

North Ayrshire Council

Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission

Note of Meeting of CWB Commission held on 26 October 2022 via Microsoft Teams

Present

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

Councillor Tom Marshall, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Anthony Gurney, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Margaret Johnson, North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Douglas Reid, Council Leader, East Ayrshire Council

Councillor Maureen McKay, East Ayrshire Council

Councillor Bob Pollock, South Ayrshire Council

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

Jane Bradley, Director Strategic Change and Communities, South Ayrshire Council

Louise Reid, Assistant Director of Place, South Ayrshire Council

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

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

Derek Frew, Ayrshire Division Partnership Lead Officer, Police Scotland

Derek McCrindle, Head of Place, Scottish Enterprise

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

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

Kirstin Dickson, Director of Transformation and Sustainability, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (deputising for Lesley Bowie)

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

David Alexander, Service Lead Procurement, South Ayrshire Council (Guest)

Secretariat

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

Mhairi Paterson, Community Wealth Building Coordinator, North Ayrshire Council

Apologies

Councillor Jim McMahon, 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)

Audrey Sutton, Executive Director (Communities and Education), North Ayrshire Council
Caroline Cameron, Director, Health and Social Care Partnership, North Ayrshire Council
Allison Craig, Programme Manager, Ayrshire Growth Deal
Lesley Bowie, Board Chair, NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Michael Breen, Vice Principal, Ayrshire College
Brian Connolly, Scottish Enterprise
Katie Kelly, Deputy 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 from Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 March 2022 were approved with no further matters arising.

3. Procurement Workstream Update

David Alexander, Service Lead for Procurement at South Ayrshire Council recently took on the role of workstream lead following a hiatus. David met individually with each of the Anchor Procurement leads and convened a group meeting of the workstream on 25 October. A key focus of forthcoming months will be analysis of 2021/22 local spend data including a focus on opportunities and gaps. It was noted the group had agreed to share local supplier lists and tender waveplans to support potential collaborative working and wider Anchor procurement activity.

The Commission welcomed the update and recommencement of activity. A question was posed whether there was opportunity to learn about future opportunities within different sectors and if spend could be targeted. It was noted that annual spend can fluctuate substantially according to the goods or services being procured and there is more flexibility for directing spend locally at Quick Quote level.

4. Lead Officer Working Group Update

Emma McMullen provided an update on the recent activity of the Lead Officer Working Group (LOWG) and noted that meetings of the LOWG had taken place in June and August. Due to Brian Connolly from Scottish Enterprise being unable to attend, Emma gave a brief update on the Land and Assets workstream:

- Scottish Enterprise have been leading on this workstream over the past year. The aim of this workstream is to ensure land and property assets owned by Anchors are used productively and to the benefit of communities and enterprises.
- A map of surplus and underutilised assets across the Ayrshire Anchors has been developed as a starting point to identify potential opportunities for maximising the use of underutilised local assets. Work is underway and ongoing to determine the demand for assets – CWB Business Locality Officers in each council have a survey which

captures any needs from businesses and a survey is currently being developed to capture the demands within the 3rd Sector.

- The policy landscape regarding the Land & Assets pillar is extremely complex. Future steps for the workstream will require partners to analyse current policy in relation to asset use and identify where this can be improved or enhanced and potentially supported by a dedicated resource.

An update on the Fair Employment workstream was provided and noted that the previous workstream lead Michael Breen (Ayrshire College) has since moved on to a new role. Laura Neill, Employability Senior Manager for North Ayrshire Council has agreed to lead the workstream in the interim however another relevant Anchor will be expected to step forward to lead in the coming months¹. It was noted that the Fair Employment workstream has been divided into three key sub-groups which focus on addressing particular challenges and opportunities associated with: Inclusive Recruitment, Apprenticeships, and Volunteering. Members and leads for these sub-groups have recently been assigned with representation from across the Anchor partners. The next meeting of the Fair Employment workstream will take place on 1st November.

It was noted that previous feedback from NAC CWB Expert Advisory Panel on the progress of Anchors in relation to the Anchor Charter pledges had suggested Anchors should be bolder and more ambitious in relation to meeting the pledges. In response to this an Ambition Setting template was developed which encourages Anchors to think about their longer-term CWB aspirations, potential targets and metrics for measuring progress. The Anchors were asked to complete the Ambition Setting template over the summer months and following this, a discussion was held at the LOWG meeting in August. All Anchors welcomed the template and acknowledged that although challenging to think over the longer term, it is a helpful stimulant. It was noted that some Anchors find certain pillars challenging e.g. plural ownership and this will be the subject of further discussions at future meetings.

Commission members welcomed the progress update.

5. Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Fund Project Update

Jude King, Programme Manager for the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) CWB Project provided an update on recent activity. This included an overview of recent milestones such as the official Programme Launch Gathering in June 2022 which over 120 people attended and a visit from Mr Tom Arthur, Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth in August who met with various businesses and 3rd Sector organisations across Ayrshire who had been supported by the programme. An update on programme outputs was provided, noting that to date, over 500 unique enterprises had received support from the CWB Programme and 75 businesses had been referred to the Fair Work Ayrshire programme. Some programme insights from officers were shared, noting that collaboration across Ayrshire and skills sharing was considered a strength, however it was also acknowledged that the current cycle of economic crises can threaten the aims of the programme due businesses becoming focussed on reactive measures rather than proactive.

The Commission welcomed the update and insights and provided some thoughts:

- It was noted that the language around CWB theory and practice can be challenging however recent programme videos communicating CWB have been helpful.

¹ It has since been agreed that Ian Burgoyne, joint chair of East Ayrshire Local Employability Partnership will lead the Fair Employment workstream.

- There was a request for data on how many 3rd sector enterprises have received support from the programme. It was noted this data could then be used to target further support to the 3rd sector.

6. Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy

Emma McMullen, Senior Manager for Economic Policy at North Ayrshire Council provided an update on recent activity related to the development of a Regional Economic Strategy for Ayrshire. It was noted that the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) have been commissioned to develop the strategy. A socio-economic baseline and literature review of national, regional and local policies has been undertaken. Engagement with stakeholders including councils, statutory bodies, private sector, third sector and the NAC CWB Expert Advisory Panel has taken place with further engagement with young people planned and a session for Elected Members scheduled for 11 November. Final drafts of the strategy will be presented to stakeholders later in the year, followed by endorsement from the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board and Ayrshire Councils.

7. Scottish Government CWB Engagement

It was noted that Scottish Government announced in September's Programme for Government that it would launch a consultation on CWB legislation. Caitriona McAuley sits on a CWB Bill Steering Group which was established by Scottish Government earlier in 2022. A series of workshops exploring each CWB pillar were recently hosted by the SG CWB team. Caitriona McAuley delivered a presentation for the Land & Assets workshop describing activities in North Ayrshire in relation to this pillar as well as the work of the Land & Assets regional workstream within the LOWG.

It is expected that a consultation on the CWB legislation is expected later this year and a coordinated response from the Commission was proposed. In preparation for this, Anchors were encouraged to think about how legislation could be used to create further opportunities for CWB as well as address any specific barriers or challenges.

Commission members welcomed the update and agreed to a coordinated consultation response.

8. AOB

No further matters were raised and the meeting was closed.