



REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 27 NOVEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH tsiMORAY

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a progress report against the commitments made in the partnership agreement with tsiMoray and to update the partnership agreement for 2018/19.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III A (54) of the Administration Scheme, to deal with all matters relating to the Council's Strategy, Policy, budgetary and monitoring arrangements for the Third Sector.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- a) considers the progress in relation to the partnership commitments made in 2016/17;**
- b) approves the proposed partnership agreement for 2018/19;**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Third Sector Interfaces were established by, and are funded by, the Scottish Government with the aim of achieving a range of outcomes as follows:-
- More people have increased opportunity and enthusiasm to volunteer.
 - Volunteer involving organisations are better able to recruit, manage and retain volunteers.
 - Social enterprise develops and grows.
 - Third sector organisations are well run and delivery quality services.
 - Different organisations and sectors are more connected and understand each other better.
 - Third sector organisations feel better able to influence and contribute to public policy.
 - Third Sector Interfaces are well run and quality driven organisations.
- 3.2 The council has extensive links with third sector organisations which provide a vast network of services and support to many people throughout the Moray area. For many years the council provided accommodation and grant funding

to support the work of MVSO and the role of that organisation has been subsumed within the larger remit of **tsiMoray**.

- 3.3 The council currently provides **tsiMoray** with an annual cash grant of £9,000 and free use of the office accommodation at 30/32 High Street, Elgin.
- 3.4 This committee approved the first partnership agreement with **tsiMoray** at its meeting on 17 February 2015 (paragraph 8 of the minute refers). This was reviewed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meetings on 10 May 2016, when a number of amendments were approved (paragraph 11 of the minute refers), and on 27 August 2017 (paragraph 8 of the minutes refers).

4. REVIEW OF 2016/17 PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 The 2017/18 partnership agreement identified a number of specific commitments from each partner and these have been updated annually since then. The commitments for 2017/18 are set out below in bold type with comments on progress provided against each point.

4.1.1 Particular issues where the council would like to see progress during 2017/18:

- a) **To be given the opportunity to comment on the next draft work plan prior to it being submitted to the tsiMoray Board for approval (the same to follow in respect of the next Strategic Development Plan).**

The council was given the opportunity to comment on the strategic development plan for 2017/2020. The work plan for 2016/17, on which the Council had an opportunity to comment in early 2016, was extended to cover the first quarter of 2017/18. In February 2018, the Corporate Management Team met with **tsiMoray** representatives and identified 8 areas in terms of supporting and assisting the set of targeted local improvement outcomes of the community planning partnership. **tsiMoray** have responded highlighting planned work relating to these and further definition of the outcomes that **tsiMoray**'s plans intend to deliver has been identified as being useful to ensure clear alignment of the planned **tsiMoray** outcomes to the priorities in the Loip and how **tsiMoray** supports the wider community planning partnership work. The areas identified are listed below:

1. Social enterprise
2. Volunteers/skills pipeline
3. Community and voluntary engagement
4. Funding support
5. CAT
6. Children's services
7. CLD
8. Health and wellbeing

- b) **The work plan to include specific actions in relation to the promotion and support of opportunities for grant funding from other bodies (such as Big Lottery).**

Many of the services provided by **tsiMoray** to third sector organisations are intended to make them 'ready for funding'. Examples of these services delivered during the 9-month period 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018 include:

- support groups to set up a new organisation or a charity with an appropriate legal structure, to understand their obligations under Charity Law, and to help existing groups review their structure (46 organisations receiving in-depth support during the period); and
- help groups with their organisational planning and development (25 organisations receiving in-depth support during the period).

More specifically, **tsiMoray** also provided funding-focused services such as:

- support groups to identify their income strategy and diversify their income base (9 organisations receiving in-depth support during the period); and
- help groups identify and apply for suitable funding (51 organisations receiving in-depth support during the period).

In addition to these services, **tsiMoray** has taken on the role of Accountable Body for the delivery of the Moray LEADER programme, tasked with animating for and administering the distribution of £3M of European funding to Moray to support community-led development.

c) tsiMoray to provide the council with a copy of their annual performance report against the targets in the work plan and a copy of the report to the Board describing progress in relation to the Strategic Development Plan.

tsiMoray's latest annual performance reports, tracking progress against its key performance indicators provide detailed analysis of their performance.

4.1.2 Particular issues where tsiMoray would like to see progress during 2018/19:

a) The development of partnership working on promoting civic engagement, social entrepreneurship and volunteering in Moray's schools.

Work is ongoing between the council and **tsiMoray** in this regard. **tsiMoray** are appreciative of the commitment from the council in this regard and this work will continue.

b) The development of better partnership working and co-ordinated activity with the Council's Community Support Unit.

Officers have worked together to support the Community Engagement Group. In particular, they have developed an improvement plan which now forms the basis of the agenda for the group to ensure that attention is focussed on progress. Officers have also worked together to support community groups embarking on or considering Community Asset Transfers. The further development of cooperation and collaboration, building on that achieved on specific pieces of work to embed systemic coordination, remains of focus for the future.

c) A 3 year commitment to making the current premises available at no charge, and the provision of technical support in the planned review of the accommodation needs for tsiMORAY

The 3 year commitment was agreed by this committee in 2015 and renewed annually. tsiMoray have not yet sought technical support in relation to their review of accommodation, which is likely to include the development of options for upgrading the current premises or relocation to alternative premises. tsiMoray are the sole occupant of 30/32 High Street. As the Council will be reviewing its asset base in light of the requirement to reduce long term spending, Property Services have been asked to identify alternatives for tsiMoray so that all options can be considered for the future of this building. Discussions have also been reopened regarding the potential for tsiMORAY to apply for a full Community Asset Transfer for the premises. In light of these developments, it is proposed not to renew the three years commitment at this stage. Unless otherwise determined before then, the commitment will expire at the end of the financial year 2020/21.

d) A review of the decision to cease the 3 year commitment to the annual financial support of £9,000, noting that the council has indicated that this funding will be paid in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and cease thereafter.

The 3 year commitment was agreed by this committee in 2015. Since that time the council has advised tsiMoray that the final year of funding will be 2018/19. tsiMoray would welcome the opportunity to work with the council in reviewing financial support in future years.

e) The council will continue to support tsiMORAY to fulfil its obligations as accountable body for the LEADER programme, and will continue to support the Local Action Group as appropriate

In light of the difficulties encountered by the Council in the delivery of the previous LEADER programme, a unique arrangement was developed between the Scottish Government and tsiMORAY for tsiMORAY to be the only third sector organisation in Scotland entrusted with acting as Accountable Body for the delivery of the 2014/2020 programme. The Council continues to support the work of the Moray LEADER Local Action Group, and works in partnership with tsiMORAY and the Highland Council to deliver support for the associated but separate Fisheries programme.

4.2 **Partnership Agreement**

A copy of the Partnership Agreement is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report and the annual review note is attached as **APPENDIX 2**.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

tsiMoray are one of the community planning partners responsible for delivering Moray Loip. Additionally the remit of **tsiMoray** supports the Council in delivering their priorities under the Community Empowerment Act.

(b) **Policy and Legal** - None.

(c) **Financial Implications**

2018/19 is the final year of the annual grant of £9,000 to **tsiMORAY**. The annual review proposes to continue to provide premises at no charge for a further two-years, i.e. the remaining balance of the previous three-years commitment, expiring at the end of 2020/2021. The estimated annual rental value of the premises occupied is £26,000.

(d) **Risk Implications**

The main risk is the capacity for **tsiMORAY** and the council to develop community engagement and participation from existing resources.

(e) **Staffing Implications**

Many Council officers work in partnership with colleagues at **tsiMoray**, particularly in relation to social enterprise, supporting volunteering and community engagement.

(f) **Property Implications**

tsiMoray occupy Council owned premises at 30/32 High Street. The premises present a number of challenges and **tsiMoray** have requested support from the Council in reviewing their property requirements.

(g) **Equalities**

There are no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

(h) **Consultations**

Ian Todd, Community Support Unit Manager, has been consulted on the proposed additions to the partnership agreement and is in agreement with the proposals.

Fabio Villani, Chief Officer **tsiMoray**, has contributed to the preparation of this report and is in agreement with the proposed wording of the partnership agreement for 2018/19, which will be discussed by the Board of **tsiMoray** at their next meeting on 26 November 2018.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Partnership working between the council and tsiMORAY has developed during the year and the specific commitments in the partnership agreement have assisted in this regard. There is more that can be achieved, in particular through more coordination of work between the council and tsiMORAY as well as other public sector partners. Annual progress reports will continue to be provided to this committee.

Author of Report: Denise Whitworth

Background Papers: Previous reports to P&R Committee
tsiMoray's annual performance report

Ref: reports/P&R/tsiMoray annual partnership review 2018 (24-11-18)

Partnership Agreement between The Moray Council and tsiMORAY

Introduction

This partnership agreement sets out the principles and behaviours underpinning the relationship between The Moray Council and tsiMORAY.

A protocol for respectful dialogue, as appended, forms an integral part of our agreement. More detailed agreements, setting out roles, responsibilities and mutual expectations regarding specific activities and projects, will be developed as and when required.

Our agreement

We recognise each other as equal partners. We fully appreciate that we may have different approaches and different cultures, that we are often motivated by different drivers and that we face different challenges. However, we recognise that we have a shared interest in the wellbeing and sustainable development of Moray. We therefore agree that each of us should be a recognised and appreciated partner in the Community Planning Partnership, and that our relationships should be effective, supportive, based on parity of esteem and aimed to deliver real benefits to the people of Moray.

We agree that the effective participation of representatives of tsiMORAY in key groups and partnerships, and at all levels within the Community Planning Partnership, is essential. We appreciate the challenges associated with ensuring that the participation of tsiMORAY does not become an end in itself, but a way of providing crucial links between the public and third sectors. To this end we will collaborate to ensure tsiMORAY has the opportunity and the means to participate in, and engage with the wider third sector in relation to the agendas of, key groups and partnerships.

We recognise that there is potential to attract more external funding to Moray, and we will collaborate to ensure this happens. We also recognise the potential for developing tsiMORAY's offices as a 'one stop shop' for supporting the third sector, providing services from signposting and generic advice to detailed, in-depth advice and support, and we will collaborate to realise this potential.

We recognise the value of active early engagement with each other when either of us intends to develop initiatives in areas of mutual responsibility or interest. To this end we will link with the appropriate member of staff

or with the current designated contact. When input is needed from a higher level, this will be sought through contact between the Chief Executive of the Moray Council and the Chief Officer of tsiMORAY, or between the Leader of the Moray Council and the Chair of tsiMORAY

We will monitor the effectiveness of this agreement and will review both the agreement and our mutual engagement processes annually.

Protocol for Respectful Dialogue

We agree that it is in the interests of our continuing discussions that all of our communications are conducted civilly and with dignity. Therefore, we agree to:

- listen carefully to all points of view and seek fully to understand what concerns and motivates those with differing views from our own;
- acknowledge that there are many points of view and that these have validity alongside our own;
- show respect and courtesy to all individuals and organisations with which we have dealings;
- express our own views clearly and honestly with transparency about our motives and our interests;
- use language carefully and avoid personal or other remarks which might cause unnecessary offence;
- ask questions if we do not understand what others are saying or proposing;
- respond to questions asked of us with clarity and openness;
- support what we say with clear and credible information wherever that is available.
- treat as confidential all that is said and done in our meetings, subject to us all agreeing to an agreed summary for circulation to other interested parties at the conclusion of our discussions.

The Moray Council and tsiMORAY

Annual review of partnership agreement and mutual engagement process.

1. Particular issues where the council would like to see progress during 2018/19:
 - a) To be given the opportunity to comment on the next draft work plan prior to it being submitted to the **tsiMORAY** Board for approval (the same to follow in respect of the next Strategic Development Plan).
 - b) The work plan to include specific actions in relation to the promotion and support of opportunities for grant funding from other bodies (such as Big Lottery).
 - c) **tsiMORAY** to provide the council with a copy of their annual performance report against the targets in the work plan and a copy of the report to the Board describing progress in relation to the Strategic Development Plan.

2. Particular issues where **tsiMORAY** would like to see progress during 2018/19:
 - a) The development of partnership working on promoting civic engagement, social entrepreneurship and volunteering in Moray's schools.
 - b) The development of better partnership working and co-ordinated activity with the Council's Community Support Unit.
 - c) A 2 year commitment to making the current premises available at no charge, as well as the provision of technical support in the planned review of the accommodation needs of **tsiMORAY** and for the development of a full business case for a Community Asset Transfer of the premises from the Council to **tsiMORAY**
 - d) A review of the decision to cease the 3 year commitment to the annual financial support of £9,000, noting that the council has indicated that this funding will be paid in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and cease thereafter.
 - e) The council will continue to: support **tsiMORAY** to fulfil its obligations as accountable body for the LEADER programme, support the Local Action Group as appropriate and work in partnership with **tsiMORAY** and Highland Council to support the delivery of the Fisheries programme.