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ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP

**COMMITTEE ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR, COUNCIL BUILDING, 2 HIGH STREET,
PERTH**

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2014 – 2PM

Minute of meeting of the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Group held in the Tay Room, Ground Floor, Blackfriars Development Centre, North Port, Perth on Friday 31 October 2014 at 2pm.

Present: Councillors J Kellas and A Livingstone, both Perth and Kinross Council; M Beale, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce; A Burnett, Enterprise North East Trust/Business Gateway (substituting for G McEwan); K Donaldson (substituting for E Dawson, Jobcentre Plus); J Flynn, Perth & Kinross CHP, NHS Tayside; K McPherson, Voluntary Action Perthshire; P Wilson, Perth College UHI (substituting for D Gourley)

In Attendance: B Renton and A Seggie (both the Environment Service); J Allan, D Cook, J Devine, P McAvoy, P Rennie and D Stokoe, (all Education and Children's Services); Y Oliver (Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies: Councillor G Walker, Perth and Kinross Council; G Ballie, Scottish Enterprise; J Clarkson, VisitScotland; E Dawson, Jobcentre Plus; Dr R Dockrell, University of Stirling; D Gourley, Perth College UH , E Guthrie, TACTRAN; J Hunter, Skills Development Scotland; G MacEwan, Federation of Small Businesses; G McEwan, Enterprise North East Trust/Buusiness Gateway; S Pengelley, Morrisons Academy.

Councillor J Kellas, Presiding.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor J Kellas welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the relevant Codes of Conduct.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group of 30 May 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) Page 4: National Benchmarking Toolkit - “McEvoy” should be spelt “McAvoy”
- (ii) Page 7: Business Gateway – delete the words “...was concerned, however, that the Angel’s Share may be shelved due to insufficient interest...”. Councillor Kellas stressed that he hoped this scheme would be expanded.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) National Benchmarking Toolkit (Item 6 refers)

At the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group meeting held on 30 May 2014, P McAvoy, Head of Education – Secondary and Inclusion, Education and Children’s Services, Perth and Kinross Council had advised members of a system called “PISA” – Program for International Student Assessment which measures 15 year old students’ reading, mathematics and science literacy, as well as measuring general or cross-curricular competencies, such as problem solving and emphasises functional skills that students have acquired as they near the end of compulsory schooling.

A document entitled “Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2012: Highlights from Scotland’s Results”, which had been issued by the Scottish Government, was tabled at the meeting. Members noted that:

- Scotland’s scores in the PISA assessments were similar to the OECD average in maths
- Scotland’s own overall performance was similar to that in 2009 for all three domains
- Scotland’s relative performance compared to other countries, including UK administrations, improved slightly since 2009 in maths, measured by the number of comparator countries that were significantly above and below Scotland.
- The proportion of pupils performing at highest levels of achievement (“Level 5 and above”) and performing at the lowest levels (“below Level 2”) were similar in Scotland to the OECD average for all three domains, except in reading where Scotland had significantly fewer below Level 2 in an improvement on the 2009 figure.
- There was a reduction in the performance gap between disadvantaged and less disadvantaged pupils for all three domains compared to 2009. There was also a reduction in the *likelihood* of disadvantage affecting a pupil’s score in science, but no change in maths and reading.

5. ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN

(i) Updated Plan

A Seggie, Enterprise Manager, Planning and Regeneration, Perth and Kinross Council tabled the 2nd draft of the Economy and Lifelong

Learning Group Outcome Delivery Plan, which contained a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) report together with a progress update.

The Group discussed the Action Plan, which has been updated with new and revised actions being inserted. Alison stressed that, as with any new Action Plan, some actions are still to be progressed or are at an early stage.

Members noted that a “Schools Enterprise Policy” had been added and work was already ongoing with regards to employability and the Perth City Plan. Other new actions added included the development of a Smart Perth Action Plan which had involved workshops being held with Perth and Kinross Council and across Community Planning Partnership partners and also the development of a new initiative to support the Creative and Arts sector within Perth & Kinross with a new creative platform established <http://www.perthshirecreates.co.uk>

The Outcome Delivery Plan was a “living” document with actions being added and progress updated constantly.

The Group also discussed how they plan to respond to the Final report of the Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce (Wood Commission). The partners have agreed to participate in a number of short-life working groups to mirror those set up nationally to develop a local response. One of the key actions will be around improving employer links with schools.

Councillor Kellas suggested that it would be helpful to have more detailed information on progress being made with particular emphasis being placed on statistics. P McAvoy advised that the Action Plan gives the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group the opportunity to invite different speakers to their meetings.

(ii) CPP Progress report - Draft

David Stokoe, Service Manager, Communities, Education and Children’s Services, Perth and Kinross Council advised the Group that the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group must report directly to the Community Planning Partnership Board, updating them on the key achievements and progress made in the previous 6 months, with the next meeting being held on 28 November 2014. Councillor Kellas suggested that outcomes and actions by the voluntary sector and Perth College also be included in the feedback with the focus being on real actions and things that have made a difference.

6. PERTH COLLEGE UHI – CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOA/OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN

P Wilson, Vice Principal Academic, Perth College/UHI provided the Group with a slide based presentation on how Perth College/UHI contributes to

achieving the Groups' joint outcomes. Pam highlighted the strong links between Perth College's own strategic aims and the SOA local outcomes.

Members were advised there had been a significant increase in full-time students since 2011 (1,289 to 1,913) in 2013/14 and the total student roll was over 8,800, with a total of 76 different languages being spoken.

Pam highlighted a number of areas of joint working with other CPP partners including:

- City Campus project
- Creative Place partnership
- English language support work (ESOL)
- Modern Apprenticeships
- Technology Business Accelerator
- Health and Care Academies
- Hub project outreach in Crieff

The Convener thanked P Wilson for providing the Group with an informative presentation.

7. COMMISSION FOR DEVELOPING SCOTLAND'S YOUNG WORKFORCE: FINAL REPORT

(i) Summary of Final Report & the National Programme Board

There was submitted a Joint Report by the Executive Director (Environment) and the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/14/303) summarising the Final Report from the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce and requesting that the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group consider how best to work together to implement the Commission's recommendations.

A Seggie addressed members, reminding them that The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, chaired by Sir Ian Wood, was set up in January 2013 and the final report, entitled "Education Working for All" was published on 3 June 2014. The report contained 39 recommendations which can be summarised under the following headings:-

- Better preparing school leavers for the world of work
- College education focussed on employment and learning
- Modern Apprenticeships focussed on higher level skills and industry needs
- More employers engaging with education and recruiting more young people
- Advancing equalities

Alison advised that a number of the recommendations within the report are already being actioned within Perth and Kinross through the work already developed by the Employability Strategy and Action Plan, including initiatives such as the Schools Guarantee and the Careers Academy. In addition, Perth and Kinross is also in the process of developing a Schools Enterprise and Employability Strategy which will take forward a number of the Commission's recommendations.

The Commission's report proposes the establishment of "Invest in Youth Regional Groups" and the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group is asked to consider how such a group could be established in this area, or jointly with colleagues/partnerships in the wider region.

The Group was advised that £4 million has already been committed to Education Scotland and Skills Development Scotland to develop a national framework for Work Experience and foundation Modern Apprenticeships but further information is awaited from the Scottish Government in regard to future resources and the deployment of the £12 million that may follow to support the implementation of the recommendations.

The unifying purpose of all the work to implement the Commission's recommendations is to increase the rate of youth employment with better qualified young people who are better prepared to succeed in the modern labour market and to encourage more employers to recruit young people from education.

The recommendations place a shared responsibility on both a number of services within the Council and Community Planning partners such as Skills Development Scotland, Perth College UHI and the private sector to work together to implement the report's recommendations.

Members noted that Perth and Kinross Council had established a short-life working group to review corporately what is required, establishing sub-groups on the same Change Themes identified at a national level. The Council would like to widen out this piece of work to include Community Planning partners and local employers. Councillor Kellas suggested that it may be beneficial for Alison to give a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce.

(ii) Enterprise & Employability in Secondary Schools – Draft Strategy Paper

There was submitted a Draft Strategy Paper entitled "Enterprise and Employability in Secondary Schools" (G/14/304) providing an overview of Perth and Kinross Council's expectations with regard to learning for enterprise and employability in secondary schools and identifying necessary actions to ensure all our young people have appropriate experiences to support their transition into the workplace.

Report G/14/304 is aimed specifically at reviewing and improving the secondary school experience, with a view to ensuring that all Perth and Kinross Council's young people are given the best opportunity to fulfil their potential and the report sits within the broader *Curriculum for Excellence* development, promoting the principle that schools should equip learners with skills for life and work. The report also stresses the importance of improved partnership working as a key to delivering these skills to learners and the actions proposed in the report will be subject to overview by the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group.

J Devine, Quality Improvement Officer, Education and Children's Services, Perth and Kinross Council advised members that a lot of work was already being carried out with schools in Perth and Kinross prior to the Wood Commission. It was very important to work with partners, particularly Perth College and engagement with businesses was absolutely fundamental.

Members noted that ten proposals were set out in Report G/14/304 including:

- (i) A Schools-College Strategic Planning Group will be established in session 2014/15 which will set out a strategic plan with key milestones by March 2015;
- (ii) A Schools Enterprise and Employability Forum will be established by March 2015;
- (iii) A short-life Working Group will be established to create a Perth and Kinross Skills Standard, reporting in May 2015.

Members noted that, in total, 5 Sub-Groups required to be set up and they would all receive an e-mail, inviting them to participate (**Action: A Seggie**)

8. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

There was submitted a paper for information, entitled "The requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013, by J Allan, Learning and Development Manager, Education and Children's Services, Perth and Kinross Council who also provided the Group with a slide based presentation on the subject.

Members were advised that the purpose of the Regulations was the expectation (now formalised in the Regulations) of the Scottish Government for local authorities "*to provide clear leadership and direction, and to drive the action needed to ensure that we maximise the contribution of Community Learning and Development partners in the reform of public services*".

Included in the Regulations is the requirement that each local authority must consult on and publish plans every three years containing specified information on the provision of Community Learning and Development (CLD) by both the local authority and its partners with the first plan being in place no later than 1

September 2015. Subsequent plans should be published at three yearly intervals from the initial date of publication.

Members were advised that Communities Service staff have attended a session delivered by Education Scotland and have established a draft timeline incorporating the planning and preparation for the initial consultation exercise and the subsequent production of the CLD plan.

It has become clear that the timescale for the entire process is very short and there is a clear message from Education Scotland that HM Inspectors will expect to see evidence of planning for the implementation of the CLD Regulations in advance of September 2015.

An update on the implementation of Perth and Kinross Council's initial plan will be brought to a future meeting of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group
(Action: J Allan)

9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (i) A Seggie advised members that a letter had been received from the European Social Fund advising of potential funding of £3.35million for Employability activities. The application for a proportion of this sum must be made no later than the end of December and Shelley Huggins, Policy and Employability Co-ordinator, The Environment Service, Perth and Kinross Council would contact partners in this regard very shortly.
- (ii) Scottish Cities Alliance – members were advised that Smart City workshops had been held to which CPP partners had been invited. Perth and the other Scottish Cities are currently completing a self-assessment which will lead to the development of a road map for all the cities to develop their Smart City activities, and to attract funding from the new EU programme.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following meeting dates were subsequently arranged for 2015 for meetings of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group – the venue would be Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth:

Friday 6 February 2015 – 11.00am
Friday 8 May 2015 – 11.00am
Friday 11 September 2015 – 11.00am
Friday 11 December 2015 – 11.00am

The following paper was submitted for information only:

The Hub Project Annual Report 2013/14

