



COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Minute of meeting of the Community Planning Community Safety and Environment group held in the Hay Room, Dewar's Centre, Perth on Friday 19 June 2015 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant, D Pover and H Stewart, (all Perth and Kinross Council); J Anton (Police Scotland) (substituting for I Scott); M Cairns, TACTRAN (substituting for E Guthrie); G Clark (Scottish National Heritage); L Miller (Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership); S Robertson (Scottish Fire and Rescue) (substituting for R Middlemiss); A Zvarikova (PKAVS) (substituting for J Kerr).

In Attendance: L Brown (from and including item 8), D Fraser, C Gray (substituting for G Esson), A Harris, C Haggart (from and including Item 7 and up to and including Item 9) J Irons, C Johnston, K McNamara, M Notman and H Rheinallt (all Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies for Absence: G Gilling (NHS Tayside); D Hodgkinson (Perth College UHI); Angie McManus (NHS Tayside); Rab Middlemiss (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor D Pover, Convener, welcomed all those present at the meeting and apologies and substitutes 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 MEETING OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP OF 20 MARCH 2015

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group of 20 March 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minute of 20 March 2015.

5. OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT NOVEMBER 2014 – MARCH 2015

There was submitted and noted a six monthly report by the Executive Director (Environment) (G/15/157) detailing developments and progress in working towards the following Strategic Objective: creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

K McNamara spoke briefly to the report in relation to key areas and areas for improvement, in regard to both community safety and environment issues, and he specifically made reference to:-

- The favourable reconviction statistics and preventative work undertaken such as the One-Stop Women's Learning Service and 'Right Track'
- The success of the joint Home Safety Visits
- The recycling rate for waste collected by the Council, which has exceeded 60% for three quarters in a row for the first time
- Progress achieving the three local outcomes, delivered through energy efficiency, the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Initiative, the "Rural Watch" project and the Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Forum's draft Safe Accommodation Strategy
- The main risk to delivering progress on the local outcomes, which is discontinuity as regards key staff, for example due to absence or turnover
- Future developments – proposals to the Environment Committee to take forward recycling performance, a Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan by September 2015, and the transition of Community Justice from the Tayside Community Justice Authority to the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership

R Ross provided an update on the "Rural Watch" project, reporting to members of the Group that around three hundred members had signed up to the system, as well as two hundred associated neighbourhood watch members.

Resolved

The six monthly update, as detailed in Report G/15/157, be approved.

6. ACTION PLAN UPDATE NOVEMBER 2014 – MARCH 2015

There was submitted and noted the Action Plan Update (G/15/60), setting out the activities undertaken from November 2014 – March 2015 in developing the Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Plan.

M Notman and R Ross spoke briefly to the activities undertaken in relation to community safety issues and they specifically made reference to:-

- All actions under the Home Safety theme have been completed
- The water safety actions have not been completed but are progressing well
- The Safe Place Scheme has been almost fully implemented; it has been suggested that staff trained in safe space could also be trained in the prevention of child sexual exploitation
- Recent developments in Home Safety visits include the involvement of police in visits and community alarms
- A water safety throwline was used for the first time recently by police officers to rescue a woman in the Tay
- The Perth and Kinross Co-ordinators Group provides updates on the vulnerability theme for the Chief Inspector, Police Scotland,
- The hate crime figures will be the subject of future analysis
- The lines of communication and governance are in place for the Violence Against Women Partnership
- There have been fruitful discussions with the third sector and the Council's Housing and Community Care Service concerning a Safe Accommodation Strategy
- Actions undertaken with regards to alcohol-related Community Safety Issues have either been met or are currently ongoing; there will be a report to the next meeting of the Group on Drug- and Alcohol-related Community Safety Issues

K McNamara spoke briefly to the activities undertaken in relation to environment issues and he specifically made reference to:-

- The Department for Energy and Climate Change no longer gathers the data for total domestic energy consumption; the indicator will be replaced by total domestic gas and electricity consumption in Perth and Kinross which will be from 2015/16
- The number of buildings at risk is greater than the target; this is due to the current market conditions, and is an area of concern going ahead
- Staff absences have meant that some actions have been rolled forward

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of report G/15/60 be noted.
- (ii) R Ross to circulate and update on the progress of the peer education project in relation to alcohol consumption to members of the Group.

C HAGGART ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

7. OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN 2015

There was submitted and noted the Outcome Delivery Plan 2015 by the Executive Director (Environment) (G/15/159) for the Community Safety and Environment Group.

M Notman advised the Group that all actions are progressing well.

Resolved:

The Group approved the Plan as detailed (G/15/159).

8. PURPLE FLAG

The Group heard a presentation from L Brown, City Centre Manager, Perth and Kinross Council about the Purple Flag award. The following points were noted:-

- The Purple Flag award is a an accreditation scheme for night-time economy run by the Association of Town and City Management
- The UK night-time economy is worth £66bn, a figure which covers all night-time economy
- The assessment follows the four Purple Flag Core Agenda themes of wellbeing, movement, a broad appeal and place
- Four meetings of the Steering Group have been held, with The Environment Service and others including external third parties, identifying key areas which need to be targeted
- The City Centre Team, along with N Taylor and J McOmish, both Perth and Kinross Council went into Perth city centre on the night of 23 May 2015. Issues identified include street lighting (a lighting survey will be done as part of the re-development of Mill Street); Scott Street, the arcade and the further end of South Street were also not sufficiently well-lit. There were no incidents of public disorder and the streets were well-patrolled by the police, with street pastors available; cafes had tables out until 9pm which worked well
- The application is currently being drafted, with various parts of policy and information from partners included; once completed, the application will be circulated to the Group for approval, with submission of the application in October; it will combine the work of Best Bar None and Pub Watch
- The City Centre Team would be visiting the city centre again before submitting the application

9. ROAD SAFETY THEME UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Road Safety Theme Lead (G/15/160) providing an update on the various items of work which had been, are being, or would be undertaken to support improvements to Road Safety across Perth and Kinross.

C Haggart highlighted particularly successful items of work, including: (i) the Safe Drive Stay Alive event which would be staged again this year, and for which ODS Consulting had been asked to provide a formal evaluation, which would be reported back in due course; and (ii) the average speed safety cameras on the A9. Initial indications suggest that there has been a decrease in speeding and particularly excessive speeding; more details will be reported back to the Group in due course.

Resolved:

The contents of report G/15/160 be noted.

C HAGGART LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

10. SAFER COMMUNITIES THEME UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Safer Communities Theme Lead (G/15/160) updating the Group on the partnership and other activity of note that is underway or under development under the Safer Communities Theme. R Ross highlighted the policy of early intervention and joined-up working around antisocial behaviour. He reported that licensing representation on the Safer Communities Partnership is currently being pursued. He provided an update on the Multi-Agency Community Safety tent at T in the Park, which may not go ahead; but arrangements would be in place to have the tent at next year's T in the Park. J Anton, Police Scotland commented that there was a community strategy in place for T in the Park. There would also be taxi marshals in Perth on specific nights, such as when the Rewind Festival and races are on.

Councillor Grant highlighted the issues around the legislation currently being drafted for legal highs; they might be more difficult to deal with if the regulatory framework does not work as intended. R Ross reported that information on legal highs demonstrates that people who have problems with legal highs are already involved with other drugs, therefore poly-use is an important issue. This information will be discussed and brought to the next meeting of the Group.

Resolved:

The contents of report G/15/161 be noted.

11. REDUCING RE-OFFENDING THEME UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Safer Communities Theme Lead (G/15/162) updating the Group on the current partnership activity and the activity which is currently being developed within the remit of the Reducing Reoffending Theme.

J Irons highlighted that reconviction figures in the Perth and Kinross area compare extremely favourably when compared with other local authority groups in Tayside and Scotland. He pointed to the Right Track project and Unpaid Work Review as contributing to Perth and Kinross's performance on measures of reconviction. R Ross highlighted the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill, and the intention of the Scottish Government to re-designate responsibility for community justice locally. In Perth and Kinross a partnership approach to governance is being discussed.

Resolved:

The contents of report G/15/162 be noted.

12. VULNERABILITY THEME UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Vulnerability Theme Lead (G/15/163) updating the Group on the partnership and other activity of note that is underway or under development under the Vulnerability Theme.

In response to a query from Councillor Grant regarding the effect of disruption of suicide attempts, R Ross responded that there is information which suggests that such disruption usually has the effect of preventing a person from continuing their attempt.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of report G/15/163 be noted.
- (ii) R Ross to contact M Richmond to ascertain if a presentation could be delivered to the Group on suicide and self-harm.

13. NATURAL BENEFITS – THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERS PRIORITIES

G Clark, Scottish National Heritage brought to the Group's attention to Scottish National Heritage's document 'Natural benefits: The contribution of the natural environment to Community Planning Partnership priorities' which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/natural%20benefits.pdf>

G Clark highlighted the usefulness of the document in setting out the contribution that the natural environment can make to the Community Planning Partnership, using the following examples:

- Natural assets and how they can be used for example flood risk, water quality and soil erosion;
- Work of the natural environment;
- How the environment can have far-reaching effects.

K McNamara thanked G Clark for bringing the document to the Group.

Resolved:

A meeting to be organised to discuss how the Group can make the most of Perth and Kinross's natural assets.

14. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other competent business.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group would take place on 21 August 2015 at 1.30pm.