

North Ayrshire Council

Community Wealth Building Commission

Note of Fifth Meeting of Commission held on 25 September 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 Marie Burns, Leader of the Opposition, North Ayrshire Council

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council

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

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

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

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

Mark Newlands, Head of Partnerships, Scottish Enterprise

Brian Connelly, CWB Specialist, Scottish Enterprise, (Observer and presenter)

Inspector Alison Wilson, Police Scotland (Substitute for Brian Shaw)

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

Kenneth Hankinson, Group Commander, 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

Donald Gillies, Director of Place, South Ayrshire Council

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

Sarah Deas, Trustee of the Wellbeing Economic Alliance (Scotland) and Chair of the NAC CWB Expert Advisory Panel (Observer)

Secretariat

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

Pamela Gilbert, Secretary (Place), North Ayrshire Council (Minutes)

Apologies

Michael Breen, Vice Principal, Ayrshire College

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

John Burns, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire & Arran

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

Barbara Hastings, The Ayrshire Community Trust

Chief Inspector Brian Shaw, Police Scotland

Mhairi Paterson, Community Wealth Building Coordinator, North Ayrshire Council

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair noted the apologies submitted and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He extended this welcome to the new members of the Commission, East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council, and Commission Members provided a short introduction.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd June 2020 were approved with no matters arising.

3. East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council Membership & Early stage CWB Ambitions

Councillor Douglas Reid noted that East Ayrshire Council were delighted to be part of the Commission. Cllr Reid outlined the positive joint working on inclusive growth across the region through the Ayrshire Growth Deal and expressed a particular interest in the CWB land and asset workstreams

Councillor Peter Henderson welcomed this joint Ayrshire approach to Community Wealth Building. Cllr Henderson noted the opportunity around building on the work of the Supplier Development Programme, more local food systems and town centre regeneration.

4. CWB Strategy Update

Caitriona McAuley advised that this is the fifth meeting of the CWB Commission and she wanted to acknowledge the contribution made by Heads of Service from across various North Ayrshire Council services who have now stood down from the Commission as it has expanded its membership and focus has shifted from strategy development to Anchor collaboration and delivery phase. Their contribution and continued support is much appreciated.

Caitriona presented an update report focused on:

- The strategy is receiving significant regional, national and international attention. The Leader of North Ayrshire Council and officers have engaged and delivered presentations on the strategy to a range of stakeholders interested in supporting the approach as well as facilitating discussions with local groups on how we can support them to co-produce and deliver Community Wealth Building.
- We are now moving forward to the delivery of the strategy with the new Community Wealth Building roles and stakeholder mapping underway to develop place-based Community Wealth Building support across business development, employability, regeneration and community development, as well as linking with the third sector interface (TACT). North Ayrshire Council are finalising the recruitment process for the additional roles with eight new

members of staff already appointed, as well as a new post within Connected Communities for a Community Economic Development Officer

The Appendices to the report include CWB highlights so far, three case studies on CWB and the North Ayrshire Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach.

The following points were noted:

- Within South Ayrshire Council, officers from Economic Development, Finance and Health and Social Care Partnership spend some of their time co-located to enhance communication and collaboration.
- There are opportunities for collaboration on the Councils' fleet, community transport and town centre living.

5. CWB Anchor Charter

Julie McLachlan presented a report containing the final draft of a CWB Anchor Charter. Julie advised that a key action within the Community Wealth Building strategy is to develop an Anchor Charter to embed CWB across the Anchor Institutions in the region. The Ayrshire Charter is aligned to the five pillars of CWB and includes a sixth pillar on the environment focused on achieving net zero. Julie noted that it was proposed that the Charter would be launched as part of Challenge Poverty Week commencing 5 October 2020.

The discussion focused on the feedback on the Charter's content and the proposed launch and the following points were made:

- It was agreed that Trade Union representation should be noted within the Fair Employment pillar.
- Noted that the Charter was a great piece of work and one of the next steps was exploring the potential for a social license to operate for businesses supplying the public sector, recognising the importance of fair work.
- Commend the work on the Charter specifically the format and structure.

The Charter was agreed by the Commission subject to the inclusion of 'access to Trade Union membership' under the Fair Employment pillar. It was agreed that the Charter would be launched at the start of Challenge Poverty Week and we should promote this widely given it is a significant document. Members of the Commission would be contacted to make arrangements for the signing and launch.

6. Scottish Enterprise CWB Update

Mark Newlands advised that Scottish Enterprise have developed their thinking on how they bring CWB to life and set out what their approach to CWB is. Brian Connelly provided a presentation covering Scottish Enterprise's thinking on CWB and outlined areas for further discussion and exploring. Specific initiatives included a Fair Work diagnostic to be launched in October and the development of a Regional Asset Map.

It was agreed that the approach set out was very good as a first step with the following comments noted:

- A focus on action with a few projects selected to demonstrate a changed approach. For example, Scottish Enterprise could be well placed to lead on supply chain analysis and development linked to Account Managed companies. The Fair Work diagnostic tool could be piloted in Ayrshire. This could support work underway to develop a pan-Ayrshire business support offer.
- SE's on-going support for Lochshore to facilitate this being developed as a major CWB project
- All organisations should be considering the assets they own and the potential for community ownership. Important that community capacity building is considered and supported as part of this.
- Impact on land and assets of recent flooding guidance issued by SEPA would be worth having a collective view on.
- Issues in re-developing and re-using nationally owned public buildings.
- Tree planting was a potential opportunity and the role EA Woodlands can play to support this.

It was agreed by the Commission that there should be a focus on delivery and sharing best practice at future meetings was important.

7. Community Bank

Cllr Cullinane and Julie McLachlan delivered a presentation introducing the concept of a Community Bank and why we are exploring the feasibility of this.

Feedback on the presentation included:

- It is important for people to understand what a Community Bank means.
- Important to assess if the potential to invest in the green economy would appeal to enough people.
- It is right to explore the feasibility of a Community Bank. Outlining the demographics of the region and the potential customer base would be important in developing a feasibility study.
- Important to set out that a Community Bank would be an economic as well as financial tool.
- The Cumnock Municipal Bank was used in the past for Minerals Trust funding

It was agreed that a draft business case being considered by the CWB Expert Advisory Panel would be shared with the Commission at a later stage.

8. Commission Next Steps/Priorities for Next Meeting

Caitriona McAuley noted that the Commission Secretariat would meet with each Commission member over coming months ahead of the December meeting to agree a workplan for the Commission including specific pillars of focus and leads to take this forward. We will also consider the possibility of including additional Anchor Institutions and future membership of the Commission.

9. AOB

Cllr Henderson raised an opportunity that the three Ayrshire Councils could jointly sponsor an upcoming social enterprise awards ceremony and it was agreed that this would be explored.

Cllr McGhee noted the opportunity of joint transport projects and Caitriona McAuley has engaged Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) on CWB. It was highlighted that the CLES CWB Summit is coming up in November.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th December 2020.