

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 28 MAY 2019

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BAKER HUGHES GENERAL ELECTRIC

ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members with regard to progress on projects set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Angus Council and Baker Hughes General Electric (BHGE) in December 2018.

1. BACKGROUND

On the 13 December 2018, Angus Council and BHGE signed a Memorandum of Understanding as a commitment to work positively together on future projects. The MoU represented a formalisation of positive partnership working over previous years which had seen significant investment into Montrose and Angus.

Prior to the signing of the MoU, Angus Council had invested £3 million in the Montrose Road South Scheme, which levered in a further £100 million private sector investment. Earlier in 2018, BHGE secured a Scottish Enterprise grant of £4.9 million to help develop a £31 million manufacturing campus in Montrose.

The signing of the MoU recognised the importance of such investment and of working together for the benefit of the business, Montrose and Angus.

2. THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The MoU sets out that Angus Council and BHGE will continue to collaborate and identifies key areas where Angus Council and BHGE will work together. A liaison group was formed that would have oversight of the MoU work with representatives from both parties that would meet on a regular basis.

Five specific projects were identified to be pursued under the MoU, each with an objective / overview, timeline, named persons from Angus Council and BHGE and other partners identified.

The five projects were:

- Employee Offer
- Campus Masterplan
- North Angus Masterplan
- Skills Development
- Community Engagement

Updates on each of the projects can be found below.

3. PROJECT UPDATES

Employee Offer

This project aims to bring together contacts, information, services and offers that would be available for employees of BHGE, including accommodation, transport, wellbeing and medical assistance.

The scope of the project has been clarified and defined by BHGE and a “welcome pack” has been built to share information with Montrose based staff and internal visitors to the site. Discussions are ongoing with Angus Alive in relation to the offers that could be included within the package.

Campus Masterplan

This project looks at the three sites currently occupied by BHGE in Montrose to explore how they could develop in terms of their own potential, but also accessibility and connectivity.

A number of workshop meetings have taken place, with information on current walking routes and distances between the sites being shared.

A staged approach is being taken to the project whereby initial improvements have been secured to existing walking routes (e.g. clearing of vegetation and consideration of improved signage). Consideration has then been given to improving or creating new routes between the sites and discussions have been held with near neighbours to secure this.

BHGE have instructed searches of the land registry to establish land ownership in a number of areas, and Angus Council are considering creation of formal footpaths as well as supporting work on a bid for active travel funding and proposals.

North Angus Masterplan

This project builds on the Campus Masterplan project and looks further afield in Montrose and North Angus to consider the potential for growth over the next 20 to 40 years.

A workshop was held on the 19 March with a wide range of stakeholders to discuss a vision and goals for the area as well as barriers and solutions to achieving that vision. The workshop highlighted the significant potential of the area and the importance of maximising the impetus that has been created through a number of recent and ongoing investments in the area. Discussions focused on what would make the town and area more attractive to investors, their workforce and partners.

The workshop was invaluable in making connections between stakeholders in the area, and further meetings have been held to develop these relationships. The discussions and partnership working will also be invaluable in informing work being undertaken by Angus Council on the review of the Development Plan.

Skills Development

This project seeks to ensure that BHGE can draw on a skilled workforce. Work will ensure the continued development of skills within the BHGE workforce and will focus on developing skills in and across the local community as part of the commitment to enhance local skills and employability.

There have been significant discussions with Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and DYW, with BHGE developing a formal workforce demand plan which will clarify priority areas for talent development. BHGE have continued to participate in existing schools programmes (ABC – primary school & Girls Get Set – Secondary Schools) and have started to build a larger internal team to expand these programmes in the coming academic year.

BHGE have expanded their existing apprentice and intern programme with more roles anticipated in 2019.

Community Engagement

This project will contribute to BHGE being an employer of choice that is connected and involved in the communities of Montrose. It will consider volunteering projects in the locality as well as involvement in existing or new community projects.

BHGE have reinvigorated their local volunteering programme with a new programme of events being launched. The companies local charities of 2019 are Montrose Community Trust and Macmillan.

An initial meeting has been held with Communities Officers of the Council to explore how BHGE can link into existing community projects and work and how their involvement could enhance these projects and develop over time.

Next steps

BHGE will be holding an opening ceremony for their Centre of Excellence on the 19 June 2019, and work will continue on all five projects outlined above.

4. REPORT AUTHOR

This report and associated schedules has been compiled by Kate Cowey, Service Leader for Planning and Communities who can be contacted by emailing Planning@angus.gov.uk .