

RECORD OF WORKING GROUP MEETING

GROUP NAME:	SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (SCP)	
CHAIRPERSON:	Cllr Gordon McDonald	(GMcD)
DATE OF MEETING:	9 September 2015	
LOCATION:	Committee Room, HQ	
ATTENDING:	Cllr Gordon McDonald, Chair Rhona Gunn, Corporate Director (EDPI) as Lead Officer Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services Jim Grant, Head of Development Services Richard Anderson, Head of Housing & Property Cllr Fiona Murdoch (for Anita Milne), Community Transport Steering Group Glen Adcock, Moray Housing Partnership Ann Davidson, REAP on behalf of TSI Calum Murray, Forestry Commission (for John Thomson) Cllr Margo Howe	GMcD RG SC JG RA FM GA AD CM MHGC
APOLOGIES:	May East, CIFAL Anita Milne, Moray Forum Pam Gowans, Chief Officer (Health & Social Care Integration) Jim Frame, SEPA John Thomson, Forestry Commission Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface Gavin Clark, Scottish Natural Heritage Anne Lindsay, UHI, Moray College	ME AM PG JF JT FV GC AL
MINUTES:	Caroline Oconnor, Corporate Secretary	CO

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	ACTION POINT	ACTION BY
1. Minute of Meeting of 26 June 2015	FM asked that reference to “Anita Milne, Moray Forum of Community Halls and Associations” be changed to “Moray Forum”. The Minute was thereafter agreed.	CO
	AD advised the Inaugural Sustainability Forum for Third Sector meeting has been held. AD to circulate papers. Cllr McDonald is happy to attend the next meeting.	AD
2. Feedback on Annual Report to Community Planning Board	RG circulated a paper to the meeting setting out feedback from the Community Planning Board on Chart 44 – Households in Fuel Poverty.	

	<p>RA explained in terms of this chart the information comes from a very small survey on a 3 yearly basis which does not give accurate results and there is difficulty splitting it out. The next report which will have a bearing on this is the housing condition survey which will help re the public sector. Noted most issues rest within private sector but it's about how we capture that. RA queried whether it's about being creative and getting something that covers both private and public sectors. RA advised a tenants survey has just been done which cost in the region of £15,000, and another survey would involve a similar sum and potentially questions could be asked to gather data in that.</p> <p>GMcD intimated it would be advantageous to provide an explanation with the chart in future to the Community Planning Board to explain the problems. He was also of the opinion work would need to be done to ascertain whether the results would justify the cost of gathering better data.</p> <p>In terms of fuel poverty, RA believes the situation will probably get worse than better as we have not control over fuel price rises. It is not possible to measure the target set accurately for Moray as more data is needed from private sector. GA stated the owner/occupier issue is often is overlooked although fuel poverty exists there too.</p> <p>RG queried whether the citizens panel survey could be used for that as it is important we get data to support what we think that issue looks like in Moray. Noted the citizens panel is a pool of approximately 1000, with approximately 500 being used for each survey.</p> <p>SC highlighted a major problem in private sector is storage heating which is more inefficient than other heating.</p> <p>AD advised the only option open to her clients is "Green Deal" which is not being taken up as it is not a good deal.</p> <p>GMcD requested an agenda item for next meeting on options. RA to produce a paper on options to gather better data to also include funding.{Note: later agreed as agenda item for January 2016 meeting}</p> <p>GA suggesting the council could perhaps offer a one-off financial boost to upscale the citizens panel.</p> <p>SC suggested making use of CAB re fuel poverty. RA thought it may be beneficial to use the survey for other things to utilise the costs most effectively. AD advised REAP have some date and she will liaise with RA re this.</p>	<p>AD/RA</p> <p>RA</p>
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	GMcD advised that the annual report was well received by the CPB and the layout was complimented.	
3. Updates from Working Group	<p>a. CIFAL No update.</p> <p>b. Energy Group</p> <p>i Central Energy Efficiency Fund - Noted this has now gone with nothing replacing it. The Council has its own budget of approximately £130k-£160k - RA to check on this figure. This money is to be used to find spend to save projects. JG advised the Annual Corporate Energy Report was submitted to P&R on 1 September with a programme of works and works to be assessed. RA will produce a paper on this for the next meeting. RA explained the big challenge is looking at energy in schools as 70% of use is in schools.</p> <p>LED lights. Bill Ross has meeting with Scottish Futures Trust to get refinement on the business case which will go to Asset Management Working Group. GMcD raised a query which Cllr Warren has asked him about regarding whether dimmer lights could be installed. SC advised they can be incorporated within the LED lighting but it would be difficult as piece of kit would require to be fitted to every single lamp post. SC to check if this is something that can be given consideration. GMcD is also aware there may be issues with the community regarding darkness and safety.</p> <p>ii Strategic Energy Action Plan JG explained this is led by Aberdeenshire and concerns Angus, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray. There have not been regular meetings as yet as the main focus has been setting up a finance package and it is currently at tender stage. The next step is to consider what strategic actions are needed looking at gas, biomass and renewables. JG to provide update to next meeting.</p> <p>c. Housing Strategy Group/Homelessness Group RA gave the following update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council is on schedule to build around 83 houses this financial year. • Due to the success of the previous homeless strategy, another strategy from 2015-2018 is being prepared. • The council is working with Hanover on 32 houses at Glassgreen. • HEAPS strategy • EEIS standard is being addressed regarding what it 	<p style="text-align: center;">RA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JG</p>

means in terms of future investment. The new conditions mean we need to look at infrastructure. This will probably go to Committee in December. RA to get minutes on community planning partnership website.

RA

Refugees – RA advised the council is committed to 10 households as a maximum and they are also looking to their colleagues in the RSL sector. Noted in terms of council commitment it will be a ripple effect rather than crescendo. RA explained however that if the situation continues to deteriorate then that could change the whole situation. There followed discussion about other organisations willing to take in refugees. RA stressed it is important to note our commitment is not only in respect of accommodation, but some refugees are traumatised so would require involvement with Social Work, translation and also infrastructure.

d. Transport – Community Transport Forum/HTAP (Health Transport Action Plan Strategic Group)

FM provided an update on behalf of the Community Transport Forum. She advised they had visited 3 different transport schemes and they were beginning to build up a picture of the issues. It is very clear the number 1 issue is lack of volunteer drivers. Feedback has been very positive on drawing together strands to improve community transport. FM had attended a Community Transport seminar in Aberdeen on 8 September and it is clear from that there are many barriers that require to be overcome and we need to find a way round these barriers. Noted the Forum has now become bigger than the 3 volunteers and they have applied for funding from TSI for a Community Transport Development Officer. She stressed much work requires to be done with social care, however they have received a tremendous amount of back up from the Public Transport Unit at Moray Council and she extended her thanks to the Unit. There is to be an Annual Transport Seminar in Autumn where the focus will be on users telling us what's wrong with the existing transport links. SC highlighted the council's role is to facilitate not lead.

GMcD indicated his surprise at people not knowing the forum exists and more needs to be done about publicising the information. FM advised people really want a service where they can book transport for a specific time and, whilst that would be long term aim, we are a long way from that at this moment in time. Noted there is to be an article in the press about the drivers and what they get out of it which will be publicity.

HTAP - SC advised uptake has increased slightly since

	<p>reference has been included on appointment cards to a telephone number for transport. Nicola Moss attends quarterly meetings. Noted action has not been as good as it could have been, partly due to the lead officer being on long term sick leave. SC feels it is still worth pursuing this at the moment given the Community Transport Forum's aspirations.</p> <p>GMcD stressed much of it has to do with health and appts and P Gowans has been looking at this. MH advised there has been review of travel planning by bodies in Grampian, however there has not been much mention of Moray. It requires joined up thinking as people are sent appointments for Aberdeen first thing in the morning, with no thought as to the distance and how the patient will get to that appointment. FM has raised this with someone from the NHS and they are aware of the issues at management level. There is a new IT system which will eventually marry up to appointments with information about transport. It was noted however less clients are travelling to Aberdeen and Inverness and providers are reporting they are doing more runs to Dr Gray's.</p>	
<p>4. Our Power Initiative</p>	<p>GA gave a presentation to make everyone aware of what the "Our Power" involves. It's objective is to provide long term significant benefits to their tenants but could also give benefits to whole communities.</p> <p>Noted the main issues are we cannot control source energy costs and current suppliers cannot help low income families sufficiently well so the best way of dealing with it is to get right to the source price. It is also planned to bring in renewables and develop them.</p> <p>The membership is made up from social housing providers and community controlled organisations.</p> <p>The planned savings of £100 a year are based on standard tariffs and part of Our Power's focus is based on excellent customer service. Implementation will be done by switching houses over every time they have vacant house. The vacant house will switch to the new energy company from the start of 2016. This implementation will be spread across Scotland with the exception of Dumfries & Galloway.</p> <p>Noted 36 organisations have signed up so far – 32 are RSLs and 4 are local authorities with another 12 organisations expressing interest, some of which are local authorities. It is intended the smart meters will hopefully get to the stage where they can be used to regulate supply.</p>	

	<p>RA advised the Council have expressed interest now that the Glasgow housing stock is on board. He wants to see more information but is very interested with the intention of making things fairer for tenants, particularly those on card meters.</p> <p>GMcD questioned whether the new 83 new council houses will have smart meters.</p> <p>FM queried whether this is only for gas and electricity as this is also an issue for rural tenants with oil. GA advised MHP has over 100 tenants with oil supply however the big issue is purchase so it is easier to do deals re gas and electricity sector markets.</p> <p>Ann Davidson made reference to REAP's funding through Comic Relief and made a note to try and include council tenants.</p> <p>Presentation attached.</p> <p>GMcD referred to the presentation on ORIGIN from Michael Shaw, CIFAL at last meeting. Agreed RA pass this information to GA.</p>	RA
<p>5. Programme of Business/Pre Planned Agenda</p>	<p>RG prepared the document as other groups take a similar approach. She highlighted it was very much a discussion paper to help members to flesh out a programme for the partnership.</p> <p>a. Meeting Frequency Following discussion it was agreed meetings be held 5 times year as per the programme and agenda items were considered for these meetings.</p> <p>Agenda Items for the next meeting in November:- 3 council housing targets. Council's energy use report Consultant's report on energy savings options UN sustainable development goals and view of CPP</p> <p>GMcD indicated he was in agreement with the programme however flexibility is important when required to add or move items.</p> <p>SC queried whether there is still an energy sub group. GMcD advised the sub group still exists but requires to meet again.</p>	RG/CO
	<p>b. Method for Review of Moray 2023 Targets</p> <p>Agreed per programme.</p>	

	<p>c. Attention to issues within partnership remit but outwith target areas</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals - JG advised a report is to be submitted to Community Planning Officers group then to the Community Planning Board. Update to be provided by JG for next meeting.</p> <p>AD made reference to a food network which could feed into targets as there are none set up. JG advised the Scottish Government have aligned and already have cross matching outcomes for sustainable development and comparing with Moray 2023. It is about looking at targets and actions. There is not a goal that we are not doing something towards. RG queried whether there are there things we should be doing that we aren't doing. JG stated there are 17 points which we can demonstrate we are working towards.</p>	JG
6. AOCB	<p>Development planning are working with the Forestry Commission on updating the Forestry Strategy.</p> <p>Allotments – JG advised the community empowerment bill has been passed and he is waiting for it to be enacted. There will be a requirement for councils to own or lease allotments but we don't have any at the moment. Once this is enacted we will have to maintain a waiting list and once it reaches 15 the Council will be required to provide an allotment for 50% of the numbers on the list and with an area of 250m². A site has not yet been identified in Elgin but there are a shortlist of 5 sites. This is under discussion with Elgin Allotment Association and will be the subject of a report to Moray Council. Noted developer obligations in new schemes require provision for allotments. When a report is submitted to the Council meeting on the Community Empowerment Bill, it will effectively publicise it and we will need to open a waiting list. Noted a major difficulty is that we do not own much land that isn't developed which will prove costly. There are currently no contacts on this from outwith Elgin - although allotments do exist in other areas, they have been set up and are running without recourse to the council.</p>	
7. Date of Next Meeting	To be arranged for a date in January 2016 as per Programme of Business/Pre-Planned Agenda.	RG/CO