MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Community Planning Board

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

remote locations via video conference,

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Mr Stuart Black, Mr Roddy Burns, Anne Campbell, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Tim Eagle, Bruce Farquharson, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Chief Superintendent George MacDonald, Councillor Shona Morrison, Mr Anthony Standing, Councillor Sonya Warren, Mrs Susan Webb

APOLOGIES

Councillor John Cowe, Mr Murray Ferguson, Mr Grant Moir, Mr Mike Palmer, Mr Don Vass

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development), Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, Communities Service Manager, and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Officer, all Moray Council.

1.   Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Graham Leadbitter.

2.   Order of Business

The meeting noted that due to other commitments the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) would require to leave the meeting early and agreed to vary the order of business and take Item 5 "Moray Growth Deal Update – Verbal Update" as the first item of business.

3.   Moray Growth Deal Update - Verbal Update [Para 9]

The meeting noted a confidential update by the Depute Chief executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) on the Moray Growth Deal.

4.   Minute of Meeting of 23 June 2021

The Minute of the Meeting dated 23 June 2021 was submitted and approved subject to the query raised by Susan Webb that there may have been information relating to sharing common threads of information missed from the minute being investigated by the Clerk and updated if required.

5. Economic Recovery - Verbal Update

The Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) provided a verbal update on the Economic Recovery advising that this was the third update on the Economic Recovery Plan from October 2020 and included updates on industrial land in Forres and Speyside, procurement and local business consultancy, the Town Centre recovery plan, and Start up and Digital grants.

She further advised that the Economic Recovery Indicators will be reported on annually and will have 9 PIs or thematic indicators that will provide a broad picture across the board.

During discussion Anne Campbell asked if the baseline figures would be set at the pre-covid levels and what targets would be set.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised that the baseline figure have been set using the pre-covid figures and that targets would be set in the longer term and that the priority for the moment is forward movement.

During further discussion Stuart Black advised that HIE have introduced a graduate programme that has already attracted applications and that the programme is available to all HNC, HND and degree graduates.

He also advised that Orbex have moved into a new facility in Forres Enterprise park. Councillor Alexander queried whether the move was to a new building or to an additional building.

In response Stuart Black confirmed that it was an additional building and a good sign of expansion

Councillor Alexander asked if there was any further detail regarding the industrial land in Forres.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) stated that she had no more information to share at present.

Stuart Black advised that there is possible expansion on Forres Enterprise Park.

Thereafter the meeting agreed to note the verbal update.

Stuart Black left the meeting at this juncture.

6. Climate Change Update - Verbal Update

The Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) provided a verbal update on Climate Change which included an update on recruitment, the route map to Net Zero, training for procurement staff, and the COP26 programme running in schools.

During discussion Susan Webb asked how all of the updates related to the partnership contribution to the climate change agenda.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised that her update was focussed on the work of the Council which

was her area of responsibility, however she recognised that work was ongoing across the Partnership and she would ask the Climate Change Principal Officer to ensure he is making links with all organisations within the Partnership and to ensure that where there is collaborative working that this will be reported on.

7. Afghan and Syrian Refugees Resettlement Scheme Update - Verbal Update

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update on the Afghan and Syrian Resettlement Scheme which included an update from the Moray Council meeting dated 15 September 2021, where it was agreed that there would be housing and support for 20 refugees.

Following discussion the Chief Executive asked for anyone, or if any Board Members who knew of anyone, who could provide assistance to the refugees to get in touch with him.

The Chair highlighted the hard work undertaken by the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership in relation to adult social work and setting up support systems.

Thereafter the meeting noted the update.

8. 2021-22 Quarter 1 (April-June) LOIP Performance Monitoring Reports

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Board of the performance against the Local Outcome Performance Plan (LOIP) for the period to June 2021.

Stuart Black rejoined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Councillor Warren asked if there had been any feedback from the employers using Kickstart about the challenges in filling the roles.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised that the information was not held by the Council but could possibly be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce or HIE.

Stuart Black confirmed that there had been challenges in getting some of the roles filled, especially in hospitality and tourism, where there had been an immediate need for staff but Kickstart was taking around 3 weeks to place someone.

Councillor Eagle questioned the need to appoint a lead officer to support multi-agency working and capacity issues as he was of the opinion that it would be better to increase the number of staff rather than priorities being changed.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) advised that recruitment was in progress to appoint a Senior Officer for policy and that this will help with multi agency working.

Following further discussion on the benefits of different ways of producing and presenting the information in the appendices it was considered that it would be useful to have both statistical information with a narrative alongside and the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Finance) agreed that more comments could be added to the tables in appendix 5 to reflect this.

Thereafter, the Board agreed to note the progress reported in the templates attached to the report (Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4) taking account of the impact responding to the pandemic has had on partner organisations.

9. Partnership Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2021-24

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) updated the Board on the completion of the Partnership CLD Plan which was published in draft format on 31 August 2021, as agreed at the 24 June CPP Board meeting.

Following consideration, during which the inclusion of Local Area Forums into page 24 was agreed, the Board agreed to:

   i.   note the publication of the CLD Plan in Draft format; and
   ii.   formally approve the Partnership CLD Plan 2021-24

10. AOCB

Councillor Alexander asked if Scottish Water had ever been a member of the CPB. He stated that his reason for raising the question was in relation to a recent flooding event in Forres which had resulted in sewage being left on the street and in his opinion he thought that the clean up of this would be the responsibility of Scottish Water and it may therefore be useful to have them attend the Board. Following discussion it was agreed that any issues that required to be raised with Scottish Water should be through the Local Resiliance Partnership or one of their working groups.

Councillor Alexander also asked if the sederunt could be updated to show the bodies being represented. This was agreed.

Anne Campbell asked if there were any plans to be able to hold the meetings face to face or to change the platform that the meetings are currently held on.
In response the Chair advised that virtual meetings would continue until at least January 2022.

The Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) further advised that the platform allows for live webcasting and the Board may wish to take this into account in the context of holding meetings in public.

Susan Webb confirmed that the guidelines are still to work remotely and that is not recommended to meet face to face yet.

Councillor Eagle thanked Susan Webb for her weekly updates and sought confirmation that he could share the information on social media. This was agreed by Susan Webb as she was of the opinion that it would send a consistent message.

Anthony Standing advised that SDS had recently published the Annual Participation measures. He advised that 3500 young people in Moray (91.8%) are currently in education, employment or training a slight drop from 92% in 2020.

Councillor Eagle left the meeting at this juncture

Councillor Warren asked if apprenticeships would be impacted by the end of the furlough scheme.

In response Stuart Black confirmed that any apprentice on furlough would be able to restart their apprenticeship.

Anthony Standing also confirmed that SDS are following up on every young person on an apprenticeship that was made redundant and providing support to them and that he could provide further information to Councillor Warren. He further advised that existing programmes such as the Adopt an Apprentice scheme were still running.