



ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP

THE BOARDROOM, DEWARS CENTRE, GLOVER STREET, PERTH

FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2016

Minute of meeting of the Community Planning Economy and Lifelong Learning Group held in the Boardroom, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Friday 29 April 2016 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors J Kellas, A Livingstone and G Walker; H Boag, Perth College UHI; J Clarkson, VisitScotland; E Guthrie, TACTRAN; J McClean, Scottish Enterprise; J Flynn and J Dernie, Perth & Kinross CHP, NHS Tayside; J Hunter, Skills Development Scotland; K MacPherson, PKAVS; A Burnett, Elevator/Business Gateway (substituting for G McEwan); V Unite, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce.

In Attendance: D Littlejohn, D Stokoe, J McCrone, A Seggie, G Clark, L McIntyre, and J Somerville (all Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies: M Beale, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce; and P McAvoy, 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 5 February 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

7. Secondary Schools – Implementing Employability and Enterprise Policy
The Action for P McAvoy which is in brackets at (vi) should be deleted and replaced by (**Action: J Hunter, SDS**).

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minute.

THE GROUP AGREED TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS FROM THIS POINT

5. CITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Group heard a presentation by J McCrone, City Development Manager, Perth and Kinross Council.

During the presentation, J McCrone referred to the context based on current performances; vacancy rates (below national average); turnover and footfall; infrastructure; rental levels (decreasing); current actions, including, employment support, review of parking review of rates and incentive support, new signage and orientation; review of city centre representation; Perth City Plan Framework – accreditation, business turnover, cultural attractions, and business tourism; Make it Happen – action plan summary – investment, attracting talent, defining development opportunities and collaboration.

During the discussion which followed the presentation, reference was also made to the changing retail landscape; options for replacement businesses and the reality of the reflection of local spending power; raising local prosperity; the impact of internet shopping, the complex nature of the situation; investment in 'events' creating long-term positive benefits; working with partners in the physical regeneration of buildings; and businesses avoiding capital costs with an understandable reluctance to relocate.

A Burnett referred to the problems in business owners adapting to change and to the Digital Boost initiative being supported by Business Gateway in order to assist businesses in developing a digital strategy and in promoting the use of websites, emails, search engines and social media.

Following the presentation and the discussion, the Convener thanked J McCrone for the informative presentation and he thanked members for their constructive comments.

5. ECONOMY AND LIFELONG LEARNING GROUP OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN – OCTOBER 2015

There was submitted the updated Economy and Lifelong Learning Group Outcome Delivery Plan – April 2016 (G/16/94).

D Stokoe thanked all contributors for their input to the Plan, which was part of the 6-monthly update. The Convener also thanked partners for their contributions and welcomed the progress being made.

Resolved:

It be agreed that the Plan would next be submitted to the Community Planning Partnership Board in June 2016.

6. OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN 6-MONTHLY UPDATE

There was submitted and noted the updated Economy and Lifelong Learning Outcome Delivery Plan: Progress Report - October 2015 to April 2016 by D Stokoe, Service Manager (Communities), Perth and Kinross Council and L McIntyre, Enterprise Manager, Perth and Kinross Council (G/16/95).

7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

J Hunter reported that a fuller update would be provided at the next meeting of the Group in September 2016. A paper *Participation Measure* was tabled. J Hunter noted the substantial amount of work currently going on in the background, the strength of genuine partnership working in providing services for young people, the need to ensure that nobody 'falls through the gap', the development of a data hub, and to Alison Seggie's role as 'the main driver'.

The Convener welcomed the update and agreed that usefulness of a detailed update being submitted to the next meeting of the Group.

8. PERTH AND KINROSS DEVELOPING OUR YOUNG WORKFORCE BOARD - UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by A Seggie, DYW Programme Manager, Perth and Kinross Council (G/16/96) providing the Group with a brief update on progress with the establishment of the Perth and Kinross Developing our Young Workforce Board, and with the development of its bid for funding to the National Employer Group. A Seggie noted the Draft Board Governance paper appended to the report.

Resolved:

It be agreed that the Board present its Annual Report to a future meeting of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group.

9. EMERGING ECONOMIC STRATEGY TIMESCALES AND METHODOLOGY

The Group was advised that this item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

No other items of business were considered.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Economy and Lifelong Learning Group was due to take place on Friday 23 September 2016 at 11.00am.