



ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP

HAY ROOM, DEWARS CENTRE, GLOVER STREET, PERTH

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2016

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 23 September at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors J Kellas and G Walker; H Boag, Perth College UHI; M Cairns, TACTRAN (substituting for E Guthrie); J Clarkson, VisitScotland; J Dernie, Perth & Kinross CHP, NHS Tayside; J McClean, Scottish Enterprise; J Hunter, Skills Development Scotland; K MacPherson, PKAVS; O Robertson, PKSEN (Perth and Kinross Social Enterprise Network).

In Attendance: J Valentine, G Clark, A Graham, J May, L McIntyre, J McCrone, H Rheinallt, S Rice-Jones, D Stokoe and M Styczen (all Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies: Councillor A Livingstone; B Farrell, Kilgraston School; D Gourlay, Perth College UHI; E Guthrie, TACTRAN; D Littlejohn and P McAvoy (both Perth and Kinross Council).

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 April 2016 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minute.

5. CITY DEAL

The Group heard a presentation by A Graham, Business Development Team Leader, Perth and Kinross Council.

During the presentation, A Graham referred to: the process for the submission of the bid for the Tay Cities Deal; that there will be a focus on both infrastructure and a human dimension in the bid; the bid's alignment with wider Scottish and UK Government economic priorities; the strategic partnership and shared vision of the deal agreed by the senior management in all three Councils; the content of the deal, presented as "offers and asks"; work carried out on the deal to date; the key themes; staffing (Director and theme leads); the core criteria for assessment of projects, including technology and innovation, and making a change; the project proposals are due in final form by the middle of January 2017; and the related time pressures, as they need to be both submitted to both governments in February.

The Convener thanked A Graham for delivering the presentation, and stressed the importance of not losing sight of individual and small things happening.

J Valentine highlighted that the Tay Cities Deal is a truly joint bid between the local authorities. The Convener agreed, and commented that communities will also be involved in the bid.

6. CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTS

J Valentine, Depute Chief Executive (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) provided a verbal update to the Group on capital plan projects. The Council had announced its capital plan on 20 June (Report 16/277 refers), one of the largest of any Scottish local authority.

Many items in the capital plan are linked to the City of Culture bid. J Valentine highlighted particular items in the capital plan, including: the refurbishment of Perth Theatre, and how it links to the City Hall, Perth Museum and Art Gallery and the street works, constituting around £53m in culture; the refurbishment of the Blairgowrie recreation centre; new and replacement schools; refurbishment of Perth Academy and Perth Grammar School; the Council's contribution to the cross Tay link road; the A9/A85 junction improvement, which is due to start on site at the end of September; road improvements infrastructure; city centre improvements, in particular lighting and the significant effect this has on a city centre; further plans for a creative exchange at the old site of St John's school; encouraging businesses where possible to come into the city centre through the

sharing of risk; the Canal Street parking refurbishment; the dredging of Perth Harbour and drive to encourage people to use the harbour; enhancing the Wi-Fi offer in Perth City. It was noted that the full details of the capital plan are available in the Council report.

The Convener commented that this is an exciting time for Perth and Kinross, highlighting the recent appointment of Wayne Hemingway to the Perth City Development Board as an example.

It was noted that the funding for the capital plan is not in isolation and could link to the Tay Cities Deal and existing funding streams, one reason for this being that the capital plan projects do not only focus on physical regeneration.

The Convener and J Valentine highlighted the importance of a positive public message regarding the work being done in Perth and Kinross, as well as fostering a sense of pride in people in their area.

7. LEADER UPDATE

S Rice-Jones, LEADER Project Officer delivered a verbal update to the Group on the LEADER project. LEADER is a grassroots way of supporting communities with rural development from 2014-2020. Support is awarded through 21 Local Action Groups across Scotland; the Perth and Kinross Local Action Group (LAG) is exceeding expectations. It has received 107 expressions of interest, and approved 15 applications to date, totalling support of £87,000. The programme covers the whole of the rural Perth and Kinross area, with the exception of the Cairngorms. There are 24 independent LAG members, from both the public and private sectors. Both public and private sector organisations can apply for support. The application process has two stages, firstly expressions of interest and secondly, assessment of the application by the LAG sub-group.

The LEADER project has a website and a social media presence; extensive efforts have been made to raise awareness of the opportunity for funding. The staff also work extensively on applications to identify opportunities for match funding.

The LAG has developed a strong relationship with the Scottish Government, receiving praise on the way it has been taken forward. The LAG priorities are: community capacity building, enterprise, youth initiatives, rural future leaders, and open challenge fund. Another priority for the future is the ability for applicants to make online submissions, as soon as the Scottish Government system for doing this is ready.

The Convener thanked S Rice-Jones for providing the update.

8. BUSINESS SURVEY AND ECONOMY REVIEW

The Group heard a presentation by M Styczen, Project Officer, Perth and Kinross Council on the business survey and economy review.

M Styczen referred in particular to the following points: the reasons for the survey and review, including the expiration of the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Economic Partnership's Economic Strategy 2014, the Tay Cities Deal, and recent developments in local policy; there needs to be a Tayside-level strategy for economic development; steps taken so far for the survey and review, including contacting National Statistics to get certain required data, and contacting other local authorities for information on how they have conducted their own surveys, contacting local agencies, finding an internal resource for the data; questions for the business survey and how they will be asked; and the timescales for conducting and reporting on the survey and review. M Styczen also displayed an example of how the media marketing for the survey and review will look.

The Convener thanked M Styczen for delivering the presentation, and commented that the survey and review will provide useful information and data and provide guidance to the Council. It was noted that the survey and review will be marketed through the Council and social media, and emailed to the Council's business database, and that members should contact M Styczen with details of any organisations that might not be reached by those means and would like to participate. J Clarkson offered to circulate information about the survey and review to tourism contacts.

9. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PERTH AND KINROSS DEVELOPING OUR YOUNG WORKFORCE ACTION PLAN

There was submitted and noted a joint report by the Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and the Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) providing an update on progress on the Developing our Young Workforce Perth and Kinross Plan which was approved by the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Community Planning Partnership in June 2015.

J Hunter circulated the 2016 Annual Participation Measure Report Summary for Perth and Kinross Council, which demonstrates that Perth and Kinross is performing better than the national average in terms of participation measures.

L McIntyre commented on the importance of providing figures on people moving out of, and into, the area. J Hunter agreed.

Resolved:

- (i) The good progress made in implementing the Perth and Kinross Developing our Young Workforce Action Plan, be noted and welcomed.
- (ii) The areas identified for improvement be agreed and prioritised for action in 2016/17.

10. RE-DEPLOYMENT OF MCEWAN'S STAFF

J May, Employability Officer, Perth and Kinross Council delivered a verbal update to the Group on the re-deployment of McEwan's of Perth staff, following its recent closure. A Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) meeting, led by Skills Development Scotland, had been held following news of the impending closure to engage with recent and current employees. Nineteen registered at the employment hub, some of whom had worked at McEwan's of Perth for a long time; they were helped with CVs and cover letters, interview skills and the use of computers as required. Of the nineteen people registered, fourteen moved into employment and ninety-five percent into positive destinations, including one person who undertook training and employment at Gleneagles Hotel, changing industry, and learning and using new skills.

11. COMMUNITY PLANNING

D Stokoe, Service Manager (Communities), Perth and Kinross Council delivered a verbal update to the Group on community planning. Action Partnerships had recently been created under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to enable community participation. These partnerships relate to ward areas, chaired by dynamic leaders from across the community planning partnership. Elected members and community representatives will be the members of the partnerships, with services asked to attend as required. The partnerships aim to tackle deep-seated inequalities issues. Next year, the local outcome improvement plan will be created to set out how stubborn equalities issues will be tackled in the Community Planning Partnership area. The first meeting of an Action Partnership will take place on Monday 26 September.

It was noted that if the partnerships escalated issues in the future, these could be brought to the Group for discussion.

The Convener commented on the ability of the Action Partnerships to lead to better community involvement and community empowerment.

12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other competent business.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Friday 9 December 2016 at 11.00am (venue to be confirmed) (meeting subsequently cancelled).