

## RECORD OF WORKING GROUP MEETING

<b>GROUP NAME:</b>	<b>SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (SCP)</b>																								
<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	<b>Cllr Gordon McDonald (GMcD)</b>																								
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>28 January 2016</b>																								
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Committee Room, Council Offices</b>																								
<b>ATTENDING:</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cllr Gordon McDonald, Chair</td><td>GMcD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rhona Gunn, Corporate Director (EDPI) as Lead Officer</td><td>RG</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services</td><td>SC</td></tr> <tr> <td>Richard Anderson, Head of Housing &amp; Property</td><td>RA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jim Grant, Head of Development Services</td><td>JG</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ann Davidson, REAP on behalf of TSI</td><td>AD</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tracey Gervaise, Health and Wellbeing Lead and Programme Manager – Early Years Collaborative</td><td>TG</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface</td><td>FV</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Warren (on behalf of Cllr Howe)</td><td>SW</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gavin Clark, Scottish Natural Heritage</td><td>GC</td></tr> <tr> <td>John Thomson, Forestry Commission</td><td>JT</td></tr> <tr> <td>Anita Milne, Moray Forum</td><td>AM</td></tr> </table>	Cllr Gordon McDonald, Chair	GMcD	Rhona Gunn, Corporate Director (EDPI) as Lead Officer	RG	Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services	SC	Richard Anderson, Head of Housing & Property	RA	Jim Grant, Head of Development Services	JG	Ann Davidson, REAP on behalf of TSI	AD	Tracey Gervaise, Health and Wellbeing Lead and Programme Manager – Early Years Collaborative	TG	Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface	FV	Cllr Warren (on behalf of Cllr Howe)	SW	Gavin Clark, Scottish Natural Heritage	GC	John Thomson, Forestry Commission	JT	Anita Milne, Moray Forum	AM
Cllr Gordon McDonald, Chair	GMcD																								
Rhona Gunn, Corporate Director (EDPI) as Lead Officer	RG																								
Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services	SC																								
Richard Anderson, Head of Housing & Property	RA																								
Jim Grant, Head of Development Services	JG																								
Ann Davidson, REAP on behalf of TSI	AD																								
Tracey Gervaise, Health and Wellbeing Lead and Programme Manager – Early Years Collaborative	TG																								
Fabio Villani, Third Sector Interface	FV																								
Cllr Warren (on behalf of Cllr Howe)	SW																								
Gavin Clark, Scottish Natural Heritage	GC																								
John Thomson, Forestry Commission	JT																								
Anita Milne, Moray Forum	AM																								
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pam Gowans, Chief Officer (Health &amp; Social Care Integration)</td><td>PG</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jim Frame, SEPA</td><td>JF</td></tr> <tr> <td>Glen Adcook, Moray Housing Partnership</td><td>GA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Margo Howe</td><td>MH</td></tr> <tr> <td>May East, CIFAL</td><td>ME</td></tr> <tr> <td>Anne Lindsay, UHI, Moray College</td><td>AL</td></tr> </table>	Pam Gowans, Chief Officer (Health & Social Care Integration)	PG	Jim Frame, SEPA	JF	Glen Adcook, Moray Housing Partnership	GA	Cllr Margo Howe	MH	May East, CIFAL	ME	Anne Lindsay, UHI, Moray College	AL												
Pam Gowans, Chief Officer (Health & Social Care Integration)	PG																								
Jim Frame, SEPA	JF																								
Glen Adcook, Moray Housing Partnership	GA																								
Cllr Margo Howe	MH																								
May East, CIFAL	ME																								
Anne Lindsay, UHI, Moray College	AL																								
<b>MINUTES:</b>	<b>Caroline O'Connor, Corporate Secretary CO</b>																								

<b>AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTION POINT</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<b>1. Minute of Meeting of 4 November 2015</b>	<p>The Minute was approved subject to the deletion of Fabio Villani's name from the list of attendees.</p> <p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p><b>Energy from Waste Facility</b> – SC gave an update. The first stage of agreement with partner authorities is now concluded and the next stage will be more detailed. It is planned a report will come back to committee, most likely after summer recess. Noted the deadline for the ban on organic waste going to landfill is 2020. SC advised it was unlikely we will have a facility by that date so will need to consider alternative options, one option being to go to some merchant facility. He anticipated it may be 12 months after 2020 before any facility is operational. A full report to SCP is due in June from the pre-planned Agenda.</p>	<p><b>CO</b></p> <p><b>SC</b></p>

	<p><b>Smart Meters</b> – RA advised all new build properties are built to silver standard which includes smart meters. He has been discussing with the energy company the flow of smart meters into our existing housing stock and considering all void properties as a sensible place to start. Also noted that smart meters are being installed in corporate buildings.</p>	-
	<p><b>Our Power Initiative</b> – RA is still looking at Our Power and required to make a decision on how to proceed. Glasgow are now signed up to the initiative. RA wants what is best for the Moray Council and he has issues with the kinds of meters, how will energy be procured, the council's financial obligation as there will be impact on HRA. He stressed he would rather see how it operates elsewhere before jumping in.</p>	-
	<p><b>Transport Forum</b> – SC indicated minutes of these meetings can be circulated but asked AM, as Chair of the Forum, to confirm if she was in agreement. AM confirmed this had been agreed at the last meeting of the Steering Group.</p>	-
	<p><b>Houses in Buckie</b> – RA had confirmed the position to GMcD.</p>	-
	<p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b> – RG explained we have a table which shows a broad read across with the 10 year plan targets, however with the situation with CIFAL she would like comment on how to take this forward. GMcD suggested having a word with CIFAL to check their position. FV thinks people are keen for the read across to be clear. RG queried whether partners wanted reference in the narrative about each target and, if so, it could be included as “this contributes to Sustainable Goal xx”. This was agreed.</p>	RG
	<p><b>SCP Scrutiny</b> – GMcD had not raised the issue at P&amp;R as SCP minutes were circulated after the date of the P&amp;R meeting. GMcD to raise at a future P&amp;R meeting.</p>	GMcD
	<p><b>Biomass in Schools</b> – RA advised the architects have come up with an explanation around biomass which he is still struggling to get his head round. He believes it is required for insurance purposes. RA will circulate a paper to the group in the next few weeks after testing the explanation addressing all the issues.</p>	RA
	<p><b>CEEF</b> – the energy report from consultants is to be considered later on the Agenda. RA advised if we come up with proposals, they would probably go through the</p>	-

	gateway process first before we commit. Noted the 4 schools were renovated according to a fixed budget.	
	<p><b>a) Carbon Management report</b> - deferred to next meeting in April.</p> <p><b>b) EESH</b> – noted this is a social housing standard all landlords have to conform to by 2020 and therefore the council must upgrade its stock by 2020. It will cost £675k per annum to update all houses to the standard. There are currently approx 290 failing the standard. The chart with the target only takes us up to 2020 as that is when we require to comply with the standard and non-compliance would be failure. There will be exemptions such as properties off the gas grid meaning we could not provide cheaper heating to these properties. The abeyances are properties the council can upgrade but the tenants will not allow them to meaning the property could only be upgraded when the property becomes vacant. GMcD queried if there is a penalty if we do not comply taking abeyances and exemptions out of consideration. RA advised there was no suggestion of penalties being imposed at present. He explained the council requires to stipulate in the annual return how many properties are upgraded. So far, Scottish Government representatives are undertaking visits to those flagged up as not meeting the standards. JG queried whether there was any indication of what people would expect to save. RA advised there is no requirement to do that at present. RA stressed that the council can upgrade the housing stock however it has no control over energy prices or people's finances. GMcD asked whether an additional amount could be added to the rent costs. RA advised the tenant survey had highlighted heating and insulation as the number 1 priority and that the current increase in rent will go towards improving existing stock and new housing stock.</p>	<p><b>RA</b></p> <p>-</p>
<b>2. Updates from Working Group</b>	<p><b>a. CIFAL</b> No update. FV and RA to discuss. GMcD thanked CIFAL for all their contributions noting that the work done has been longstanding and successful. Noted the reference to an update would be removed from the standing agenda for future meetings as CIFAL in Findhorn was scheduled to close on 31.3.16.</p> <p><b>b. Energy Group</b></p> <p><b>i Central Energy Efficiency Fund</b></p> <p><b>ii Strategic Energy Action Plan</b></p>	

JG advised this was currently on a website for a contract. Noted they required to consider what are energy suppliers, what the options are for alternatives and then produce an action plan. It is important to create a sustainable action plan for Moray as a whole. FV queried whether it was possible to get a description in lay man's terms of what SEAP is. JG indicated that such a paper had been produced at a previous meeting and agreed to circulate this to FV. SEAP was distinct from the Council's energy action plan and strategy as the former looked at opportunities to work more efficiently exploiting opportunities across local authorities rather than only within Moray

JG

**c. Housing Strategy Group/Homelessness Group**

An announcement was made by the Scottish Government on 25 January that new house builds were one of their main priorities. Noted this could have a positive impact on housing targets. The increase of grants was from £46k to £57k per house. Increased allowances to RSLs were also announced so they may start building in Moray. RA explained there may be opportunity to build more than 50 houses but this would need scoped out and he would hopefully come back with a revised target in 2017. Money in HRA determines what can be spent on new houses along with the housing business plan. Noted the HRA must carry forward £750k per year as a minimum surplus in case of floods etc.

RA

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

AM reported on progress and advised:-

- there is now representation from community councils on the Forum
- another seminar will be held towards the end of September.
- Consideration of those using the services has widened out to look at young people accessing job opportunities.
- The next meeting of Steering Group is on 22 March. Any queries should be passed to AM.

**i) Draft Report on Moray Forum Transport Steering Group Seminar held on 21 November 2015**

AM spoke to the draft report. Noted numbers were down on usual attendance, due to it being the first day of winter and having problems getting buses to more remote areas.

One of questions asked at the seminar was if they had seen an improvement in the service. All had confirmed they were happy. AM wished to congratulate the Dial-a-

	<p>Bus service on their recent award. Progress is being made however there is still a lot of work to do with the carbon footprint and people using their cars. GMcD indicated Cllr Murdoch is looking at issues here in connection with health and social care. AM advised a member of Health &amp; Social Care Partnership had attended a meeting last week. AM is to meet with him next week to discuss issues and she is also looking to work with Transport Scotland. AM plans that the Community Transport Forum will consider costs, training for staff etc. A lot of community buses are sitting idle which could possibly be used for hospital appointment transport. Training been done for BABS as to insurance and the conditions of using a minibus for patient transport. AM is also impressed that the Public Transport Unit is undertaking training on autism and hopes to roll this out to community transport groups.</p>	
<p><b>3. Programme of Business</b></p>	<p><b>Pre-planned agenda</b></p> <p>AD raised the issue of food networks which was on the pre-planned Agenda for August and offered to produce a report for that meeting. JG explained the Community Empowerment Act comes into force at the end of the summer and one requirement is the need for a food strategy. Guidance on this is expected from the Scottish Government in February. FV expressed that he was keen to have food as a higher priority and asked if this could be considered when reviewing the targets later on the Agenda. GMcD agreed to give consideration to this and other duties that have to be considered as a result of the Community Empowerment Act. RG stressed that if this was a priority the Partnership would require to consider whether targets for food are needed and the remit of the group may need to be amended. It was noted there was an overlap re food strategy and queried whether this would sit with the Integrated Joint Board or with the SCP. TG felt this was more for SCP but it was agreed the issue would be debated more fully later in the meeting when looking at the targets.</p> <p><b>a. Fuel Poverty and Energy</b></p> <p>RA spoke to the report which gave an understanding of what fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty are. He explained that addressing this target will be the hardest given that we have no control of energy costs or people's income. Fuel poverty currently sits at a 2 confidence rating. It is challenging as nearly 36% of households in Moray would be deemed to be in some form of fuel poverty, with 13% deemed to be in extreme fuel poverty. Noted this is above the Scottish average. Reasons for this include low income, rural areas, issues in terms of some properties not being located on gas grid etc. RA hopes to get some more accurate data on housing in the private</p>	

	<p>sector as approx 70% of houses in Moray are in the private sector and again this is something we don't have control of. He explained that we know what we are doing with council houses as we have to comply with EESH but have no control of private houses. GMcD raised the issue of houses 10 years old and under as they would have to comply with certain standards when built. Noted it is difficult to predict forward targets as housing condition surveys are only done every three years so does not give up-to-date targets. The group queried whether this was a good target to have given the limited control partners had over it. RG stated there a lot of targets we don't have control of such as dualling of A96 but they are still viewed as fundamental to the partnership core objectives. However we do have control of the HEEPS programme with targets that are real and can be measured in terms of how energy efficiency is improved. GMcD noted it was important when setting targets to concentrate on things we do have control of. Noted RG had previously submitted a different target around energy efficiency improvements and HEEPs which was rejected by the group and queried whether the group would want that to be reconsidered. RA stressed if the Scottish Government then stops the HEEPS programme, we would be left with nothing which would drive the target. SW queried whether there is any feedback from people in the private sector. AD advised they are undertaking follow up to ascertain if things have improved however it seems take up is generally good.</p> <p>Agreed to keep fuel poverty as a target meantime but work up something around HEEPS to bring back to the next meeting as a preferred target. RA to find out if there are any changes or plans for the HEEPS programme stopping. GMcD thought it important the logic is explained to the Board to get something more manageable.</p> <p><b>b. Council's Energy Saving Proposals</b>  The report conducted by the Energy Consultants was submitted. Noted the conclusions were submitted to a previous meeting but the SCP had asked to see the full report on energy reduction. Savings being suggested may not be realised so more feasibility work needs to be done. LED lighting was an easy action which was agreed would be taken forward by Policy &amp; Resources Committee as would give a 5 year return.</p> <p>The main areas looked at were around the school estate but more work on feasibility would need to be done. The savings look good on paper but there are other factors</p>	<p>RG</p> <p>RA</p> <p>-</p>
--	---	------------------------------

	<p>which would need to be considered such as the building may have asbestos or other factors which would mean any potential savings would be negated. The main issue is boiler replacements in schools. Energy figures for Christmas Day 2015 showed £4,300 being used in 7 schools when no-one was there which was excessive. RG mentioned that in GCs report there was reference to using carbon accounts and wondered whether headteachers could be given a carbon account to take some responsibility for energy in their own school, given that energy costs were not devolved for schools to manage. Agreed there is potential for a lot more savings especially in the school estate.</p> <p><b>c. Climate Change</b></p> <p>GC presented the report which set the context and quoted from Sustainable Scotland Network on importance of climate change. The purpose of the report was to give an understanding and raise awareness of impacts of climate change. Part of this is to reduce carbon emissions through transport and energy efficiency and addressing how nature helps us cope with climate change and what climate change means for nature. An example was given of peat bogs which are enormous carbon sinks and if not looked after then carbon capture is wasted. It is important to take action to help bogs retain water which means they will continue to store more carbon. Noted one issue with peat bogs is that it slows run off on land which will not help with flooding. GC explained a fundamental change is needed of how we treat our landscapes and how they are used. The mouth of the Spey has provoked discussion as to whether it should be left alone as the impact of change would have an effect on shingle banks at Kingston. Noted where this is a solution for one issue there is impact for another one. Climate change forms part of the Local Development Plan policies. GC suggested when looking at new developments with managed areas where grass cutting is an issue, it would help to introduce flower meadows which would not require the same level of maintenance and would also help wildlife. GC has a publication on climate change which can be sent to those who wish it.</p> <p>GC to send on details of the carbon account system to RG or put her touch with the accounts officer who may agree to come along to speak to the Partnership.</p>	<b>GC</b>
<b>4. Review of SCP targets in light of feedback from</b>	RG explained the revised targets have been given the first pass by council officers, however this does not mean that they cannot be changed. There are time constraints in place however in that they require to be submitted in draft to the February meeting of the Community Planning Board.	

<p><b>Community Engagement Events in November 2015</b></p>	<p>In this review the CPB wanted to extend targets to 2026 and also to take into account comments made and noted as a result of community engagement events in November 2015. The proposed graphs in Appendix 7 reflect the opinions of the officers and Chair but not yet other members of the SCP given timing constraints. The deadline for 2026 publication is June and any final changes would be considered at the April meeting of the SCP.</p> <p>FV indicated it was important to try to reflect the views of those who engage with them, although there are not many. TSi Moray said people will be interested when he goes back to his Environment and Sustainability Third Sector Forum to hear whether changes have been made.</p> <p>FV was of the opinion biodiversity and climate change were overarching principles and also food. He suggested introduction to targets to put these into context as a starting point and that carbon reduction may not necessarily require a target but a text explanation. He also suggested mention of aspirations of having a food strategy rather than having an actual food target. Also to make reference to fuel poverty but only on the element we have control of.</p> <p>RG explained she has seen the draft of Moray 2026 which is pared back from last version in terms of narrative. In a shorter narrative it won't be possible to make reference to all these things which are not currently targets. She suggested that instead the remit required rebalance and targets would also need to be identified for major issues to feature in the plan. Noted the Council's priority is on energy not on climate change or biodiversity per se so other partners would have to drive a wider agenda. JG stated that climate change covers a variety of different things and broadly these are covered in Moray 2023. He was concerned what the target would be for food, how it would be measured and who would deliver it. TG confirmed that a target on this would not be delivered by the Health &amp; Social Care Partnership.</p> <p>JG explained when get specific about bio diversity, as an example, we have responsibilities under the Local Development Plan and will control development to reduce the impact. He is concerned that if we start naming individual elements then we need to be clear about what individual partners are doing.</p> <p>GMcD advised at present the Community Planning Board is mainly driven by the Council but now other partners require to be on board and fully committed.</p> <p>Agreed to have a discussion about food at the next</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
--	--	--



	<p>meeting of the group in April and consider targets and what is measurable. Noted the Council have limited resources to cope with targets and so any additional targets would require to be sold to the partnership along with whether it is measurable and who would drive/deliver it.</p> <p>GMcD indicated he would welcome a report from AD/FV regarding food and potential targets as he would be pleased to see reports from other partners.</p> <p>GC expects that SNH will be made a statutory partner as a result of the Community Empowerment Bill. JT also indicated the Bill will have significant implications for the Forestry Commission. GC noted bio diversity is on pre-planned agenda for the April meeting. JT one of biggest peat land areas is in the Mulben area. Agreed GC prepare a short paper on biodiversity and get feedback from JT on the report.</p> <p>As regards the target graphs submitted for approval the following was agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of Council houses to be built – agreed.</li> <li>• % Council housing stock meeting EESH standard – agreed.</li> </ul> <p>FV queried whether it could reflect all housing stock. Noted RA had not received information from RSLs. RA to send to FV so he can raise with RSLs with the aspiration to include it in the next review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % council housing stock meeting the Moray housing standard – agreed.</li> <li>• Fuel poverty – if possible remove and substitute with a target relative to HEEPS but retain meantime.</li> <li>• Waste diverted from landfill – agreed.</li> <li>• Energy consumption – agreed subject to reference being made in narrative to what the council has control of.</li> </ul> <p>RG resolved to try to add something in the introductory paragraph on the SCP to make reference to contributing towards food, carbon management and bio diversity.</p>	<p><b>FV/AD</b></p> <p><b>GC/JT</b></p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p><b>RA/FV</b></p> <p>-</p> <p><b>RG</b></p> <p>-</p> <p><b>RG</b></p> <p><b>RG</b></p>
<b>5. AOCB</b>	None.	-
<b>6. Date of Next Meeting</b>	Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 10am in Meeting Room 200. Chair advised this date may require to be changed but he would confirm the situation to CO in the next few weeks.	RG/CO