

RECORD OF WORKING GROUP MEETING

GROUP NAME:	SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (SCP)	
CHAIRPERSON:	Cllr Gordon McDonald	(GMCD)
DATE OF MEETING:	25 August 2016	
LOCATION:	Meeting Room 5, The Annexe	
ATTENDING:	Cllr Gordon McDonald (GM) Chair Stephen Cooper (SC) Head of Direct Services Richard Anderson (RA) Head of Housing & Property Jim Grant (JG) Head of Development Services Ann Davidson (AD) REAP on behalf of TSI Anita Milne (AM) Moray Forum John Thomson (JT) Forestry Commission Councillor M Howe (MH) Moray Council Ronnie MacDonald (RM) Energy Officer	
APOLOGIES:	Glen Adcock (GA) Moray Housing Partnership Gavin Clark (GC) Scottish Natural Heritage Rhona Gunn (RG) Corporate Director (EDPI) Tracey Gervaise (TG) Programme Manager Early Years Doug Hartley (DH) Moray College	
MINUTES:	Tracey Sutherland (TS)	Secretary

<i>AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC</i>	<i>ACTION POINT</i>	<i>ACTION BY</i>
1. Apologies	As noted above	
2. Minute of Meeting of 30 June 2016	<p>Approved as accurate subject to the wording for Item 1a at on page 1 re Potential Food Target changed to say "Whilst there is no guaranteed funding for third sector....".</p> <p>a. Housing Options Guidance RA confirmed that a report will be presented to Communities Committee on 13 September 2016.</p> <p>The new guidance proposes a twin track approach in relation to homelessness and housing options. It is anticipated that there could be an increase in homeless figures leading from the new guidance. A working group will now consider the guidance to ensure that housing options/homelessness operates to best effect.</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>RA</p>

	<p>b. Moray Housing Standard RA had discussed this with JG and SC. It was agreed to pick up the subject under section 3 of the agenda. It was felt that the targets need re-visited to ensure they are incorporating all partners and not just the Council.</p> <p>c. Waste Diverted From Landfill SC said that there is no update on the proposal for the site at Torry in Aberdeen. The planning hearing had only started on 24 August.</p> <p>d. Energy Consumption Ronnie MacDonald, the Council's new Energy Officer took up post at the beginning of August. RA has tasked RM to review all energy related options which will include the consideration of Carbon Accounts. A paper will come back to a future meeting of this group</p>	RM/RA
<p>3. Future Role of the Group</p>	<p>It was acknowledged that the targets set are mostly Council targets.</p> <p>RA asked whether the group thought that the remit was too wide. There was a feeling within the group that in a couple of years there would be no or limited targets. The group were asked how they thought it best to move the group forward.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that energy targets were important and that there is still a lot of work to be done in this area.</p> <p>GM suggested running another workshop with community partners to revisit the purpose of the group. GM agreed that there were plenty of options for the group but there was a need to identify bigger issues which will impact on the Community as a whole.</p> <p>GM said he had received a list of potential targets from the Moray Forum which he would circulate to the group to start an initial discussion.</p> <p>SC felt it would be helpful to define the scope of the group before the workshop was held. SC suggested looking at the criteria that applies to the group and find projects that way.</p> <p>GM had said that Food Waste targets had been looked at but acknowledged it is difficult to find a target that would be easily measured.</p> <p>AD said she would prioritise the list and re-send to GM by the end of September.</p>	Note

	<p>RA commented that the Housing function is regulated by the Scottish Housing Regulator so therefore have no option but to meet the targets.</p> <p>GM said that at the last meeting of the Community Planning Board, he had forewarned the group that SCP would be re-visiting the targets. GM also said that Fuel Poverty was outwith the control of the group.</p> <p>RA suggested that there may be actions/targets that could be used to address the 3 causes of Fuel Poverty.</p> <p>RA and RG to arrange the workshop. RA to discuss a representative from the schools attending.</p> <p>GM suggested expanding invitations into the 3rd sector.</p> <p>JG commented that these organisations are invited to lots of meetings and due to budget cuts there are limited attendees.</p>	RA/RG
<p>4. Updates from Working Group</p>	<p>a. Energy Group</p> <p>Strategic Energy Action Plan</p> <p>JG said that the stakeholder workshop was held on 9 August to identify carbon/energy savings for Moray as an area.</p> <p>The consultants are now working on the proposals and action plans.</p> <p>Aberdeen City are developing plans for an ESCO Energy Supply Company. JG said that discussions were taking place on whether to develop a regional ESCO and TMC were looking at opportunities to join.</p> <p>RA said the they had taken part in an initial discussion with Aberdeen City but more information would be required.</p> <p>GM said that there is potential to make money from energy and wondered whether landbanks could be used to produce energy.</p> <p>RA informed the group that RM has been tasked with looking at the pros and cons for new ideas.</p> <p>Renewable energy using sewerage - RM said it was viable but TMC have very few examples of a large enough property or group of properties to develop the idea. The building/s need(s) a minimum annual heat demand.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>RM</p>

	<p>Possible locations could be Buckie High/Cluny Primary or Elgin High/Greenwards Primary.</p> <p>GM asked whether the fields at Alves could be used as a solar panel farm. RM said that this was 1 option he would be looking into</p> <p>RM said that if generating heat from methane i.e. from Dallachy then the heat and power element is where the financial benefits are.</p> <p>GM said it was obvious that there was huge potential in this sector but the issue was pulling all it all together.</p> <p>b. Housing Strategy Group/Homelessness Group The annual Landlord Performance Report from the Scottish Housing Regulator is due to be published on 31 August 2016. This will provide the performance data from all Housing providers in Scotland. RA said he was expecting Moray to perform well and hoped to be in the upper/middle quartiles for most service areas.</p> <p>Following the publication, the Council now have to produce an annual report on performance for tenants which has to be distributed by 31 October 2016.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy Group and Homelessness Strategy Group have now been combined. It is hoped that this will allow the meetings to be better attended by invitees as many of the partner organisations have representation at both meetings.</p>	Note
	<p>c. Community Transport Forum/HITAP (Health Transport Action Plan Strategic Group) A meeting/workshop has been organised for 10 September 2016 to look at what actions partners want form the group.</p> <p>AM said that Transport Scotland will be publishing an Access Transport Plan at the end of September. It is anticipated that this will involve some useable targets.</p> <p>GM asked where the Council is in managing bus routes.</p> <p>SC said that the Council can apply for a licence to run a service. There may be an opportunity in the future to review this. SC said that TMC could create an ALEO but it would need to generate income. Unfortunately due to the low population and rural nature of Moray this would be difficult.</p> <p>AM added that the Council are currently providing 6</p>	

	<p>different bus services and it had been confirmed that 2 of them were now income generating.</p> <p>SC informed the group that he had met with NHS Patient Transport to look at increasing the use of the Dial a Bus service to assist with getting patients home from hospital. There is an expectation that if a patient is taken into hospital by ambulance that they will also be taken home by ambulance but this is not the case.</p> <p>d. Prevention As Tracey Gervaise was unable to attend the meeting there was no update. Tracey to be asked to provide update at next meeting.</p>	TG
5. Environmental and Sustainable Forum.	<p>RA said he had added this to the agenda following the pre-meet to ensure nothing was missed.</p> <p>GM asked if the minutes could be circulated to SCP for noting. It was agreed that they could.</p>	Note
6. Programme of Business	<p>Food Networks</p> <p>AD had provided an updated report for the group. The paper included various initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in Allotments • Food skills networks • Food Cloud – Tesco <p>RA asked if there was a target that could be set in relation to the foodbanks. AD said that the Moray Foodbank had a target of reducing the need and putting itself out of business.</p> <p>GM asked whether there was any way a target could be set on food waste with commercial customers the same as is set for domestic customers.</p> <p>SC replied that it would be easy to set a tonnage figure but he would find it difficult to distinguish between the commercial and domestic figure. SC felt it would be beneficial to try and create a target for reducing food waste.</p> <p>MH said she had read about a scheme in Aberdeen where they have aimed at producing produce locally. A collection of fruit and veg is made 3 times per week from allotments and then this is sold off and the money is re-invested into the allotments.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>SC</p>

AD said that this sounded like a good idea and would look into it for introducing to Moray.

Agenda for Next Year and Remit

Following the pre meet RA had updated the agenda with suggestions for 2017. It was agreed to that the date of the next SCP would be kept and the workshop would be an additional date. The group felt it would be useful to update the remit following the workshop.

EESH Statement

RA provided clarification on the difference between abeyances and exemptions. Moray currently has 70 properties which are deemed to have abeyances from the EESH standard. Abeyances are temporary i.e. a tenant has refused an upgrade. As tenancies change, it is anticipated that this figure will reduce.

171 properties currently have exemptions from the standard. These are mainly properties which have no access to a gas supply or the cost of upgrading is not technically feasible or excessive in terms of cost. The Council is investigating a range of methods to try and reduce the exemptions as much as possible.

Energy Efficiencies Overview

RM said that he was looking at using BEMs more. The system primarily manages a buildings heating system but can also be used to manage ventilation and lighting inside and outside the building.

RM will be able to provide more information in the coming months.

RM is aware that a number of buildings have aging boilers and the Council's policy of make do and mend does pose a higher risk.

GM asked whether this could be classified as spend to save projects.

RM said that replacing the boilers would not generate enough spend to save money.

AD said that the 3 Sector may be able to access money to assist with changing behaviour with regards to energy in the schools.

RM welcomed this suggestion. He also highlighted that the following primary schools energy use will be audited in the coming year:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cullen • Knockando • Dallas • Greenwards • Tomintoul • Portgordon <p>RM is hoping to also raise awareness early with the 4 schools currently receiving major refurbishment.</p> <p>Affordable Housing RA had distributed an updated graph which now showed all affordable housing and not just Council new builds.</p> <p>The private housebuilders figure was taken from the land audit and the developers predictions for the next 5 years. Private developers have to provide 25% of their proposed development to affordable housing.</p> <p>MH said that she was aware the North Lanarkshire was building 1,000 new homes in the next few years. RA said that most LA's are building new homes but there are different models out there which might need to be considered. For example, Aberdeenshire were building mid-market rented properties and the Council/RSL's will have to look at whether this type of demand is an option for Moray.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>RM</p>
6. AOCB	<p>Carbon Reporting JG said that this is mandatory this year and it was agreed to present a report to the January meeting of this group.</p>	
7. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 30 November at 2pm in Training Room 2, The Annexe.</p>	TS/RA