

North Ayrshire Council

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

Note of Meeting of Lead Officer Working Group held on 15 November 2022

Attendees

Emma McMullen, Senior Manager, Economic Policy, North Ayrshire Council (Chair)

Mhairi Paterson, Community Wealth Building Coordinator, North Ayrshire Council

Mark Greaves, Local Places Coordinator, South Ayrshire Council

David Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement, South Ayrshire Council

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

David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth, East Ayrshire Council

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

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

Laura Neill, Senior Manager – Employability, North Ayrshire Council

Lisa Cairns, East Ayrshire CVO

Apologies

Caitriona McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), North Ayrshire Council

James Thompson, Ayrshire College

Derek Frew, Ayrshire Division Partnership Lead Officer, Police Scotland

Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland

Paul Blackwood, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Kirstin Dickson, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

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 26 August were agreed with no issues raised.

3. CWB Commission Update

The previous meeting of the CWB Commission was held on 26 October. This was the first meeting with new representatives from the local authorities following the local government elections in May. The meeting included updates on the Procurement Workstream, AGD CWB Programme, Regional Economic Strategy and engagement with Scottish Government around development of CWB Legislation. Anchors were encouraged to prepare for a future consultation on CWB Legislation by thinking about what legislation needs to do to support CWB and any barriers that prevent or restrict CWB activity.

4. Land and Assets Workstream Update

Brian Connolly provided an update on the Land and Assets workstream. Anchor partners previously provided a list of surplus assets which was collated into a GIS based mapping dashboard to visualise the assets throughout the region. It was noted that ensuring consistency in data across the Anchors is a challenge. Further work is required to link demand with supply opportunities and a dedicated resource or “broker” role would be helpful in this regard.

In discussion that followed it was noted it would be interesting to hear from NHS Ayrshire & Arran officers about NHS assets and links to Caring for Ayrshire.

ACTION: Brian and Kaileigh to meet and look at opportunities to map 3rd Sector demand.

5. Fair Employment Workstream Update

Laura Neill, Employability Senior Manager at North Ayrshire Council recently took on the role of interim lead for the Fair Employment workstream following the departure of Michael Breen. Laura advised a permanent lead for the workstream was actively being sought. It was noted that a workplan had been established and is being taken forward by three sub-groups: Recruitment, apprenticeships and volunteering. Leads have been nominated for these groups and members recruited.

It was noted that the forthcoming Living Wage week marked an opportunity to share information about CWB and activities of Anchors. Kaileigh Brown noted the need for consistent messaging across Anchors that could be shared at events such as Living Wage Week. An Anchors newsletter or comms strategy would be useful.

6. Procurement Workstream Update

David Alexander, Service Lead for Procurement at South Ayrshire Council provided an update on the Procurement workstream. David met individually with each of the Anchor Procurement officers and convened a group meeting of the workstream on 25 October. David provided details of a map created by South Ayrshire Council to provide a visual representation of all supplier invoices paid by the council from Oct 2018 – December 2018. It was noted it would be useful to update the map for all Anchors and share at a future commission meeting.

A key focus of forthcoming months will be analysis of 2021/22 local spend data and consideration of opportunities to increase local spend. The group have agreed to share lists of local suppliers and tender waveplans within the dedicated Teams site. Discussion noted the followed points:

- There is a risk of duplication of “wishes” within Community Benefits across NHS A&A and the three local authorities. It was suggested a pan-Ayrshire approach to Community Benefit wish lists may be more appropriate.
- Capacity within some Anchors to manage Community Benefits can be an issue.
- Procurement officers need to manually change the address of some suppliers to ensure an accurate reflection of spend with locally-sited suppliers (this happens if a head-office is located elsewhere).
- It was noted the Supplier Development Programme are considering developing a collaborative session with Police Scotland and the SFRS. There was interest in creating a pan-Ayrshire Anchor session.

7. NHS Ayrshire & Arran CWB Approach

Lynn Sproat provided a presentation on the CWB approach within NHS Ayrshire and Arran. It was noted they are the first health board in Scotland to appoint a CWB Programme Manager, demonstrating the commitment of the organisation to embedding CWB. Lynn outlined a number of priorities for the organisation including developing a CWB Programme Board and ensuring appropriate internal governance for CWB, a CWB communication and engagement plan, completion of a CWB self-assessment and development of a CWB strategy and action plan.

8. Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Fund project update

Jude King, Programme Manager for the AGD CWB project updated on recent activities. Good progress across the various programme outputs was noted including positive feedback from businesses engaged in the programme. Some challenges were highlighted including the issue of sustaining a long-term resource. It was noted that EAC had secured funding to continue the programme via Shared Prosperity Funding and there is a need for all three councils to discuss funding opportunities to sustain the project. A pan-Ayrshire gathering of the programme is being planned for early 2023, with local businesses as the key audience.

9. Regional Economic Strategy

An update on recent activity on development of the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy was provided by Emma McMullen. It was noted the strategy was still being developed, however a draft version had recently been presented to Elected Members across all three local authorities. Consultants CLES will facilitate action planning workshops which will involve key stakeholders, young people and Anchors. The strategy will be presented to the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee in February and approval sought from each of the local authorities after that.

10. Anchor Charter Pledges

An update on the Anchor Charter pledges was now due and Mhairi Paterson advised templates would be circulated soon and offered to meet with Anchors to discuss completion if helpful. Completion of the template was noted as a good opportunity to identify good practice case studies or examples that can be shared with other Anchors as well as capture broader intelligence on barriers preventing CWB activity which could feed into the future

consultation on CWB legislation. Mhairi advised a plural ownership workshop was being arranged which would provide Anchors with a better understanding of the role of this pillar and how to engage with it.

11. Next Steps and future agenda items

Future agenda items were noted including:

- An update from the Visitor Economy workstream;
- A summary of the NAC CWB Conference.

It was agreed that every second meeting should take place in person in Irvine.

12. AOB

No further matters were raised and the meeting was closed.