

North Ayrshire Council

Community Wealth Building Commission

Note of Meeting of Commission held on 10 December 2020 via Microsoft Teams

Present

Councillor Joe Cullinane, Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Wealth Building (Chair)

Councillor Robert Foster, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Partnership and lead member for Poverty, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Alex Gallagher, Cabinet Member for Post-Covid Renewal, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Marie Burns, Leader of the Opposition, North Ayrshire Council

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council

Russell McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place), North Ayrshire Council

Caitriona McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), North Ayrshire Council (Lead Officer – CWB Commission)

Mark Newlands, Head of Partnerships, Scottish Enterprise

Brian Connolly, CWB Specialist, Scottish Enterprise (Observer)

Michael Breen, Vice Principal, Ayrshire College

Barbara Hastings, Chief Executive, The Ayrshire Community Trust

Kaileigh Brown, Operations Manager, The Ayrshire Community Trust (Observer)

Chief Inspector Brian Shaw, Police Scotland

Inspector Alison Wilson, Police Scotland (Observer)

Ian McMeekin, Area Commander, Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Councillor Douglas Reid, Council Leader, East Ayrshire Council

Councillor Elena Whitham, Deputy Leader, East Ayrshire Council

Councillor John McGhee, Leader of the Labour Group, East Ayrshire Council

David McDowall, Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development, East Ayrshire Council (in attendance)

Councillor Peter Henderson, Council Leader, South Ayrshire Council

Gavin Cockburn, Service Lead – Director Support Place Directorate, South Ayrshire Council

Jim Johnstone, Economy & Regeneration Coordinator, South Ayrshire Council (Observer)

Secretariat

Julie McLachlan, Senior Manager – Economic Policy, North Ayrshire Council

Mhairi Paterson, Community Wealth Building Coordinator, North Ayrshire Council

Apologies

Kenneth Hankinson, Group Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Donald Gillies, Director of Place, South Ayrshire Council

Alison Sutherland, Head of Service (Children, Families and Criminal Justice), North Ayrshire Council

John Burns, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Audrey Sutton, Executive Director (Communities), North Ayrshire Council

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair noted the apologies submitted and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 25th September 2020 were approved with no matters arising.

3. Chair and Partners Update

Councillor Joe Cullinane provided an update on regional activities since the previous meeting, including the launch of the Anchor Charter on 5th October during Challenge Poverty Week. The Charter has been signed by seven Commission members – North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Ayrshire College, Scottish Enterprise and The Ayrshire Community Trust.

The Ayrshire Growth Deal was signed on 19th November by the three Ayrshire Council Leaders and is a significant milestone in transforming the Ayrshire Economy. Signing the deal marks a step closer to delivery of the £3m Community Wealth Building fund. Julie McLachlan advised that a joint meeting of the three Ayrshire Councils regarding the project was held in November and they were currently awaiting feedback on the business case from Scottish Government. It was agreed an update on the fund would be given at the next meeting of the Commission in March 2021.

It was noted Councillor Cullinane and Julie McLachlan had presented on CWB at various events including the CLES CWB Summit in November and the Industrial Communities Alliance. Councillor Peter Henderson noted the positive reaction and feedback to the presentation at the Industrial Communities Alliance meeting.

4. Refresh of CWB Commission Terms of Reference

Caitriona McAuley noted that with the expanded membership of the Commission and increased opportunities for Ayrshire wide collaboration, an update to the Commission Terms of Reference was appropriate. Caitriona noted the following updates:

- The updated Terms of Reference (ToR) recognises the addition of South and East Ayrshire Councils to the membership and proposes an indicative workplan for the Commission, which focusses on areas where collaborative working can add value and drive forward regional change.
- The establishment of a Lead Officer Working Group is recommended to progress the workstreams and actions of the Commission. Meetings of the working group were proposed to occur quarterly and attendance from officers with relevant skills and expertise will be essential to maintain momentum. Members were asked to nominate the relevant officers for the Lead Officer Working Group and the relevant workstreams.
- It was noted that where relevant, wider regional Anchor Institutions may be brought in to support the workstream activities, however it was suggested consideration is given to the establishment of an Anchor Network, which recognises the commitment and engagement of other organisations which are not members of the Commission.

In reference to the proposed amendments to the ToR, the following points were made:

- It was noted that it is important to maintain a focussed group of Commission members to ensure momentum and progression of actions however the proposal of a wider Anchor Network was supported and encouraged.
- Named substitutes who are fully briefed and prepared to contribute to Commission meetings are necessary to ensure continuity and momentum.
- There was some caution noted in respect of the quarterly meetings of the Commission and whether this allowed sufficient time for the Lead Officer Working Group to progress actions between Commission meetings. It was noted this situation would be monitored closely as work progresses.
- The need for wider Councillor and staff awareness of CWB was observed. It was noted that within North Ayrshire Council, wider staff engagement and communications on CWB will be undertaken in the new year.
- While the positive feedback at external presentations and events was welcomed, it was noted the opportunity for additional learning and added value to our own work should also be considered when engaging in these sessions. It was noted events are useful in building networks and relationships with various organisations including pension funds and think tanks and provide insight to activities underway elsewhere.
- It was suggested that the impact on CWB should be considered within Council cabinet papers. North Ayrshire already does this and agreed to share the template with South and East Ayrshire Councils for their reference.

The proposal for the updated Terms of Reference was agreed subject to any updates to the individuals named on the membership list.

5. Proposed Workplan for the Commission

At the previous meeting on 25 September, it was noted that the Secretariat would meet with each Commission member to consider a workplan of priority areas and focus for the Commission. Julie McLachlan thanked all members for their time and contributions and noted that the discussion had informed the proposed workplan. The Secretariat also met with Skills Development Scotland and noted their willingness to contribute and add value to the workstreams where relevant. The workplan aligns to the Community Wealth Building pillars, with specific workstreams identified as priority areas which are relevant to all Commission members. The proposed workstreams are: Procurement, Fair Employment, and Land and Assets.

It was noted that although the workplan focusses on areas of joint working, work in relation to the other pillars (Financial Power and Plural Ownership) would still take place and would be reflected in the Procurement workstream as well as via Ayrshire Growth Deal activities.

It was proposed that a lead organisation would be sought for each of the three workstreams and Commission members asked to recommend officers with relevant expertise and skills to join the Lead Officer Working Group in taking forward the workplan. Once the Lead Officer Working Group was formed, the phasing and prioritisation of workstreams and actions would require consideration and Commission feedback was invited on the potential phasing of workstreams.

Feedback on the proposed workplan included:

- It is important to consider climate change and the environment across all workstreams. It was noted this would be an overarching theme for all activities for example shorter supply chains within Procurement and relating to the Regional Economic Partnership Clean Growth workstream that is considering an energy masterplan which would relate to Land & Assets.
- South Ayrshire Council offered to lead the Procurement workstream. The offer was gratefully accepted by the Commission.
- In respect of Land & Assets and Fair Employment, Scottish Enterprise offered to lead whichever workstream was deemed most appropriate to their role. It was agreed a follow up discussion would be held to consider which workstream would be led by Scottish Enterprise.
- The potential impact and contribution of NHS Ayrshire and Arran to Community Wealth Building objectives was noted as significant and further exploration of the opportunities were encouraged. It was noted the new Caring for Ayrshire strategy would be highly relevant to the Land & Assets and Fair Employment pillars.
- There is value in linking up respective climate change officers across the member organisations in order to collaborate and share learning including on carbon budgeting.
- In the spirit of collaborative working, it is important for all member organisations to share details of other work relevant to CWB objectives.

The workplan was agreed by the Commission.

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue CWB Update

Ian McMeekin provided a comprehensive and detailed presentation on the role of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as an anchor organisation and their approach to CWB. Although SFRS is viewed by the public as a response organisation, it was noted there are a number of transformational opportunities in relation to CWB. Although a national organisation, the importance of maintaining a local focus was emphasised. Assessed against each of the CWB pillars, an overview of the key areas of challenge and opportunity were given.

The Commission praised the detailed and comprehensive presentation and welcomed the perspective from a national organisation. The following comments were noted:

- The community focussed approach was praised, which referred to the value of taking preventative actions in relation to improving safety, but also addressing inequalities.
- It was acknowledged there were challenges for national organisations, however SFRS had demonstrated how local opportunities could be maximised.
- It was noted that the CWB lens provides challenge to SFRS activities and is an opportunity to consider new ways of doing things which add value for other community partners.

7. AOB

There were no other areas of business raised.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on 29th March 2021.