

North Ayrshire Council

Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission

Note of Meeting of CWB Commission held on 24 March 2023

Present

Councillor Marie Burns, Leader of North Ayrshire Council (Chair)

Councillor Anthony Gurney, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Margaret Johnson, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Jim McMahon, East Ayrshire Council

Councillor Maureen McKay, East Ayrshire Council

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

Louise Kirk, Interim Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), North Ayrshire Council (Lead Officer – CWB Commission)

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

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

George Hunter, Assistant Director Communities, South Ayrshire Council

Mark Greaves, Coordinator – Places, South Ayrshire Council (Observer)

Graham Saunders, Interim Strategic Manager and Programme Manager, Ayrshire Growth Deal

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

Derek Frew, Ayrshire Division Partnership Lead Officer, Police Scotland

David Davidson, Assistant Principle for HR and OD, Ayrshire College

Jude King, Programme Manager (Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Programme), North Ayrshire Council (Observer)

Lynn Sproat, Senior Programme Manager Community Wealth Building, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (representing Lesley Bowie)

Secretariat

Emma McMullen, Senior Manager, Economic Policy, North Ayrshire Council

Mhairi Paterson, Community Wealth Building Coordinator, North Ayrshire Council

Guests

Mr Tom Arthur, Minister for Public Finance and Community Wealth, Scottish Government (first hour)

Julie McLachlan, Community Wealth Building Legislation and Policy Manager, Scottish Government (first hour)

Apologies

Councillor Tom Marshall, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Douglas Reid, Council Leader, East Ayrshire Council

Councillor Bob Pollock, South Ayrshire Council

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council

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

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

Lesley Bowie, Board Chair, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Kaileigh Brown, Executive Director, The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT)

Derek McCrindle, Head of Place, Scottish Enterprise

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

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

2. Introduction from Mr Tom Arthur and overview of CWB Legislation Consultation

Mr Arthur welcomed the opportunity to engage with the CWB Commission and introduced the CWB Legislation Consultation. The consultation should be seen as an opportunity to identify barriers to advancing CWB across all five pillars of CWB and learn from areas like Ayrshire who are leading the way. It was noted there is a role for Scottish Government in supporting and facilitating the right conditions for CWB however it was acknowledged that CWB needs to be driven from a local perspective and any duty resulting from the consultation should be considered an enabler for progression.

3. CWB Legislation Consultation discussion

A discussion on key aspects of the consultation followed. Points noted included:

- Some commission members noted Option C as a preferred option for the duty as it is in line with current activity.
- The AGD CWB Programme has provided valuable resource and acts as a catalyst for change. Funding support to continue the programme would be welcome.
- CWB is delivered by Economic Development teams however this is not a statutory service and capacity varies across local authorities. The wider role of national agencies in supporting CWB should also be considered.
- It is a challenge for Anchor organisations to adopt CWB activities within current capacity arrangements as resources are extremely stretched.
- Embedding CWB requires culture change which takes time and resources.
- Competitive funding opportunities require resources to prepare and submit bids, putting significant pressure on local authorities and can be a drain on resources, particularly if bids are unsuccessful.

- Empty properties within town centres / other vacant and derelict land can be problematic and a potential barrier to CWB. Funding to tackle vacant and derelict land isn't available to all local authorities.
- Community Asset Transfer approach is very different across councils. It is important to ensure links with communities and businesses through social enterprises and business development teams.
- National procurement frameworks can be restrictive with few opportunities for local suppliers.

Mr Tom Arthur and Scottish Government officers departed the meeting.

4. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 October 2022 were approved with no further matters arising.

5. CWB Commission response to CWB Consultation

There was a discussion on the process of preparing and submitting a CWB Commission response to the consultation. It was agreed that partners would share their position on the consultation questions when available and North Ayrshire Council Economic Policy team would prepare a collective response.

6. Lead Officer Working Group Update

Louise Kirk provided an update from the latest meeting of the Lead Officer Working Group on 23 February which included the following items: updates on the Fair Employment, Land and Assets and Procurement workstreams, Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building project, the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy and a discussion on the Scottish Government CWB Legislation Consultation.

7. Procurement Workstream update

David Alexander from South Ayrshire Council provided an update on the Procurement workstream. Recent activities include:

- A quarterly list of potential collaborative procurement opportunities across Ayrshire Anchor partners
- Public bodies are uploading their annual spend data for 2022/23 to the Scottish Government portal (Spikes Cavell). This will allow mapping of spend data and comparisons between 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- Preparation of a procurement waveplan for the next 2 years which can be used to help target local spend within forthcoming procurement opportunities.
- It was noted that analysis of spend across Anchors is extremely resource intensive and would benefit from a collective resource to drive this.
- David provided a recorded presentation for the AGD CWB Programme Gathering Event on 23 March 2023. The recording can be viewed [here](#).

8. Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy update

Emma McMullen noted that action planning for the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy is now underway. A series of workshops were facilitated by CLES in March and will be followed by a workshop in partnership with the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce to engage directly with businesses. It was noted that 3rd Sector enterprises would also be invited to attend the Chamber event. A further event organised by the Economic Recovery Group is currently being planned and will bring together key partners to focus on delivery, governance and resourcing of the strategy.

9. AOB

No further matters were raised and the meeting was closed.