



ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP

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

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2015 – 11.00AM

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 11 September 2015 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors J Kellas, and G Walker, both Perth and Kinross Council; P Smith (substituting for J Clarkson), Visit Scotland; J Dernie, Perth and Kinross CHP, NHS Tayside); D Gourley, Perth College/UHI; J Hunter; Skills Development Scotland; (substituting for G McEwan); G MacEwan (Federation of Small Businesses); and K McPherson, PKAVS (Voluntary Action Perthshire).

In Attendance: G Clark, C Holgate, D Littlejohn, J McCrone, R Huczynska; A Seggie, J Somerville, and D Stokoe (all Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies: G Ballie, Scottish Enterprise; M Beale, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce; A Burnett, Elevator/Business Gateway; J Clarkson, Visit Scotland; B Farrell, Kilgraston School; J Hunter, Skills Development Scotland; A Burnett, Elevator and Business Gateway; and E Guthrie, TACTRAN.

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 29 May 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising at this time.

5. JOINT RESOURCING: PROGRESS UPDATE - PRESENTATION

The Group heard a joint presentation on the Joint Resourcing pilot in Blairgowrie and Rattray from D Stokoe, Service Manager (Communities) and R Huczynska, Community Planning Policy Team Leader. During the presentation, specific reference was made to:-

- Context
- Research
- Blairgowrie and Rattray
- Number of Clients
- Investment in Tackling Worklessness
- Findings
- Simplifying a Complex Landscape
- Involvement of Stakeholders
- Future Developments
- Next Steps.

Following the presentation, discussion focussed on:-

- There being no dedicated support to the 50+ age group
- Information Technology being a significant issue
- Public transport and the challenges faced by residents of outlying villages
- The reduction of duplication and potential benefits of co-location
- Future engagement with employers, including small and medium sized enterprises and the Care Sector.

The Convener suggested that even if on a small scale, it would be desirable for some practical actions to commence and D Littlejohn agreed that this should now be possible.

D Stokoe advised that a further report would be submitted to the Community Planning Partnership in December 2015.

Resolved

The progress on the Joint Resourcing pilot in Blairgowrie and Rattray be noted.

6. COMMUNITY LEARNING DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

D Stokoe, Service Manager (Communities) (Perth and Kinross Council) provided a slide-based update on the community learning development regulations and emphasised the importance of working with partners and communities. He noted that the action plan would reflect the collective

contribution and in terms of the consultation, he added that each partner around the table had already made a significant contribution.

D Stokoe reported that the draft action plan would shortly be circulated to all members for comment and that a deadline for responses would be included. The Convener agreed that the action plan was the key to moving forward and that the continuing contribution by partner organisations would be crucial.

Resolved

- (i) The current position in terms action plan relevant to the community learning development regulations be noted.
- (ii) D Stokoe to circulate the draft action plan to all members for comment be noted.

7. CITY PLAN

There was submitted a copy of the draft Perth City Plan 2015-2035 (G/15/183) and J McCrone, City Development Manager, Perth & Kinross Council, made a presentation to the Group, which covered the following topics:-

- Smart Growth for Perth City
- Our Vision – Perth will be one of Europe’s great small cities
- The context – policy and investment
- Successful small cities in Europe
- The city plan framework
- Infrastructure for smart growth
- The 5 year delivery plan – themes and big moves
- City centre development and placemaking
- Making it happen – Action Plan Summary.

The Convener thanked John McCrone for the insightful presentation and he again emphasised the importance of the involvement of all partner agencies and the need to take forward the vision. D Littlejohn suggested that in terms of becoming one of Europe’s great small cities, individual elements of the plan would not deliver change alone and he urged partners to consider carefully what additions were needed to the plan. Reference was made to particular challenges around health services, especially in terms of primary care. The Convener invited J McCrone to attend a future meeting of the Group to provide a further update.

Resolved

- (i) The current position in terms of the City Plan be noted.
- (ii) The City Development Manager be invited to a future meeting of the Group to provide a further update.

8. DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE REGIONAL GROUP

The Group heard a verbal update by A Seggie, Enterprise Manager, Planning and Development, Perth and Kinross Council on the development of a young workforce regional group to be established in response to the final report of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (Wood Commission). The partners had previously agreed to participate in a number of short-life working groups to mirror those set up nationally to develop a local response, with key actions around improving employer links with schools.

A Seggie reported that progress had taken place in schools and colleges and that the development of young workforce groups was being private sector led, with groups in Glasgow and Aberdeenshire now having been established. She added that Perth & Kinross would have the opportunity to bid into the process and that a small group was now examining how such a bid could be developed.

D Gourley reported on the current position of the Foundation Apprenticeships in Care and Engineering – the work-based learning qualification for secondary school pupils introduced in 2014-15. While still at school, young people could undertake the first part of an apprenticeship. He also referred to a new Skills Development Scotland funded project which would examine barriers in securing an apprenticeship.

Resolved:

The Group noted the progress in the development of the Young Workforce Regional Group.

9. PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS/ACTION PLAN MONITORING

On behalf of Peter McAvoy, G Clark from Navigate, Education and Children's Services provided a brief update following the launch of Enterprise and Employability in Secondary Schools strategy launched in February 2015. She referred to:-

Implementation in schools
Auditing process with schools
Development of young workforce
Incorporation into School Improvement Plan
Current quantitative survey in schools and a future qualitative survey, and Challenges and outcomes.
(Outcome Delivery Plan – Point 3).

A Seggie noted progress relevant to the Business Accelerator Project and referred to the project gathering momentum, with active engagement with Perth College/UHI.
(Outcome Delivery Plan – Point 18).

K McPherson, PKAVS provided a brief update on progress relevant to education and the promotion of the benefits of volunteering to employers and employees, with 82 new young people registered and numbers expected to

increase. In terms of future development, K McPherson noted that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Group in December 2015. (Outcome Delivery Plan – Point 18).

D Littlejohn reminded members that it was a requirement of the Group to monitor and report on actions relevant to the Outcome Delivery Plan. A Seggie agreed that a method of systematically monitoring actions should be established to support effective reporting and suggested a short-life working group could take this forward. The Convener requested that there should be a focus on the progress on the Outcome Delivery Plan at the next meeting.

Resolved:

- (i) The Group noted the updates provided.
- (ii) That a system of monitoring actions be established prior to the next meeting.

10. EMPLOYABILITY CO-COMMISSIONING

R Huczynksa provided the Group with a verbal update on employability co-commissioning and referred to:-

- Skills Development Scotland being at the heart of the commissioning process
- Each year there was an opportunity to set out information, mainly in regard to young people – the deadline this year being 7 October
- What is wanted in terms of employability in this area – ranging from core skills to vocational provision
- Invitations to tender whereby any training provider can bid
- Next steps – setting out information for bidders and investment in training in area.

R Huczynksa sought advice on key priority sectors, focus, specific location and key customer groups and D Littlejohn advised that she liaise with the Economic Development Team in the first instance.

Resolved:

The Group noted the position in terms of Employability Co-Commissioning.

11. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND : UPDATE ON BID PROGRESS

A Seggie, referred to the update provided at the last meeting relevant to the European Social Fund Draft Action Plan. She reported that this funding could provide significant opportunity, with a provisional allocation of £4,000,000 to the year 2020. She added that there would be a need to secure matched funding, which was not currently in place. Feedback had been received from the initial application and this would now be resubmitted. The next stage would involve submitting a detailed ESF application. A Seggie reported that there would be considerable opportunity for the voluntary sector and other partners. The Convener requested that a progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.

Resolved:

- (i) The Group noted the position.
- (ii) A report outlining the progress of the ESF bid be submitted to the next meeting.

12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no further business.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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