

North Ayrshire Council

Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission

Note of Third Meeting of Commission held on 12 March 2020

Present

Councillor Joe Cullinane, Council Leader (Chair)

Councillor Marie Burns

Councillor Alex Gallagher

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive

Russell McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place)

Audrey Sutton, Interim Executive Director (Communities)

Catriona McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration) (Lead Officer – CWB Commission)

Fiona Walker, Head of Service (People and Transformation)

David Hammond, Interim Head of Service (Commercial)

Rhona Arthur, Interim Head of Service (Connected Communities)

Mark Boyd, Head of Service (Financial and Customer Services)

Chief Inspector Brian Shaw (Police Scotland)

Barbara Hastings (The Ayrshire Community Trust)

Michael Breen (Ayrshire College)

Mark Newlands (Scottish Enterprise)

Chris Watson, Business Growth Manager (Business Support & Development)

Pamela Gilbert, Secretary (Place) (Minutes)

Secretariat

Julie McLachlan, Senior Manager Economic Policy

Apologies

Councillor Robert Foster

Ian McMeekin (Scottish Fire & Rescue)

John Burns, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Yvonne Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment)

Stephen Brown, Director of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

Matt Strachan, Senior Manager (Business Support and Development)

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair noted the apologies submitted and welcomed Chris Watson for coming to present on procurement and business development. A photographer was in attendance for this part of the meeting and the group photo will appear in the published version of the strategy.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 were approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

We are still looking for a lead for the Short Life Working Group on procurement. Caitriona McAuley asked if Commission attendees could speak to their organisational lead who attended the Procurement meeting to see if they would be interested in taking on this role and advised that the Council would provide support to the group.

3. Procurement Pillar: Progress so far – Presentation from Chris Watson

Chris Watson presented an update on progress within the Procurement pillar. The presentation covered the Council commitment to substantially increase local spend, a revised 'Quick Quote' process to allow greater opportunity for local businesses, proactive work on supplier development, benefits of departmental collaboration and the next steps for this, and case studies of local businesses who have benefited from the Quick Quote process or enhanced supplier developed support from the Business team.

Discussion covered the following areas:

- Welcoming the successes and case studies so far and that focus should now move to higher value contracts. Importance of getting smaller companies onto the larger project supply chains. When we are not clear where there are flexibilities, the Council could take legal advice on this.
- It was noted that turnover criteria applied to certain procurement opportunities however these were broken down to lots.
- The Business Development team are working with local businesses to help grow turnover as well as provide supplier development support so that local businesses can bid for contracts in other regions and wider public sector bodies as well as North Ayrshire Council.
- Following the Council budget agreement in March, the Council are putting significant resources into the Business Development team to help support businesses, social enterprise, and wider forms of business through a Community Wealth Building lens.

4. Developing a CWB Strategy for North Ayrshire: Final Draft and Feedback on Engagement

Julie McLachlan advised that the March Council budget resulted in significant resource being allocated – this will help expand work in supplier development, social enterprise, developing cooperatives, maximising community benefits and community regeneration.

Julie McLachlan presented a report on the Final Draft of the North Ayrshire CWB strategy. This including an outline of the feedback from the engagement on CWB including with Locality Partnerships, online via Consul and with the Youth Executive Committee. The report included the Final Draft strategy which is embargoed until the launch. Julie outlined plans for a CWB Summit that was being developed to take place in March to engage a wider audience with the CWB plans, Commissions members would receive invites. The Final Draft strategy will be presented to NAC Cabinet for approval on 28th April 2020 and to the CPP Board on 9th June 2020. Subject to agreement by NAC Cabinet, the strategy will be promoted at the Summit.

Discussion covered the following areas:

- Scottish Enterprise are very interested in CWB and keen to share the strategy further when possible.
- The presentation style works well, and the strategy will be understandable to Locality Partnerships and communities.

The Commission agreed that the Final Draft of the strategy was an excellent piece of work and is suitable to be taken into the approval stage.

5. Formation of Expert Advisory Panel

The Council Leader and Caitriona McAuley provided an update on plans for the formation of an Expert Advisory Panel to advise and challenge the implementation of the CWB strategy and the work of the Commission in the delivery phase of CWB. Amongst other areas, the Panel will offer specific expertise on Plural Ownership.

It was agreed that a group of Expert Advisors was a sensible approach but how we meaningfully engage with the Panel moving forward will be important.

6. Ayrshire Growth Deal CWB Project Update

Julie McLachlan provided an update on the AGD CWB project. The update noted that an Outline Business Case (OBC) was submitted to Scottish Government in January 2020, with feedback from across relevant Scottish Government policy areas received and a revised OBC submitted in March 2020. It was noted that the Scottish Government are very enthusiastic about the project and a number of other regions are in touch to learn more.

Discussion covered the following areas:

- Moving forward we would look to sign up partners across the Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership (REP).
- It is important the principles of CWB apply across all of the total £251 million Growth Deal.
- This approach has to be embedded across Ayrshire and that CWB is Ayrshire's unique selling point.

7. Priorities for Next Meeting

The priorities for the next meeting were agreed by the Commission as:

- Feedback from the CWB Summit.
- Update the Commission on moving to delivery stage of CWB strategy and how additional resources will be utilised.
- The meeting's focus would be on Land and Assets pillar and regeneration.
- Update on the development and appointment of an Expert Advisory Panel.

It was agreed moving forward each Commission meeting would cover a specific CWB pillar.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd June 2020.