

RECORD OF WORKING GROUP MEETING

GROUP NAME:	SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (SCP)	
CHAIRPERSON:	Cllr Gordon McDonald	(GMcD)
DATE OF MEETING:	30 June 2016	
LOCATION:	Committee Room	
ATTENDING:	Cllr Gordon McDonald, Chair Rhona Gunn, Corporate Director (EDPI) as Lead Officer Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services Richard Anderson, Head of Housing & Property Jim Grant, Head of Development Services Ann Davidson, REAP on behalf of TSI Anita Milne, Moray Forum John Thomson, Forestry Commission Councillor M Howe Tracey Gervaise, Health and Wellbeing Lead and Programme Manager – Early Years Collaborative	GMcD RG SC RA JG AD AM JT MH TG
APOLOGIES:	Pam Gowans, Chief Officer (Health & Social Care Integration) Paul Bellingham, UHI, Moray College Glen Adcook, Moray Housing Partnership Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface Graeme Henderson, SEPA Gavin Clark, Scottish Natural Heritage	PG PB GA FV GH GC
MINUTES:	Caroline O'Connor, Corporate Secretary	CO

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	ACTION POINT	ACTION BY
1. Minute of Meeting of 29 April 2016	Approved as accurate subject to the wording for Item 1a at the top of page 3 re climate change being changed from “1 resource” to “0.1 resource”.	CO
	a. Potential Food Target AD attended the meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Forum on 29 June. The Forum agreed a sub group of Forum be set up to work on a food target along with other issues. She advised the third sector are already addressing food poverty and tackling food waste. Whilst there is no funding for third sector, as TSi is the overarching body, their funding would keep it sustainable. The next meeting of the Forum is on 17 August and AD hopes to report back more fully to the next SCP meeting. RG indicated the aim for creating such a target should be to work towards the 2017 refresh of the 10 year plan. GMcD suggested looking outwith Moray to see what other	AD

	areas are doing.	
	<p>b. Update from Letter send to all Partners RG stated no responses had been received from any of the Community Planning Partners. She advised that she had raised this at Community Planning Officers Group on 29 June and reminded everyone that it would be nice to get an acknowledgement to say it had at least got to the right person. Noted Partners were not being asked to do anything they are not doing already as they should all be collating their own information for statutory returns and she confirmed the letter was sent to the right people. GMcD noted we had asked the question and tried but there was little else could be done other than inform the Board.</p>	-
<p>2. Updates from Working Group</p>	<p>a. Energy Group</p> <p>i Strategic Energy Action Plan JG advised a stakeholder meeting has been set up for 9 August in Elgin Town Hall. Key stakeholders have been invited and JG also extended the invitation to members of the Partnership. The meeting will look at baseline data along with future needs. The purpose of the meeting is to feed information into the SEAP study and Strategy and look at where the opportunities are and where threats are for Moray.</p> <p>b. Housing Strategy Group/Homelessness Group The Group met last week and main themes discussed were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of housing strategy performance information which is to go to next Communities Committee. Homelessness trend is slightly up but average is 500 applications per year. • National Housing options guidance has been produced which is the step before homelessness. RA is currently looking at the impact of the guidance. A number of authorities have said they don't believe it's workable. Noted it is not legislative but guidance. RA hopes to take it to committee in September. • Gary Templeton gave a briefing on strategic planning for housing. • A Housing Needs Demand Assessment process is being launched which looks at how much demand there is, what options there are along with shortfall. <p>The Chair queried whether there is a still a big problem with those who are overcrowded making themselves homeless to score more points. RA advised previous housing quotas were 60% for the homeless, 20% transfers and 20% for those on the waiting list. He confirmed this</p>	<p>-</p> <p>RA</p>

	<p>resulted in encouraging people making themselves homeless. The quota has now been changed to 40% for homeless, 40% for those waiting list and 20% transfers which has helped with the problem. Noted that where it can be proved people have made themselves homeless intentionally, the council do not have a duty to house them. He explained that Housing now have a robust assessment process which has been approved by the Housing regulator.</p> <p>MH stated the statistics indicate many people are looking for smaller accommodation but this is in short supply as it costs as much to build a small house as a big house. RA explained the policy has been changed so the council is now building more 2 bedrooms than 1 bedroom. Noted single people most likely to become homeless. He is also looking at a downsizing review as there is an issue of need for smaller houses for the housing population and for those downsizing. Moray operates on housing pressure and currently has over 3200 names on list and the council is allocating over 400 per year with 300 on the current priority list.</p> <p>AM raised issue of older people wanting smaller bungalows. JG advised that through planning consultation now 5% of houses built have to be bungalows.</p> <p>RA has been carrying out adaptations to properties with about 50% having adaptations to make them accessible. GMcD noted care in community means people are staying in their homes longer which is a good thing but also poses problems as it blocks houses for others on the list.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
	<p>c. Transport – Community Transport Forum/HTAP (Health Transport Action Plan Strategic Group)</p> <p>AM advised the Annual Seminar is to be held on 10 September. Transport Scotland have been asked to attend as they plan to launch an accessible transport strategy. The seminar will also consider mapping where the gaps are and how best to fill the gaps. AM has also met with the Ambulance Service as they have changed their criteria which has made it stricter. Noted there are a lot of community groups who have access to a bus but is not used as no one wants to take responsibility for it.</p> <p>GMcD advised PG looking at transport to Aberdeen and service provision locally, trying to avoid people travelling there in the first place. MH advised there are issues with appointments being made in Aberdeen first thing in the morning for those living in Moray and distance to be travelled should be taken into account when allocating appointments.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>

	<p>TG noted there are ongoing discussions with IJB in Aberdeenshire as well as Moray regarding provision of services as well as transport and these issues are at the top of their priority list.</p> <p>SC thought better used could be made of Dial-A-Bus and he has put forward suggestions to the NHS. AM confirmed the ambulance service had indicated dial-a-bus had been a good help since the new criteria was introduced. SC noted they were trying to change the system so patients can book transport closer to the time for hospital appointments rather than only up to the day before.</p> <p>SC is hopeful a system will be introduced that co-ordinates calls to make appointments that will help co-ordinate travel so that that travel is arranged when the appointment is made.</p> <p>Noted GMcD has a meeting with Stagecoach on 1 July as he needs to be aware of any shrinkage the big companies are having so we can pick up on it.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
<p>3. Programme of Business</p>	<p>Items for the August meeting are noted as being:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from Annual Report following on from the Community Planning Board. • Food Networks – A Davidson • Working up Agenda for next year – any thoughts on items should be passed to RG. GMcD noted when giving the presentation to the CPB there is never much feedback as to what they would like to see. RG indicated GMcD could ask questions of the CPB members during his presentation. RA questioned what kind of targets would be set for the future as the Moray Housing Standard and EESH will both be completed in the next few years and would like this to be given consideration. RG thought it would be helpful to add the remit to the next meeting Agenda to assist with deciding future items for the Agenda. <p>Noted an update on Flood Risk was due at the meeting in November.</p> <p>a. Update on all Moray 2023 Targets <u>Housing target (Chart 44)</u> Noted the target equates to 50 houses being built per year. Last year we delivered 96 and took full advantage of SG funding for new build housing programmes. RA indicated it would be important to consider the Housing Business Plan and make sure it's affordable beyond 2023. Also need to look at the implications of the WLR not going</p>	<p>CO</p> <p>-</p>

	<p>ahead in terms of sites now constrained in transport terms. Noted for every £1 collected in rent, 26 p goes to pay back borrowing. The Business Plan states that figure cannot go above 35p as it will be dangerous in terms of the housing revenue account. The Strategic Housing Investment Programme(SHIP) is to be presented to the SG in November.</p> <p>The target is till reasonable and achievable but land acquisition could be problem. Should we widen scope to all houses rather than just council houses ie RSLs? Noted there may be issues re collection of information but this could probably be done through planning and RSLs. If decided it is a good target then there will be a resource implication. JG indicated an annual survey is undertaken for effective housing land, which also notes predictions from RSLs and developers re affordable housing. While the tendency for developers/RSLs is to overestimate, Development Services undertake work to see what is realistic. He explained this is really as good information as can be obtained for predicting growth rates over the next few years. GMcD noted the result of the referendum would have an effect on such predictions.</p> <p>MH queried whether there are shovel ready projects and noted there are ways to offset affordability by increasing rents. GMcD queried whether the land banks we have are in the right place. RA advised there is land in Buckie and Forres and they are also looking at options in Fochabers, Alves, Mosstodloch and Speyside. It was noted this will form part of the SHIP being submitted in November and he is working closely with Development Services on this.</p> <p>RG suggested the chart could be amended with the following figures. Blue – no of council houses to be built Red – effective supply of affordable homes.</p> <p>Agreed RA consider this and bring back to the next meeting of the Partnership.</p> <p><u>Energy Efficiency Standard for Council Housing (Chart 45)</u> RA explained the Scottish Housing Regulators returns were submitted by 31 May but since then they have indicated they are reconsidering the target. RA is unclear whether the target will remain at 2020 or whether the guidance/criteria will change. Noted this should not affect our risk as the Council is committed. The figure is on target but the Regulator may choose to widen exceptions and abeyances categories or extend the deadline date. Houses not on the gas grid are classed as exceptions and abeyances are tenants who will not allow works on their property to improve the property. Noted abeyances last</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>RA</p>
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	<p>year were 99 but this year they are 72 due to tenants moving on etc. If any further information is available by the next meeting, RA will provide an update.</p> <p><u>Moray Housing Standard (Chart 46)</u> RA advised this is still on track. It is only worth considering what this will be replaced with when we get to 2019 however he was unsure whether it is still the most relevant target as we will meet the target anyway so perhaps not as challenging as a target should be. RG queried if are there other areas we could devote our energies towards setting a target. RA to consider.</p> <p><u>Fuel Poverty (Chart 47)</u> RA queried whether the chart gives us a true flavour of what we are doing as we have no control of it or whether we want to use other targets suggested.</p> <p>RG explained the narrative that went with the first 10 year plan was dropped for Moray 2026 and the plan has suffered as a result of this. She thinks narrative will be introduced again in Moray 2027 and suggested this could include reference to how fuel poverty cannot be directly controlled and explaining that is why an energy efficiency target would be better. TG noted it is still important to try and secure a better partnership approach to addressing fuel poverty across Moray. The factors are income, fuel prices and energy efficiency but energy efficiency is the only thing we have control of. RG stated that income is a priority of the Moray Economic Partnership/Strategy. RA advised the new target works out at about 140 different actions that can be undertaken. RG noted it is not a great change resulting in about only 20 properties improving however RA confirmed this was a realistic target.</p> <p>GMcD indicated that, with approval from the Community Planning Board, he would be happier looking at a target we are comfortable with. RA to work up a new target for next meeting checking the number of properties to be improved and GMcD will make reference to this in his submission to Board.</p> <p><u>Waste Diverted from Landfill (Chart 48)</u> Noted this is still on target. SC has been involved in workshops with advisors on the waste plant and the impact it will have on fuel poverty. Noted there are various options. Some output is for heat that will be generated to support the Torry Estate in Aberdeen.</p> <p>The other output is electricity. There are various options mainly:-</p>	<p>RA</p> <p>RA</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>RA GMcD</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
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- It could be sold straight to the market and income would come back to partners;
- Partners could use the electricity themselves for their tenants.
- It could be sold at a rate to be agreed to communities, but this would have the impact of decreased income to the council.

GMcD queried whether there was any indication of what the figures involved might be. SC did not have such a figure but noted it was important to try to make it as flexible as possible.

MH queried whether there is still resistance to the plant in the Torry area. SC noted there were around 200 objections but noted that in order to get the plant in place there requires to be heat plan which means you need have a district heating network in place. Noted Aberdeen already have some district heating networks in place. SC suggested we could use the electricity to offset our own electricity costs in schools etc. GMcD noted there was no real incentive for schools to save energy as their budget is set. RA to give consideration to carbon accounts.

Energy Consumption (Revised Chart 49)

During 2015/16 6 energy audits were conducted of schools and examined issues as to how they were using energy in schools. These audits have resulted in schools making changes. So far this has resulted in a 14.5% reduction to date but it is worth noting that winters have been reasonably mild. RA to look at the energy reports during summer months as he has plans to do audits on another 6 schools. Noted the 20% figure by 2026 remains challenging. Schools with old systems are a risk. Noted although the 2% target this year was not achieved with only a 1.7% increase, fuel bills this year reduced by £105K. Within all corporate buildings audits have been done on elements and, where they are life expired, we have a plan to target these as it is important to look after and invest in assets. The 4 schools are now updated but there is deterioration in other schools which will continue to increase. Noted the next 6 schools to be the subject of audits will be across Moray rather than by ASG. It is important to look at what the thematic issues across schools are so we can do something proactive about it rather than reactive. GMcD queried if we could we tackle the behavioural side and consider through DSM. AD stated the 3rd sector had experience in undertaking behaviour workshops around energy saving and would be willing to assist. Noted they could also gain funding for such workshops tailored to match RA's brief.

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RA

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	Agreed RA look at this over the summer with new Energy officer. GMcD indicated he would like to see Energy officer at a future meeting of the Partnership.	RA RA/TS
	b. Update re Energy from Waste Plant and potential impact on fuel poverty As discussed at 3a above.	
4. AOCB	<p><u>Prevention Agenda</u> RG gave details of an instruction issued from the CPB to all Partnerships namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic and service plans of all partners should make appropriate reference to their approaches to prevention. • When any partner is considering requests for funding, business cases and so forth, they should be satisfied that prevention is being appropriately addressed. • When considering joint funding of projects, partners should consider the extent to which any investment will be preventative. • When reviewing the Board's strategic plan and targets, Members should consider how preventative the targets are and should amend them as necessary to ensure a clear focus on prevention and community engagement, assets and capacity building. • Prevention should be a standing item on each Partnership group meeting and the representative from each partnership who sits on the Prevention Working Group will be able to facilitate discussion and information sharing between the Partnership and the Prevention Working Group. <p>Noted as TG sits on the Prevention Working Group that she would be happy to share information from the Partnership with the Working Group.</p> <p>Agreed Prevention be added as standing item on future Agendas.</p>	- - - - -
5. Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 25 August 2016 at 10am in the Committee Room.	TG CO RG/CO