



Your Moray - Your Prosperity

MINUTE OF MEETING OF WEALTHIER & FAIRER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2008

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor J Cree (Chair)
Councillor G McDonald
Councillor P Paul
Councillor J Russell
Councillor A Wright
John Ellwood
Martin Johnson

The Moray Council
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
Moray College
HIE Moray

APOLOGIES

Mike Devenney

Moray College

The meeting was disappointed to note that no communications about attendance had been received from the representatives of the Moray Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses at this first meeting of the

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Direct Services, the Planning & Development Manager, the Community Planning & Development manager, the Community Planning Officer and the Senior Committee Services Officer, Clerk to the meeting.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the Council's Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Theme Group.

2. ROLE AND REMIT OF GROUP

There was submitted a note by the Head of Development Services setting out the proposed role and remit of the Group. The meeting noted that the principle aims of the 'Wealthier' aspect of the role of the Group would be to reflect those of the Moray 2020 Strategy, which was signed up to by the Community Plan Partners on the former Theme Group. The meeting also noted that the aims of

the Strategy document have subsequently been endorsed in the Single Outcome Agreement and the Council Administration's priorities. The 'Fairer' aspect of the role still required to be defined. It was also noted that the Wealthier & Fairer Strategic Group would deliver Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) national outcomes 1, 2 & 13.

The note also advised that the strategic, co-ordinating and operational remits, are common to all the Council's Strategic Theme Groups.

Following consideration the Group agreed:-

- (i) that the Role be amended to incorporate the three Transport Strategies and Studies and Cross-report on the work of the previous Theme Group 'Improving Travel Facilities, Choices & Safety'; and
- (ii) to note the remit of the Group.

3. BACKGROUND TO PREVIOUS THEME GROUPS: ECONOMIC & TRANSPORT

There were submitted notes by the Head of Development Services and the Head of Direct Services on the work of the previous Theme Groups, the Local Economic Forum [LEF] and Improving Travel Facilities, Choices and Safety.

On the invitation of the Chair the Planning and Development Manager, the Head of Direct Services and Martin Johnston, HIE Moray, gave brief oral resumes on the work of the previous Theme Groups and the current position relative to the Moray 2020 Strategy, which had been revised in light of economic changes, and current and potential future business opportunities.

Following consideration the Group agreed to note:-

- (i) the background to the previous Theme Groups: and
- (ii) that, to date, the revised Moray 2020 Strategy document had not been submitted to a meeting of Moray Council.

4. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager inviting the Group to note that Strategic Assessments will be submitted to each of the Strategic Theme Groups which will contain evidence-based information from the Single Outcome Agreement and priorities from the previous theme group.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:

- (i) use the Strategic Assessment to assist the theme group to establish and monitor their priorities; and
- (ii) note that the Strategic Assessment for this theme group will be submitted to the next meeting.

5. ENGAGEMENT WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY

There was submitted a report by the Head of Development Services inviting the Group to consider proposals for opportunities for discussion with the local business community, to help develop and improve the local economy.

The meeting noted that whilst there were some opportunities for dialogue with local businesses, the proposals outlined in the report, will help formalise some of that discussion. A review would also be undertaken of other arrangements for engagement with the local business community, to ensure that any such opportunities are co-ordinated and focussed on the main issues relating to the priorities of the Community Planning Partnership.

Following consideration the Group agreed, in principle, to:-

- (i) the formation of a Local Business Panel;
- (ii) a proposed seminar for “growth business”;
- (iii) the proposals to establish an annual conference for discussion of the local economy; and
- (iv) engage with the Chamber of Commerce with a view to ascertaining how this proposal can be best progressed

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD: ACTIONS

There was tabled at the meeting a copy of the Action Sheet from the meeting of the Community Planning Board held on Thursday 29 May 2008 and the Groups attention was drawn to the accompanying Appendix which confirmed details of the associated national outcomes of the SOA to be delivered by the Group.

Following consideration the Group agreed to note the national outcomes referred to this Group are 1, 2 & 13, with the exception of ‘Equalities’ which is to be referred to the ‘Safer & Stronger Strategic Group’

7. MAIN PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

The meeting considered a number of possible projects to take forward in terms of the role and remit of the Group and the Governments Economic Strategy and following discussion the Group agreed that:-

- (i) arrangements be made for a presentation to be given to Members of Moray Council on the revised Moray 2020 Strategy and current/future position of the two RAF Bases in Moray; and
- (ii) a definitive of list of proposed projects be prepared by the Lead Officers of Moray Council and the representatives of HIE and Moray College for submission and discussion to the next meeting of the Group.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting noted that the next meeting of the Group will be held on Thursday 21 August 2008 at 2.00 p.m. within the Committee Room, Moray Council Office, Elgin. Items for the Agenda to be forwarded to the Clerk by Friday 8 August 2008.