

North Ayrshire Council

Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission – Lead Officer Working Group

Note of Meeting of Lead Officer Working Group held on 22 May 2023

Attendees

Louise Kirk, Interim Head of Service Economic Development and Regeneration, North Ayrshire Council (Chair)

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

Mhairi Paterson, Community Wealth Building Coordinator, North Ayrshire Council

Ian Burgoyne, Depute Head of Education (Equity, Inclusion & Employability), East Ayrshire Council

Paul Blackwood, Group Commander Prevention and Protection, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Derek Frew, Ayrshire Division Partnership Lead Officer, Police Scotland

Lynn Sproat, Senior Programme Manager Community Wealth Building, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

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

Mags Watson, Strategic Manager Economic Development (Interim), East Ayrshire Council

Angela McWhinnie, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA)

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

David Hammond, Head of Sustainability, Corporate Property & Transport, North Ayrshire Council

Jennifer Wraith, Acting Service Manager Sustainability, North Ayrshire Council

Sarah Smillie, CWB Officer, South Ayrshire Council

Apologies

Kirstin Dickson, Director of Transformation and Sustainability, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

David Davidson, Assistant Principal – Human Resources and Organisational Development, Ayrshire College

Fiona Fawdry, East Ayrshire CVO

Mark Greaves, Local Places Coordinator, South Ayrshire Council

David Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement, South Ayrshire Council

David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth, East Ayrshire Council

Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland

Brian Connolly, Specialist – Partnerships (Innovation and Place), Scottish Enterprise

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the Lead Officer Working Group (LOWG) for the Ayrshire Community Wealth Building Commission and noted apologies submitted.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 23 February 2023 were agreed with no issues raised.

3. CWB Commission Update

It was noted the previous meeting of the CWB Commission was held on 24 March 2023. Mr Tom Arthur, Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance attended the meeting which included a discussion on the Scottish Government Consultation on Building Community Wealth in Scotland. The meeting also included updates on the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy and CWB Procurement workstream.

4. CWB and Climate Action

A discussion was held on the links between CWB and Climate Action. All Anchors noted that they were progressing various projects and initiatives in relation to climate action and sustainability. It was noted that these provide an opportunity to align with CWB to add value, ensure a Just Transition and maximise opportunities for local businesses and communities.

David Hammond, Head of Service for Sustainability, Corporate Property and Transport at North Ayrshire Council gave an overview of some current sustainability projects which link closely to CWB. This included the construction of two solar PV farms on former landfill sites and the Community Renewable Energy Generation Funding Scheme.

Other projects noted by partners included a Net Zero Support Grant for businesses in partnership between EAC and Scottish Enterprise and installation of carbon neutral safe spaces by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. It was agreed that an item would be taken to the CWB Commission on 14 June to further explore the opportunities to align CWB with climate activities.

5. Fair Employment Workstream Update

Ian Burgoyne, Depute Head of Education (Equity, Inclusion & Employability) at East Ayrshire Council noted that a meeting of the Fair Employment workstream was held on 2 May which included updates from each of the three workstreams: Recruitment, Volunteering and Apprenticeships.

Recruitment: Two meetings of the recruitment workstream had taken place with a focus on young people and how to ensure pathways into employment, reduce Anchor specific

recruitment barriers, and share learning from existing projects (such as Project SEARCH delivered by EAC, NHS AA and Ayrshire College).

Apprenticeships: The group is currently gathering baseline data from across the three Ayrshire councils. The group has identified finance as a common challenge across partners and there is interest in looking at a consortium approach to procurement of training provision. Funding challenges associated with foundation apprenticeships was highlighted with a need for clarity to align with regional skills planning.

Volunteering: It was noted that due to staff issues, no meetings of the Volunteering group had taken place.

ACTION:

Meeting to discuss funding challenges associated with foundation apprenticeships – Ian, SDS and Ayrshire College.

6. Land and Assets Workstream Update

An update on the Land and Assets workstream was provided by Scottish Enterprise. It was noted there was interest in organising a workshop to build upon the land and asset mapping previously delivered and introduce a consistency to the intelligence available, however due to lack of availability, a date could not be agreed for the workshop. In lieu of a workshop a separate call was arranged with a representative from the Parish Online platform to explore potential to build on a pilot initiative developed by the Improvement Service.

The discussion recognised that the Parish Online platform may assist the Land and Assets workstream but also has potential to link to other areas such as Locality Planning and the work of CPPs across Ayrshire. Work is required to coordinate the leads across these structures and better understand the intelligence needs from communities in relation to repurposing land and assets in their geographies.

Points noted as part of a discussion included:

- There are capacity and resource challenges for the 3rd Sector such as a reduced volunteer base post pandemic, however a discussion regarding local priorities and challenges to asset development would be useful. Representatives from TSIs to meet with Brian to discuss.
- SFRS outlined an example of underutilised land at Kilmarnock Fire Station being developed into a community garden and multi-purpose space for community groups.

7. Procurement Workstream Update

An update on the Procurement workstream was provided on behalf of David Alexander from South Ayrshire Council. It was noted that 12 May was the deadline for public bodies to upload their procurement annual spend data for 2022/23 to the Scottish Government portal (Spikes Cavell). Once data has been approved, it will be used to map another years' worth of spend data and run comparisons between 2021/22 and 2022/23 on the same portal/map previously used. NHS Ayrshire and Arran is considering mapping their own spend data and comparing to other health boards.

8. Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Programme update

Jude King, Programme Manager, provided an update on AGD CWB Programme activities noting that over 700 organisations had been supported to date. Organisations have been supported with various activities including net zero ambitions and energy transition, safeguarding and creating new jobs. Jude is working with officers to plan a pan-Ayrshire event hosted by South Ayrshire Council in September.

The SFRS provided details of a post non-domestic incident response pilot being undertaken by the fire safety team which seeks to engage with local businesses to educate and inform on fire safety measures. It is hoped an Ayrshire pilot will help inform wider national policy. To help communicate the service to businesses, it was suggested there might be an opportunity to link with the AGD CWB Programme.

ACTIONS:

- Fire safety team to be invited to the next LOWG to present on the non-domestic incident response pilot.

9. Regional Economic Strategy

An update on recent activity on development of the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy was provided by Emma McMullen. The strategy will be launched in June and next steps are to develop a delivery plan to accompany the strategy. The Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce are hosting an event on 24 May at Ayrshire College which seeks to engage enterprises (including 3rd sector) across Ayrshire in the development of the delivery plan. A further event will be hosted in June specifically for 3rd sector organisations.

ACTION:

- Emma to send Angela details of RES engagement events.

10. Scotland Loves Local

A discussion was held on the Scotland Loves Local Programme to consider links to CWB and whether partners are seeing benefits from the programme. It was noted that partners had adopted varying approaches to the programme and there was some analysis and learning to be shared. It was agreed that a representative of the Scotland Loves Local (SLL) programme would be invited to present at the next LOWG meeting in August.

ACTIONS:

- Invite representative from SLL to present at next LOWG meeting.
- Relevant staff from councils to be invited to join SLL discussion at next meeting.

11. Next Steps and future agenda items

A representative from Scotland Loves Local Programme asked to provide a presentation.

Receive a presentation from SFRS on the non-domestic incident response pilot.

12. AOB

It was noted that the NHS Ayrshire and Arran portal within the NSS Community Benefit Gateway is facing some challenges in gaining traction. It was suggested that an awareness raising session with council community teams may be useful.