Group to address dog fouling through education, early intervention and enforcement;
- (ii) to approve the amendments to the Dog Fouling procedures which will allow the issuing of fixed penalties without first delivering a warning;
- (iii) to issue a press release regarding the change in procedures; and
- (iv) to issue the information to Community Councils for their information.

6. COUNCIL NEW BUILD

There was submitted a report by the Chief Housing Officer presenting a progress report on the development of a Council new build programme and indicating priorities to be addressed in Phase 2 of the proposed programme.

The Chief Housing Officer advised that procurement of Phase 2 was complicated and they would have to seek expressions of interest from developers should monies be available from the Scottish Government.

Following consideration, the group agreed to:-

- (i) welcome the financial assistance from the Scottish Government;

- (ii) note the progress achieved to date;
- (iii) note that a verbal report on the Communities Committee's consideration of the proposals for Phase 2 will be made to the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group; and
- (iv) note that the tender evaluation and detailed financial implications for Phase 1 will be presented to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 2 June 2009 for consideration.

7. FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Chief Housing Officer informing the Group on the progress that had been made in implementing the Moray Fuel Poverty Strategy 2004 - 2009 and set out proposals to develop a Moray Fuel Poverty Strategy 2009 - 2014.

Following consideration, the group agreed to:-

- (i) note the strategy review; and
- (ii) note proposals for the development of a Fuel Poverty Strategy 2009-2014.

8. LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE 2008 - 09

There was submitted and noted a report by the Chief Housing Officer summarising the 2009 Local Housing Strategy (LHS) update which will be the last annual update of the LHS 2004 - 2009. The report reviews the actions for 2008 / 09 and sets out the actions for 2009 / 10.

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING WEBSITE

There was submitted a report by the Community Planning Officer asking the Group to assist in taking forward actions agreed by the Community Engagement Group to address a number of issues around information provided for the Community Planning website.

The Community Planning Officer advised that the website was not being well utilised as the key source for Community Planning. The group agreed that the website was a useful tool but could be damaging if not kept up to date with current information.

Following consideration, the group agreed to:-

- (i) participate in establishing a network of content providers to provide regularly updated information for the Community Planning website;
- (ii) note that guidance on the content management of the site will be provided by the Community Planning Officer;
- (iii) note that the website will be a standing item on all future community planning group agendas; and
- (iv) actively promote the site as a key source of information about Community Planning in Moray.

10. ACTION SHEET FOR THE COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2009

There was submitted and noted an action sheet from the Community Planning Board Meeting on Thursday 7 May 2009.

11. REFLECTIVE ARMBANDS FOR CHILDREN

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advising the Safer & Stronger Group that funding had been secured for the initiative from Tesco, Asda, Stagecoach and Moray Firth Radio.

The Development Officer advised that there was also a competition running meantime at Primary Schools to design a logo that would feature on the armbands themselves. It was anticipated that the armbands would be distributed to nursery pupils and those attending primaries one to three throughout Moray prior to the darker nights in autumn this year.

The group agreed that congratulations should be given to Councillors Irene Ogilvie and Anita McDonald for all their hard work in making this initiative a success.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the progress of the Safer Route to School initiative involving the issue of reflective armbands.

12. SOA PERFORMANCE REPORT (2008/09)

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager advising that the Safer and Stronger Group were invited to consider an analysis of performance in addressing the national and local outcomes over the first year of the SOA (2008/09).

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that there had been lessons learnt through the development of the action plan and longer term projects now have defined milestones. There are three key actions under the

outcomes and this would help with the monitoring process and give a clear picture. She further advised that the Performance Indicators would now be reported annually as in some instances the quarterly information did not tell much and a monitoring report would be given to this group in October.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that a lot of the indicators had changed with the new SOA but they were working towards a correlation between the actions and performance indicators.

Following consideration, the group agreed to:-

- (i) approve the analysis of performance against the actions addressing the national and local outcomes over the first year of the SOA;
- (ii) note the current performance against the indicators and that this position would be updated as information becomes available; and
- (iii) note the recommendations for improvement in the monitoring of the new SOA (2009/10) based on lessons learnt from the conduct of the process during the first year.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The group noted that the next meeting would be on 10 September 2009