

Ayrshire Community Wealth Building Commission – Lead Officer Working Group

Note of Lead Officer Working Group Meeting held on 26 August 2022, 1pm – 3pm via MS Teams

Attendees

Caitriona McAuley, 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
David McDowall, Head of Economic Growth, East Ayrshire Council (1st hour only)
Derek Frew, Ayrshire Divisions Partnership Lead Officer, Police Scotland
Michael Breen, Vice Principle, Ayrshire College
Vikki Kewney, Project Manager, Scottish Enterprise
Brian Connolly, Scottish Enterprise
Angela McWhinnie, VASA
James Thomson, Director of Finance, Student Funding and Estates, Ayrshire College
Paul Blackwood, Workforce Planning Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Ian McMeekin, Area Commander, Local Senior Officer for Ayrshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
David Alexander, Procurement Service Lead, South Ayrshire Council
Jude King, AGD CWB Fund Programme Manager, North Ayrshire Council
Kirstin Dickson, Director for Transformation and Sustainability, NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Robert Moore, East Ayrshire Council (substitute for David McDowall)
Sarah Smillie, South Ayrshire Council (substitute for Mark Greaves)
Elle Mason, East Ayrshire CVO (substitute for Fiona Fawdry)

Apologies

Kaileigh Brown, Co-Leader - Third Sector, The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT)
Paul Zealey, Skills Planning Lead, Skills Development Scotland
Allison Craig, Strategic Manager, Ayrshire Growth Deal
Mark Greaves, Local Places Coordinator, South Ayrshire Council
Fiona Fawdry, Chief Executive, 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

The minutes of the previous meeting on 7 June were agreed with no issues raised.

3. CWB Commission

It was noted that a meeting of the CWB Commission was due to take place in June however this was cancelled due to a change in Commission membership following local government elections and the need to brief new Elected Members on CWB. The next Commission meeting is to be held on 12 September¹. Officers were asked to ensure their respective Commission representatives are briefed on any changes in membership.

4. Scottish Enterprise – Land & Assets Workstream Update

Vikki Kewney, workstream lead for Land and Assets gave an update on recent activity and outlined the next steps in relation to delivery and resource requirements. A meeting has been arranged for Vikki to update CLES who are leading on the Regional Economic Strategy to ensure alignment. The following points were raised during discussion:

- It is important that all partners are brought into the need for a resource to take forward the workstream. It was suggested that more detail on the proposal for a resource and accompanying workplan would be helpful as well as ensuring alignment with the Regional Economic Strategy.
- Constraints and challenges should be included within the forthcoming consultation on a CWB Act.
- SAC, NAC and EAC representatives to meet to consider funding options via the Shared Prosperity Fund.

ACTION: SAC, NAC, EAC, Vikki and Estate leads to meet to consider funding opportunities.

5. Ayrshire College – Fair Employment Workstream Update

An update on the progress of the Fair Employment workstream being led by Ayrshire College was provided. It was noted that a bid to the Workplace Equalities Fund was unsuccessful with no feedback provided. Leads for the three workstream sub-groups (Recruitment, Apprenticeships and Volunteering) have been agreed and work is underway to develop action plans and templates. A resource to coordinate the workstream is likely to be required going forward. The importance of ensuring alignment of all workstreams to the Regional Economic Strategy was noted.

ACTION: Ensure alignment with the Regional Economic Strategy within sub-group action plans.

6. South Ayrshire Council – Procurement Workstream Update

David Alexander from South Ayrshire Council was introduced as the new lead for the Procurement workstream. As part of an update it was noted that 1-2-1 meetings had been held with all Anchor procurement officers to discuss expectations for the workstream going

¹ Please note that due to passing of HM the Queen, the 12 September meeting of the CWB Commission was subsequently postponed.

forward. Future areas of interest for the workstream include: Setting up a MS Teams site for all Anchors to share files e.g. local supplier lists, Quick Quote processes and procurement wave-plans; update Ayrshire local spending data for 21/22; promotion and exploration of 'low value' opportunities, and a review of Community Benefits processes. Discussion points that followed:

- Important to recognise the role of economic development teams in identifying and linking local suppliers to procurement opportunities. Need to agree a process which links Anchors that do not have economic development teams to council economic development teams.
- Look at opportunities to do more around big procurement opportunities such as energy provision (which also link into other aspects of CWB).
- Important to focus on a few areas which can add most value.

7. Anchor Planning and Ambition Setting

Following previous feedback from Sarah Deas and the CWB Expert Advisory Panel, a template has been developed to help drive progress on embedding CWB in our respective Anchor Institutions and set long term ambitions for change. It comprises a self-assessment of progress against the Anchor Charter pledges, ambition setting and identification of priority actions. Anchors completed the templates over summer and were asked for their thoughts on the process, including any strengths and opportunities across the pillars, but also whether the template had helped to identify any areas of challenge. Anchors were encouraged to think about constraints faced across the pillars and whether these are national, cultural or policy in nature and what could be done to overcome these challenges. A discussion raised the following points:

- Organisations with dual purposes and working at national and local levels can pose challenges to engaging with CWB. For example challenges associated with national procurement frameworks.
- The template was welcomed by several Anchors as an opportunity to stand back and reflect on progress and acknowledge that we are still on a journey.
- There is scope for working in partnership and collaboration within some of the pillars.
- It is important to prioritise pillars or actions to ensure ambitions are achievable.
- Broad ambitions should also be aligned within the Regional Economic Strategy.
- Some Anchors noted challenges associated with the plural ownership pillar and understanding their role in relation to this pillar.

ACTION: Mhairi to look into a plural ownership workshop for Anchors.

8. Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building Fund Project Update

Jude King provided an update on the AGD CWB Programme including key milestones and achievements so far. Feedback from an engagement session with CWB Locality Officers was shared including analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated the programme. The SWOT analysis was noted to be very insightful.

9. Regional Economic Strategy Update

Emma McMullen provided an update on the development of a Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for Ayrshire. CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies) have been appointed to develop the strategy with work currently underway. It was acknowledged there is still work to do to ensure CWB workstreams are aligned within the strategy.

ACTION: Emma to share literature review with the LOWG once it has been signed off by the RES Steering Group.

10. CWB Conference

It was noted that North Ayrshire Council's CWB Conference will take place on Friday 7th October at Saltcoats Town Hall. All LOWG members would be invited to attend and save the dates will be sent out soon.

11. Next Steps and future agenda items

LOWG members agreed that the next meeting should be in person.

12. AOB

It was noted the language around CWB can be challenging and jargonistic and we should seek to move away from this where possible.

Angela McWhinnie noted that a joint CWB session between VASA and TACT is being planned however no date has been set yet. Its possible there will be a focus on Community Benefits.

ACTION: Elle and Mhairi to meet to provide background and context on CWB in Ayrshire.