

DUNDEE

PARTNERSHIP

Minute of the Building Stronger Communities Group held on Thursday, 15th December 2016 Committee Room 2, 14 City Square

Present:	Alison Anderson	-	Neighbourhood Services - Environment
	Ben Gibson	-	Hillcrest Housing Association
	Carole Jenkins	-	Neighbourhood Services - Communities
	David MacDougall	-	Maryfield Forum
	Gladys Ramsay	-	Lochee Forum
	Jim Campbell	-	East End Forum
	Joyce Barclay	-	Health & Social Care Partnership
	Nicky MacCrimmon	-	Children & Family Services
	Paul Davies	-	Community Planning
	Peter Allan	-	Community Planning (Chair)
	Robin Shields	-	Neighbourhood Services - Housing
	Ron Neave	-	North East Forum

In Attendance

Alistair Hilton	-	City Development - Planning
Jaqui Spence	-	Learning & Workforce Development

Apologies:

Alice Bovill	-	Strathmartine Forum
Debbie Johnston	-	Hillcrest Housing Association
Elaine Zwirlein	-	Neighbourhood Services
Evelyn Cairns	-	Dundee Voluntary Action / Third Sector Interface
Gordon Reid	-	City Development
John Hosie	-	Neighbourhood Services- Communities

Action

1. Introductions & Apologies

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a round of introductions was made for the benefit of new attendees. Apologies received are listed above.

2. Minute of November Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 ESSH (*item 3.1*)

Robin circulated figures for most of the Housing Associations (HA's) with properties in Dundee (attached). These show that most HA's properties are compliant with the new regulations. Those that aren't yet, have until 2020 to be brought up to specification.

3.2 Transportation (*item 3.2*)

Peter recently attended a Transportation Network meeting which recognises the range of issues that have been raised in various places. Peter, Elaine and John Berry are to meet to discuss how to best link up efforts being made to tackle these issues.

PA/EZ/
JB

3.3 Projects Failing to Report (*item 6.2*)

David asked whether the outstanding Stobswell Events Group report had been received yet. Paul indicated that it had not, and the group remain ineligible for additional funding until it is received.

4. Priority Updates

4.1 Community Asset Transfer

Carole gave an overview of developments in relation to this;

- The Scottish Government Guidance is now available in advance of legislation going live on the 17th January 2017
 - It is quite long (around 100 pages each for Community Groups and Local Authorities). This will be added to the DCC website
 - The CAT Strategic Group has met to discuss this and it is planned that briefings will be issued for community groups as soon as possible
- There is still a lot of interest in CAT in Dundee and we're working with the Development Trusts Association Scotland
 - In October Douglas House was transferred the Hush Club & The Yard for the creation of a centre for people with disabilities
 - A bothy has been transferred to EDEN
 - Several other transfers are still in process
 - Community Gardens are likely to be a feature in the coming year. To assist with this, Alison Anderson is on the CAT Steering Group
- The process outlined is different from what we currently have in Dundee
 - It has a single stage application that needs to be processed within six months. This requires information to be included up front
 - All applications need to be displayed online
 - Every property and all land needs to go on a searchable online database. This will take some work for IT to put in place
 - Groups will need to work on condition surveys
- In Dundee we need to keep some properties for the planned doubling of nursery school places and plans involving social housing
- Other public bodies are also required to participate (e.g. NHS, Police Scotland, etc.) and so we will need to collaborate on CAT
- Potential difficulty – groups can simply apply. This may not be in their best interests given the single stage application process that the Scottish Government want. Getting hep in advance of applying is likely to be beneficial
 - Participation requests also come into effect in January adding another element
- Ownership via CAT. The new regulations will require community groups to be either a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) or a Community Benefit Society (BenCom)

CJ

Alistair added that from a Planning perspective;

- The application process does include a check against the Local Plan right at the outset, which may reduce the amount of unnecessary work (if there are already agreed plans for a site in place)

4.2 Developing the Young Workforce

Following early indications from the Engage Dundee consultation that identified work for young people as an important consideration in communities, Jaqui Spence was invited to provide an update on what is being done in Dundee to assist young people into employment. The main points covered are summarised below;

Modern Apprenticeships (MA's) are one strand within DCC. It involves a 'work, earn and learn' approach, and generally includes completion of a Scottish Vocational Qualification (sometimes a Higher National Certificate or Diploma instead). DCC takes on 16-19 year olds, as this age group has the highest rate of unemployment, across a wide range of jobs. Funding is available wherever there is an existing framework, and there are over seventy of these with new ones under development. Of 90 young people completing their MA in recent years 98% are employed, either in DCC or with another employer.

Other work opportunities are also available;

- Graduate Work Experience posts. These give graduates a six month period of work with the aim that the experience will enable them to access the

labour market at a higher level and avoid 'under-employment'. Feedback from participants has indicated that six months is not long enough, and so it is being increased to a full year. The next group of ten participants starts in January

- Construction Employability Programme. Since the summer of 2015 this programme has taken on under 24's who have had experience of the Criminal Justice system. A number of partners are involved, and as well a range of employability support, participants are guaranteed an interview at the end of the programme. Eight out of nine from the 2015 programme went into employment and all six from the 2016 programme
- MA's with Care Providers. It is often hard for a small provider to support MA's and so the Community Benefits Team provide support to enable care providers and other Third Sector organisations to take on MA's
- Discover Opportunities. Supports harder to reach young people with a range of programmes. It is expected that Allan Millar will provide more information on this at January's meeting

Other support activities include;

- School based work to get young people, parents and staff interested in MA's and other opportunities. This includes presentations and working groups to help with things like filling in application forms and interview techniques
- Jobs fairs

During October and November workshops were held involving staff, MA's, Skills Development Scotland and the Voluntary Sector regarding how the route into employment could be improved for young people. A key theme that emerged was young people feeling isolated as they are often the only young person in a section. As a result a MA Networking group was set up and has started meeting. A social media group may also be set up alongside this.

Discussion followed Jaqui's presentation, the main points of which included;

- The Single Children's Development Plan will help to develop the 'Family Firm' offer and will include Modern Apprenticeships
- Demographic analysis shows a roughly 50:50 split between male and female applicants, but a relatively low number of applications from those with different ethnic backgrounds. At present, targeting these groups is beyond our capacity. There is also a need to help those with additional support needs
- Work is being done in schools to promote alternatives to the HE / FE routes that predominate at present
- Housing Associations also offer internal MA's, some of which lead to longer term jobs
- In some cases, DCC receives relatively few applicants for MA posts. This may be down to a number of factors including;
 - Apprehension – young people unwilling to put themselves forward
 - Lack of stability in the curriculum
 - Young people not being comfortable with the academic aspect of the MA programme
 - Those living in deprived areas may find it harder due to not having a positive example to follow
- An academy-style programme may help those needing additional help

4.3 Financial Inclusion

Peter outlined a number of ongoing activities that are helping / will help with financial inclusion across the city;

- Big Lottery / European Social Fund Application. This has been submitted, seeking £3m over 3 years. A number of clarification questions have been received back and a decision will be received in January. Assuming this is positive, a planned start to the programme, involving a range of agencies, will take place in February / March
- Fairness Action Plan. Was taken to Committee at the start of December

(see attached). Two items for which additional funding has been agreed are;

- Cost of the School Day research. The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) will be carrying out research during 2017 into the additional costs of the school day in Dundee and what can be done to help make activities more inclusive
- Poverty Truth Commission. This will give people experiencing poverty a voice alongside people with influence to enable change. The group will look at the biggest issues and what can be done about them. Faith in Communities Dundee will coordinate this
- Attainment Challenge. Funding is being used in many Dundee schools to work towards closing the attainment gap between those from more affluence and more deprived areas
- Advice Services and Foodbanks are looking into working more closely together. This will include how advice services can provide support earlier to prevent food crises, and work better with those in crisis to reduce the need for a return to the foodbank in future

4.4 Children & Families

Nicky Macrimmon provided an update on work being done / planned across Children & Families;

- Most of the current development work is strategic in nature, driven by the inspection of Integrated Children's Services back in March and the Children & Young Persons Scotland Act. This requires a Single Children's Services Plan to be developed, and this plan will also form the basis for Children & Families' input to the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)
- Additional priorities focus around;
 - National Youth Work Strategy
 - Youth Employment Strategy
 - National Improvement Framework, including the Attainment Challenge and further funding through the Equity Fund (the latter funding going directly to Head Teachers)
- Strategic commissioning will come out of the plans and may include some Tayside-wide collaboration to increase value for money
- Next steps will include developing the Local Learning Partnerships. These bring together the Third Sector, Education and Communities staff to look at what is needed locally, and they will report to LCPPs
- The Dartington Survey of 2014 identified four key priorities. Engage Dundee adds to this in terms of what people want locally, which will influence the new Locality Plans

Discussion followed, the main points of which included;

- LCPPs seem variable in their discussion of schools and education. Not much at some; others get an overview of what is happening locally
 - It is important that appropriate representation is made at these groups
 - Local Learning Partnerships may be able to help with this and bring a 'whole community' focus
- The Lochee Forum made a point of setting aside much of their Physical & Environmental funding for improvements to local playparks
- Links between schools / nurseries and outside agencies are developing in some areas e.g. nursery schools linking with churches for carol singing; Braeview Academy being involved in local Christmas lights, etc.
- Recently concerns have been raised following allegations against a number of youth football coaches nationally. A draft strategic plan to deal with this locally will feed into the LOIP. There is also a new Child Protection Officer in post

4.5 Strategic / Local Development

Recommendations on the Strategic Development Plan, involving Dundee, Angus, Perthshire and N. Fife were discussed with Scottish Government representatives at a December meeting. The aim is to incorporate any

changes and publish in March/April 2017

The Local Development Plan 2 is being drafted at present and will go to Committee in the early 2017 (after the Tayplan has been finalised) following a period of community engagement. Planning staff can arrange to visit interested groups and will also be using social media to engage. At present, no big changes are anticipated

Discussion followed that included;

- A query over how much influence a community has if they see a Greenfield site earmarked for housing. Alistair indicated that community objections can lead to a review of plans, and that support is available to communities via Communities Officers and other staff
- A query was raised over how the plan's integrity will be retained in the face of complaints. In general the plan aims to make areas more attractive for residents (including attracting new ones) and where possible additional action would be taken to maintain this

5. Dundee Community Regeneration Fund:

5.1 Grant Applications

All grant applications were approved.

5.2 Projects Failing to Report

No additional projects are overdue with their reports.

The below projects remain overdue are ineligible for further funding until a complete report is received by the DP Team;

- Soul Garden – C1607, Expansion to Community Kitchen
- Menzieshill Community Centre – L1617, Family Fun Day
- Stobswell Events Group – M1608, Celebration in the Park

5.3 Future Funding

Peter outlined that a review of funding would be taken during 2017 looking at the long term shape of forums and grants. He also warned forum representatives that this year there is an increased risk that any unspent funds will be unable to be carried forward into next year. As usual, Forums are encouraged to contact their local councillors regarding this.

Paul added that early in 2017, a recalculation of the allocations will be necessary to take into account the changes to the data zones in the 15% most deprived according to SIMD 2016.

6. Chairs Group – Issues & Information Sharing

No issues raised

7. Local Community Planning

Carole provided an update on a number of relevant items;

- Community engagement continues through a number of 'call back' events in each Ward and discussion of Engage Dundee results at LCPPs in response to a number of emerging themes
- Information from focus groups is also being analysed by Communities Officers. This will then be considered along with the Place Standard feedback from Engage Dundee
- An inspection of Community Learning & Development (CLD) is ongoing. Focus groups were held in early December looking at the leadership of CLD. Week commencing 16th January an area based inspection will be carried out in North East and East End Wards

8. AOCB

None raised.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 19th January, 10:00 in Room 1.1, Dundee House, 50 North Lindsay Street, Dundee.

Attachments:

EESH Statistics for Housing Associations
Fairness Action Plan