

North Ayrshire Council

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

Note of Meeting of Lead Officer Working Group held on 23 February 2023

Attendees

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

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

David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth, East Ayrshire Council

Paul Blackwood, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Derek Frew, Ayrshire Division Partnership Lead Officer, Police Scotland

Paul Zealey, Skills Development Scotland

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

Mags Watson, East Ayrshire Council

Angela McWhinnie, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA)

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

Apologies

Kirstin Dickson, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

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

David Davidson, Ayrshire College

Fiona Fawdry, East Ayrshire CVO

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 15 November 2022 were agreed with no issues raised.

3. CWB Commission Update

The previous meeting of the CWB Commission was held on 13 December 2022. The meeting included an update on the NHS Ayrshire and Arran approach to CWB as well as updates on the Land & Assets Workstream, Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy and the Ayrshire Growth Deal CWB Programme. It was noted that Tom Arthur, Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth¹ would attend the next meeting of the CWB Commission on 24 March to discuss the Scottish Government Consultation on Building Community Wealth in Scotland.

4. Fair Employment Workstream Update

Ian Burgoyne, Depute Head of Education (Equity, Inclusion & Employability) at East Ayrshire Council, was recently appointed as the new lead of the Fair Employment workstream. Ian noted that a meeting of the workstream had taken place on 8 February 2023 and included updates from each of the three workstreams: Recruitment, Volunteering and Apprenticeships. It was noted that all workstreams have an agreed action plan and meetings arranged for 2023. Ian attended the Plural Ownership workshop for the LOWG in January and acknowledged the crossover with fair employment due to employee-owned businesses having better staff retention and are often more resilient to economic shocks.

5. Land and Assets Workstream Update

Brian Connolly from Scottish Enterprise provided an update on the Land and Assets workstream. Although Scottish Enterprise are currently leading the workstream, it was noted that as a national agency with limited local knowledge, another Anchor may be more suitable to lead. The need for a “broker role” to work across Anchors and bridge the gap between supply and demand to link up opportunities for businesses, communities and the Third Sector was noted. A workshop to bring together Anchors to review consistency of asset data and remit of the workstream was suggested as a next step.

ACTION: Brian Connolly to organise a workshop

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

6. Procurement Workstream Update

David Alexander, Service Lead for Procurement at South Ayrshire Council provided an update on the Procurement workstream. A Microsoft Teams site for sharing data and information across workstream members has been created. Local spend data for 2021/22 has been requested from partners which will be analysed to understand patterns of local spend and opportunities to increase local spend further. A geographical map of spend with local organisations across Ayrshire Anchors is currently being prepared. Future activities include

¹ As of March 2023, Tom Arthur is Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance.

analysis of Anchor procurement waveplans to identify potential for collaborative contracts. Scottish Enterprise offered intelligence and GIS support if required.

7. Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Fund project update

Jude King, Programme Manager, provided an update on AGD CWB Programme activities noting that over 600 organisations had been supported to date and year two targets for procurement activities are being exceeded. Three Fair Work fairs are currently being planned in each of the Ayrshire local authorities. An in-person gathering for the programme is taking place at Ayrshire College in Kilmarnock on 23 March 2023.

ACTION: Standing item to update on general Ayrshire Growth Deal activity to be provided by Graham Saunders at future meetings of the LOWG.

8. Regional Economic Strategy

An update on recent activity on development of the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy was provided by Emma McMullen. The strategy was endorsed by a three Ayrshire Chief Executives and approved by the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee. Workshops to develop a delivery and action plan are scheduled for March and will be supported by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). It was noted that a review of regional governance of economic development and delivery options will be considered later in the year.

9. Scottish Government CWB Legislation Consultation

In January Scottish Government launched a consultation on “Building Community Wealth in Scotland” and are seeking views on a potential CWB duty and legislative changes required to further develop CWB in Scotland. It was noted at a previous meeting of the CWB Commission that a collective CWB Commission response would be provided, in addition to individual organisation responses. A discussion followed where Anchors were encouraged to consider feedback to be included within the CWB Commission response.

ACTION: Local authorities to share Consultation responses with the group when available.

10. Next Steps and future agenda items

There was a request to showcase and share examples of best practice from other areas.

11. AOB

The following items were noted:

- A bid has been submitted to UK Government for funding to support implementation of the Ayrshire Energy Masterplan.
- NHS Community Benefits Gateway has launched but doesn't have many requests yet. Details of the Gateway are to be sent to councils who can share within their relevant teams.