



ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP

HAY ROOM, DEWAR'S CENTRE, GLOVER STREET, PERTH

FRIDAY 29 MAY 2015 – 09.30AM

Minute of meeting of the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Group held in the Hay Room, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Friday 29 May 2015 at 09.30am.

Present: Councillors J Kellas, and G Walker, both Perth and Kinross Council; K Bazley, Scottish Enterprise (substituting for G Ballie); J Clarkson, Visit Scotland; J Dernie, Perth and Kinross CHP, NHS Tayside; N Gardiner, TACTRAN (substituting for E Guthrie); D Gourlay, Perth College/UHI; J Hunter; Skills Development Scotland; A Burnett, Elevator/Business Gateway (substituting for G McEwan); K McPherson, PKAVS (Voluntary Action Perthshire; and V Unite, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce.

In Attendance: A Graham, P McAvoy, J McCrone, G Pinfield, A Seggie, D Stokoe and P Frazer (all Perth and Kinross Council)

Apologies: Councillor A Livingstone; G Ballie (Scottish Enterprise); E Devine and J Flynn (both NHS Tayside); E Guthrie (TACTRAN); D Littlejohn and F Robertson (both Perth and Kinross Council); G MacEwan (Federation of Small Businesses); and 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 6 February 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising at this time.

5. ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report (G/15/122) by D Stokoe, Service Manager (Communities) and A Seggie, Enterprise Manager, Planning and Development (both Perth and Kinross Council) presenting the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group Outcome Delivery Plan 2015/16.

D Stokoe reported that the recent workshop had been well attended; work was required to assess the usefulness of the event and if other Outcome Delivery Groups (ODGs) would benefit from something similar.

Further information was required in order to populate the Delivery Plan in more detail and the document would be distributed on Monday 1 June 2015 for comments; the deadline for responses would be 12 June 2015.

A Seggie advised that some small sub-groups would be required to ensure that actions are prioritised and progressed for delivery by the end of the financial year.

J Kellas commented that the aim must be to focus on setting and achieving deliverable targets.

6. JOINT RESOURCING UPDATE

There was submitted a report (G/15/123) by D Stokoe, Service Manager (Communities) (Perth and Kinross Council) providing an update on the Joint Resourcing pilot in Blairgowrie and Rattray. A small working group had been set up with representatives from PKAVS, Department for Work and Pensions, Perth College and Perth and Kinross Council, to facilitate the scoping of the project and to progress actions.

Members also heard a presentation highlighting the following topics:

- Customer insights
 - 24 interviews undertaken over 2 days

- Place Based Scrutiny
- Job Club service beneficial
- Gaps in awareness of totality of support across locality
- Barriers to Employment
 - Transport
 - Local training and employment opportunities
 - Low wages
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - In work poverty (zero hours contracts/benefit issues)
 - High levels of community pride and resilience
- Service Offer – Pipeline
 - Majority of provision at the early engagement stage
 - Limited provision in mainstream post-16 education, workplace based pre-employment training and in-work support
 - Dedicated support for 18-25 year olds and ethnic minorities
- Areas for Further Investment
 - Referral pathways between services
 - Multiple entry points for job seekers
 - Core services working with the same people
 - Service’s outcomes and outputs
 - Service data
 - Profiles of claimants’: over 50s, JSA
 - Barriers to employment
 - The digital divide
 - Employer engagement

It was noted in discussion that while there were high numbers of unemployed aged over 50, and a lot of the available funding/support was directed at young people. In addition, very little in the way of rural provision existed; support for transport should be considered.

D Gourlay, Perth Collage and P McAvoy agreed that both schools and the college could facilitate the development of customer care skills in the hospitality industry, STEM qualifications and access to blended learning.

Councillor Kellas added that The Hub was an important focus for employers and suggested something similar could be developed for older people. Resulting job opportunities may not be highly skilled but could develop skills and business opportunities.

COUNCILLOR WALKER LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

Resolved

The Group agreed:

- (i) To note the content of Report G/15/122 and the progress update on the Joint Resourcing pilot in Blairgowrie and Rattray and proposed next steps.

- (ii) To receive a further report on the effects of unemployment in the over 50s age group and their families and how these issues could be addressed, to a future meeting of the Group.

7. SMART PERTH AND KINROSS: STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

There was submitted a report (G/15/124) by the Head of Planning and Development providing an update on the process for the development of a Smart Perth and Kinross Strategy and Action Plan. It updated the Group on the SCA Smart City work stream and the application to the ERDF Operational Programme 2014-2020 for £10 million to support all cities in a strategic intervention entitled 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City'. It highlighted particular aspects of the Strategy that will be of interest to the Delivery Group.

The Group heard a presentation by G Pinfield, Project Officer on the Smart Perth and Kinross Strategy and Action Plan, which covered the following topics:

- Smart City
 - Quality of Life, Economic Growth and Sustainability
- City Development Impacts
 - Demographics, Services and Citizens
- Integration
 - Smart City: People, Mobility, Environment, Economy, Governance and Living
- Integration of the Citizen, Infrastructure and Administration
- Strategy, Vision and Action Plan
- Data
 - Open, Closed, Personal, Big and Linked
- Internet of things: Everything connected
- Projects: Smart Mobility, Business and Education

Resolved

The Group agreed:

- (i) To endorse the approach to the Smart Perth and Kinross Strategy and Action Plan outlined in the report and noted the progress being made on the ERDF Smart City strategic intervention.
- (ii) To Encourage members of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group to participate in workshops to help develop the Smart Perth and Kinross Strategy and Action Plan.
- (iii) To receive a further report and the draft Strategy at meeting later in the year.

8. WOOD COMMISSION: UPDATE ON DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The Group heard a verbal update by A Seggie, Enterprise Manager, Planning and Development (Perth and Kinross Council) on the Wood Commission Draft Action Plan. A Seggie tabled a report (G/15/190) Education Working for All – National Recommendations and Mapping of Activity/Actions proposed in Perth and Kinross.

A Seggie summarised the content of the report and the following points were highlighted:

- Seven year action plan (Scottish Government)
- A local working group would be developed in Perth
- A strategic group would be developed with Perth College to develop the curriculum offer and improved pathways between school and college
- Youth unemployment remains a big issue for some sections of the community/geographies
- Hidden unemployment: where people were in transition
- Reduced options for school leavers
- School participation was well advanced
- Piloting foundation Apprenticeships: engineering and care
- More work required on engagement with smaller employers; working with Chamber of Commerce
- Media engagement required

Resolved:

The Group noted that the draft plan would be submitted to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Community Planning Partnership for approval.

9. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF): UPDATE ON BID PROGRESS

The Group heard a verbal update by A Seggie, Enterprise Manager, Planning and Development (Perth and Kinross Council) on the European Social Fund Draft Action Plan.

A Seggie reported that £3.2 million had been notionally offered nationally by the Scottish Government to feed a pipeline approach; however, the Council did not currently have a pipeline or matched funding in place. In January 2015, a consultant had been employed by the Council to undertake an ESF mapping exercise, which found: (i) there was lots of provision in Perth, not so much in rural areas; (ii) engagement in stages 1-3, but little in stages 4-5; and (iii) not much provision in mental health. It may be possible to make changes, through ESF, to address gaps in provision. There were also some existing projects which might bring in matched funding but, to date; only four responses had been received. The deadline for project bids was Thursday 2 July 2015.

The Group noted that a decision making Project Board would be instigated within the next three weeks.

The Group noted the position.

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no further business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group would take place on Friday 11 September 2015 at 11.00am.