

ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD AND EXECUTIVE GROUP JOINT MEETING

Minute of Joint Meeting of the **ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD and EXECUTIVE GROUP**, held REMOTELY on Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 10.00 am.

Present:

BOARD

ANGUS COUNCIL

Councillor DAVID FAIRWEATHER

MARGO WILLIAMSON Chief Executive (**Depute Chair of the Board**)

POLICE SCOTLAND

Superintendent ALEX JARRETT

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

GORDON PRYDE, Local Senior Officer for Perth & Kinross, Angus and Dundee

NHS TAYSIDE

BILL NICOL, Director of Strategic Change

VOLUNTARY ACTION ANGUS

HAYLEY MEARNS, Joint Chief Executive

BUSINESS SECTOR

No representative present

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

No representative present.

EXECUTIVE GROUP

ANGUS ALIVE

KIRSTY HUNTER, Chief Executive

ANGUS COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

JOHN FYFE, Chair

ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING LOCALITY PARTNERSHIPS

SHARON FAULKNER, Chair, Brechin

ANGUS COUNCIL

MARK ARMSTRONG, Depute Chief Executive

VIVIEN SMITH, Director, Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform

ALISON SMITH, Service Lead, Economic Development

ANGUS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Councillor LOIS SPEED, Chair

DUNDEE & ANGUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ALISON HENDERSON, Chief Executive Officer

DUNDEE & ANGUS COLLEGE

KEVIN MURPHY, Director of Curriculum & Attainment

DWP

MOIRA STIRLING
JUDITH ALEXANDER

POLICE SCOTLAND

Chief Inspector WAYNE MORRISON

SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE

GINA FORD, Engagement Partner

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

SCOTT GIBSON, Group Commander, Service Delivery (**Chair of the Executive Group**)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

GORDON MACDOUGALL

TACTRAN

MARK SPEED, Director

ANGUS COUNCIL SUPPORT OFFICERS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

KATE COWEY- Service Leader Planning & Communities

JAQUIE SEMPLE,

LYNSEY DEY, Team Leader, Sustainable Communities

SHELLEY HAGUE - Angus Council - Strategic Planning & Policy Manager
(Chief Executive Directorate)

KIM RITCHIE, Strategic Policy Planning Officer (SP,T&PSR)

ANDREW WILSON – Angus Council - Committee Officer (Democratic Services)

Scott Gibson, Chair, ACPP Executive Group, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Grant Ritchie (Principal, Dundee & Angus College, and **Chair of the Board**) Gary Malone (Joint Chief Executive Officer, VAA, Haley Mearns (Joint Chief Executive Officer, VAA substituting); NEIL PRENTICE, VAA; Dr Drew Walker (Tayside Director of Public Health) and Daniel Kleinberg (Scottish Government Location Director).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (ELECTED MEMBERS ONLY)

No declarations of interest were intimated.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) **Board, 27 November 2019** – submitted and approved as a correct record.

(ii) **Executive Group, 26 February 2020** – submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Board Minute – Investment agreed.

Executive Group Minute – No matters arising.

5. MEETINGS AND ROAD MAP

- (i) Partner Updates
- (ii) Meeting Schedule and Structure – While some meetings in the timetable had been missed through cancellation, this joint meeting today marked an attempt to get the scheduled meetings back on track, albeit with a joint meeting of the two groups charged with responsibility for driving the Partnership's work forward.
- (iii) Roadmap – Submitted as a useful resource for the information of Members, setting out the various business items to be dealt with in Community Planning and Partnership Working. This would be against the background of the COVID-19 emergency, and there was also submitted the details on the Scottish Government-imposed Lockdown Phases, including the implications for moving around / transport, for workplaces, and meeting other people. Within this framework, it would be possible for the Partnership to continue to operate by having in future further joint sessions, or using virtual 'breakout rooms.
- (iv) Review - due in August 2020.
- (v) Partner Templates Mapping Responses – Submitted and noted.

6. RESILIENCE UPDATE – Gordon Pryde and Jacqui Semple

A local resilience Partnership had been in place since the end of March in Tayside. Well supported by partners, it could supply any required Partnership response and support through its recovery and renewal plan.

Support updates were available from Public Health.

- Focus remained on care homes and a joint action plan as they were still at greatest risk.
- Essential to remain aware of the national picture and developments.
- Key groupings focussed on care of people eg the voluntary sector and shielding; test and protect, including fixed and mobile sites;
- Leicester had recently re-entered lockdown – important to learn from that city's experience. There would be particular pockets of recurring outbreaks giving cause for concern, with both local and national responses being important in preventing further escalation. Partners could work on various aspects, under overarching objectives but also on information shared under local recovery plans, being flexible enough to meet changing circumstances.
- How to bring community engagement through?
- The DWP played a more significant role in the lives of many people, with many being forced to register claims for the first time in their lives. DWP could assist in getting messages out to people who were lost/confused and who did not know where to turn for help.
- Increasing levels of redundancy coming across Angus at an increasing pace; people needing help urgently.
- Risk of people 'falling through the gaps', missing out on assistance when they needed it most.
- Potential opportunity arising to involve volunteers in the engagement process.
- Opportunities for community engagement to arise from having to deal with Covid-19, learning better ways of working, breaking old barriers to co-operation from the experience, and also the progress in recovery in Angus and increased levels of

poverty across the county. The recovery plan should be built upon the community plan.

- DWP (Moira Cambridge) and Dundee & Angus College (Kevin Murphy) looking at developing a portal, matching skills. To discuss this further with Alison Smith and Haley Mearns.

Local Resilience Partnership currently engaged in feeding people, but its operations could and should be widened out.

- Noted that much work had been done over the last 15 weeks, greatly helped by having robust partnership arrangements in place. This was against the background of the continuing pandemic, however, with the potential for a 'second wave' of the virus. Clearly not out of the woods yet.
- Need to reflect on
 - what worked well, so far
 - what we want to keep;
 - what we have learned;
 - what worked well;
 - what we need to do.

Possible role for the CPP as an oversight group, particularly if an Angus-specific perspective was needed.

[Mark Speed joined the meeting at this point]

7. REDUCING CHILD POVERTY – Local Poverty Action Report – Mark Armstrong

The Child Poverty Working Group had met at the end of May.

Child Poverty was regarded as more relevant now, given the ongoing pandemic; mental health and connectivity had also been brought to the fore too.

The increase in child poverty was right across Angus, with many people in employment becoming either furloughed or made redundant. The crisis presented the opportunity for the Partnership to up its game and use the increase in need to raise its level of activities, and pressure government nationally. The CPP had support from the Improvement Service, and its local Child Action Poverty Plan was in place, with altered reporting arrangements. Lenders had frozen debt repayment arrangements, which was helpful in the short term; however, once the delay in payments was lifted, the position for debtors could worsen significantly, and a greater need for debt advice. CAB was already receiving many more calls on both debt advice and employment advice; vulnerable groups were increasingly in need of support / protection from domestic violence or coercive control. How could the Partnership gear up to meet this?

The Community Plan Action Report would help assemble an evidence base, both anecdotal and case driven; identify how Covid-19 impacted on individuals' circumstances; and establish linkage between Covid and the Partnership's actions going forward.

It was also important that the Recovery Plan performed well and that it showed how the Partnership could move on its priorities.

8. RISK REGISTER – Scott Gibson

The Meeting noted the need to amend details regarding Brexit as it was increasingly likely that the final position between the UK Government and the EU would be one of 'No Deal'. The impact of Covid would also have to be considered.

It was also noted that Moira Cambridge would forward updates from the DWP's perspective for inclusion in the Register to Shelley Hague.

9. IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

In the absence of Bill Troup, the Joint Meeting received a Presentation from Kate Bell, Interim Director of Mental Health, NHS Tayside, on Mental Health Services in Tayside, in the light of the publication of the *Trust and Respect* Independent Inquiry Report, published in February 2020.



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Thereafter, Kate was thanked by the Chair for her detailed and interesting Presentation and for filling in at such short notice.

10. IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

Joint Presentation by Walter Scott, Service Leader, Roads and Transportation; and Alistair McLeod, Team Leader (Innovation) / Digital Enablement & IT

Roads and Transport Connectivity

Walter considered regional transport issues, and how solutions should incorporate the means to reduce and tackle inequalities while being aligned with aspirations, including for example, an active travel strategy. Delays had resulted for the impact of COVID-19; however every part of the Strategy aligned with Partnership policies.

As a spinoff – work carried out over 9 months with Glasgow Caledonian University as a study of transport poverty had also stalled due to COVID, but that could be a topic to be covered at a future meeting.

Arbroath Places for Everyone – this £13.2million project had brought serious funding to the Council with £9.2M from Sustrans, the Council funding the difference or seeking a match fund that would increase the Sustrans funding allocation. While the current dual carriageway was a blessing for significant traffic movement, but also a barrier for the local community. The idea now was to make Arbroath more accessible, and make better use of our open spaces, improve links to the rail and bus stations, town centre, and West Port, college campus and so on. This would benefit both local people and visitors.

Public Health funding had contributed to some elements from the Spaces for People fund with £160,000 for dropping speed limits in all Angus towns and three villages in the near future – considered through the Council's Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, currently meeting frequently.

A further bid to Sustrans would be submitted (at time of writing) for barriers and signage in town centres to share out spaces more equitably between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic.

In addition, a £512,000 CWSR (Cycling, Walking, Safer Routes) programme would tackle Routes – transportation networks, accessibility, safer cycling, and walking – significant areas of work, with some factors coming from the COVID circumstances.

Discussion:

The Chair of the Community Justice Partnership noted that a recent paper to the Violence against Women Network had highlighted how women seldom felt safe while using roads and called for the formulation of gender-based approaches to transport, looking at issues such as streetlighting quality, access. Also an issue as how their voice could be made heard by those who determine such issues.

Walter acknowledged that within national transport policy, there was a lack of design guidance awareness at present. For example, what had appeared to be a good cycle scheme elsewhere in the UK, fell apart when examined in the context of safety / security aspects. These considerations had to be incorporated into the Arbroath Project, and to that end, there would be benefit in linking with the Violence to Women Partnership to feed in to the work to be done by consultants looking at the final stages of the Project, connecting with the design team.

Councillor Fairweather noted that the overall cost of the Arbroath Project was £13.2million with the construction element amounting to £10million of that. Much consultation had already been carried out with local schools, and that would continue. He saw links with Dundee and Angus College in Arbroath as critical. There was a Sounding Panel to include representation from across stakeholders, to be set up and it was important to maintain this level of outreach, working against poverty in what was a community project, much more so than it was a transport project. It must be a positive benefit to the town, and seen by the community which it sought to benefit, as such.

Broadband Connectivity

Alistair McLeod gave an update on the four current projects to improve broadband connectivity in Angus.

1. Virgin Media fibre in Arbroath – due to start now – Phase 1 – 9,500 houses.
2. DCMS Local Full Fibre Network – Arbroath / Forfar / Montrose / Brechin – local full fibre installation.
3. Project near to signing agreement – now to September 2021. BT would be the supplier, and the project would run to September 2021. Fibre to all areas, including Angus Council buildings. Funded from Tay Cities Deal money, but also in receipt of funding from the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
4. Rural Broadband – £0.5M from Tay Cities Deal – Phase 1 - Mercury Programme area - Arbroath/Montrose/Brechin – looking for funding for other 2 phases. Carnoustie to Auchterhouse/Newtyle.
5. R 100 program – Government fibre condition to everyone in Scotland - unfortunately subject to disagreement with providers - not likely to commence construction until 2023.

In answer to a question, Alistair advised that local businesses had indicated that they would prefer to have reliability of broadband over speed.

The Chair thanked Walter and Alistair for their respective Presentations.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS –

Angus Community Planning Partnership Board and Executive Group Joint Meetings:

Tuesday 6 October 2020

Wednesday 25 November 2020.

Scott Gibson paid tribute to Grant Ritchie, who was retiring from his post of Principal of Dundee and Angus College, and also as Chair of the ACPP Board. On behalf of all members, he thanked Grant for his contributions to the work of the Board, and to community planning and the Partnership in Angus as a whole.

Grant's successor as College representative on the Board would be Jaki Carnegie.

The Executive Group and the Board would continue to hold joint meetings until the end of this year, during which time consideration would be given as to whether any structural changes to the Partnership should be made.