

North Ayrshire Council

Community Wealth Building Commission

Note of Meeting of Commission held on 22 September 2021 via Microsoft Teams

Present

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

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

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

Councillor Peter Henderson, Council Leader, South Ayrshire Council

Councillor Douglas Reid, Council Leader, East Ayrshire Council

Councillor Jim McMahon, Deputy Leader of East Ayrshire Council

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

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council

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

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

Caroline Cameron, Director, Health & Social Care Partnership, North Ayrshire Council

Louise Reid, Assistant Director of Place, South Ayrshire Council

David McDowall, Head of Economic Development, East Ayrshire Council (Observer)

Kaileigh Brown, Executive Director (Third Sector), The Ayrshire Community Trust

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

Derek Frew, Ayrshire Division Partnership Lead Officer, Police Scotland

Michael Breen, Vice Principal, Ayrshire College

Gillian Adam, Interim Head of Partnerships, Scottish Enterprise

Allison Craig, Programme Manager, Ayrshire Growth Deal

Caroline Amos, Executive Director (Communities), North Ayrshire Council (substituting for Audrey Sutton)

Elaine Young, Senior Manager for Health Promotion, NHS Ayrshire & Arran (substitute for Lesley Bowie and Hazel Borland).

Steven Corrigan, Station Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (Observer)

Secretariat

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

Mhairi Paterson, Community Wealth Building Coordinator, North Ayrshire Council

Pamela Gilbert, Secretary, North Ayrshire Council

Guests

Gemma Campbell, Scottish Land Commission

Apologies

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

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

Lesley Bowie, Board Chair, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Hazel Borland, Interim Chief Executive, NHA Ayrshire & Arran

Katie Kelly, Depute Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council (Observer)

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 11 June 2021 were approved noting the following comments.

Cllr John McGhee raised the matter of the unsuccessful bid to the Health Foundation, Economies for Healthier Lives funding stream and asked if any further feedback had been received. Julie McLachlan advised that a strong bid had been submitted but there was substantial competition from other bidders. It was noted we have built up strong relationships with the Health Foundation for future bids and the Commission will be updated if any subsequent bids are submitted.

3. Chair and Partners Update

On behalf of North Ayrshire Council it was noted a call with Mr Tom Arthur MSP for Planning, Public Finance and Community Wealth had been scheduled for the Council Leader and Chief Executive. The Annual Report on the CWB Strategy is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 28th September with the intention it would be launched during Challenge Poverty Week in October.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran noted officers had participated in Scottish Government workshops to consider the role of NHS and Social Care as Anchor Institutions. NHS Ayrshire and Arran are firmly committed to CWB and the CWB Charter and are currently seeking approval to establish an internal CWB network covering employability strategy, sustainability strategy and the new NHS Community Benefits Gateway.

East Ayrshire Council noted a review of policy and procedures related to the Anchor Charter pledges was currently underway with progress reported to Cabinet every six months. A recent procurement exercise identified an opportunity for Ayrshire Councils to increase spend with local food and drink suppliers. This would be progressed through the Food and Drink Workstream of the Regional Economic Partnership.

Police Scotland advised the Chief Constable had been briefed on CWB and intended approach within the organisation. The briefing is currently awaiting decision by the Chief Financial Officer.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service noted the Interim Director of Finance has prepared a briefing on CWB and are considering the use of fire stations for community use. A report will be submitted to the senior leadership team to seek agreement to sign the Ayrshire Anchor Charter.

Scottish Enterprise noted the lead officer for the Land & Assets workstream has returned from sick leave and is progressing activity.

Ayrshire College are focusing on their procurement activities and mechanisms to support local businesses. It was noted the Future Skills Hub in Kilwinning may provide an opportunity to pilot and test improved procedures e.g. community benefits approach.

South Ayrshire Council advised the Ayrshire Growth Deal CWB project team were all now appointed. A review of Community Centres and halls had been undertaken, with CWB promoted and already receiving interest from communities.

Caroline Cameron noted a report encouraging the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board to sign the Anchor Charter will be presented to the IJB on 23 September. It is expected to be fully supported with East and South Ayrshire IJB's also confirming their support in coming weeks.

The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) noted continued support of the Lead Officer Working Group and associated workstreams. It was noted the Third Sector Interfaces in South Ayrshire (VASA) and East Ayrshire (East Ayrshire CVO) would join TACT in supporting the Lead Officer Working Group. A piece of research is currently being commissioned to scope the capacity of the Third Sector within North Ayrshire and identify areas of strength, potential collaboration and specific opportunities aligned to the CWB pillars. When complete, the research outputs will be reported to the Commission.

4. Scottish Land Commission – Presentation and Discussion on CWB and Land and Assets

The Commission welcomed Gemma Campbell, Land Rights and Responsibilities Manager from Scottish Land Commission to give a presentation on the role of the Scottish Land Commission and why the fair, inclusive and productive ownership, management and use of land delivers greater benefit for all the people in Scotland.

Gemma outlined the progress of the SLC since establishment in 2017 and their key priority areas of work for 2020-2023:

- Reforming land rights – who owns and uses land
- Responsible land ownership – how it is owned and used
- Reforming land markets – how land is transferred, developed and used productively

The connection between CWB and the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS) was outlined. Land Rights and Responsibilities are about owning, managing and using land in a fair way that benefits everyone, including a more diverse pattern of ownership. The SLC are working with a steering group (which includes officer representation from North Ayrshire Council) to develop guidance which relates the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement to the principles of the Land & Assets pillar with CWB. The guidance will set out practical actions

that can be taken in the short and long term to support an inclusive, sustainable, and empowered local economy, where land is used and managed productively and in the public interest. Six headline areas for action have been identified within the guidance:

- Sharing Information
- Positive management of Land and Assets
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Supporting Economic Growth and Community Aspirations
- Supporting net zero ambitions and sustainable development
- Productive reuse of land and buildings

The guidance will be shared through workshops in the new year and is expected to be published in February during Land Re-use Month.

The presentation was concluded by noting the Land Connection 2021 Conference would take place from 4th October – 6th October including a Webinar on 'How NHS Land and Estates can deliver Community Wellbeing' on 6th October.

Points raised following the presentation included:

- The presentation was well received by the Commission, including the links to CWB via the LRRS;
- There was interest in a land ownership register, which Gemma Campbell indicated was due to be completed in 2024

5. Update from Lead Officers Working Group (LOWG)

Caitriona McAuley reiterated the role of the Lead Officers Working Group and provided a brief update on the activities of the three workstreams currently being taken forward (Fair Employment, Procurement and Land & Assets). An appendix detailing officers assigned to the LOWG and workstreams accompanied the update report. It was advised that officers from South Ayrshire Council had since been appointed to the workstreams.

It was noted that the Third Sector Interfaces for East and South Ayrshire (EA CVO and VASA respectively) have been welcomed to join the LOWG and encouraged to participate in maximising the potential of CWB opportunities for the Third Sector. The value of sharing any learnings from the research being undertaken by TACT in North Ayrshire to scope the Third Sector capacity with a focus on procurement was reiterated.

October 2021 marks one year since the launch of the Ayrshire Anchor Charter during Challenge Poverty Week. It was advised that as per agreement of signing the Charter, signatories would be contacted by the Secretariat in coming weeks to discuss progress against the pillar pledges. Progress will then be shared with the CWB Expert Advisory Panel and an update provided to the CWB Commission.

The update was accepted by the Commission with no further questions.

6. Update on Fair Employment Workstream by Ayrshire College

Michael Breen from Ayrshire College advised that during July and August, one to one meetings had taken place with all workstream members. A meeting of all workstream members was held in August, with lots of positive engagement. At the meeting it was suggested there was opportunity to focus on and further explore good practice in relation to

recruitment approaches, as well as consider longer term workforce planning strategies and availability of local skills. Further workstream meetings will be required to distil ideas into actions and these will be reported back to the Commission at a future date.

Points raised from the Commission included:

- Actions relating to Community Learning & Development Programmes could also be considered by the workstream.
- There is a need to consider mechanisms for increasing employment diversity at a local level and the crossover with the procurement pillar e.g. could Community Benefits Clauses be used to open up employability opportunities for hard to reach groups?
- Need to consider the employment barriers for some e.g. transport links and place-related opportunities and location of potential staff.
- Staff wellbeing as part of recruitment and retention should also be considered. There is also an opportunity to improve promotion of Ayrshire as a good place to live and work.

7. Update on the Community Wealth Building Act

A summary of the discussion from the June Commission meeting regarding the CWB Act was provided. It was reiterated that Ayrshire is in a strong position to provide evidenced feedback to help guide development of the CWB Act.

Commission members received a draft letter to Mr Tom Arthur MSP for Planning, Public Finance and Community Wealth inviting him to attend the next Commission meeting in December and hear the experiences of Ayrshire Anchor Institutions taking forward CWB. Some points raised during discussion included:

- Need for additional capacity in driving and supporting CWB locally;
- CWB objectives should not be diluted as part of a CWB Act, CWB needs to be seen as economic development and not community empowerment;
- The language associated with CWB needs to be consistent e.g. CWB and community wellbeing are commonly misused.

The Commission agreed the content of the letter and for it to be sent to Mr Arthur.

8. Ayrshire Growth Deal, Community Wealth Building Fund Update

Recruitment of officers into the positions as part of the AGD CWB Fund project is a key area of focus and it was noted this is not without its challenges. Most positions have been appointed with the exception of:

- Third CWB Locality Officer within East Ayrshire Council has been re-advertised
- CWB Fund Programme Manager which has been re-advertised (Update as of November 2021 – a Programme Manager was appointed in November)

The Fair Work Ayrshire Programme Manager was commenced employment in early September and has made good progress in engaging with staff across the three councils and developing a process for engaging with local businesses.

An update on the project and case studies where Fund spend is benefitting local communities will be provided at a future Commission meeting.

9. AOB

No further matters arising and meeting closed at 15.55pm.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on 11th January 2022.