

**Note of meeting held on Thursday 27th November, 2014**

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| **Present:**  Jenny Laing ACC (Chair)  Cllr Gordon Graham ACC  Cllr Jim Noble ACC  Arthur Forbes Aberdeen Civic Forum  Moyra Mair Regeneration Matters  Fay Morrison Regeneration Matters  Jody Reid Regeneration Matters  Nick Bruce Regeneration Matters  Jackie Burns Regeneration Matters (D)  Leonora Montgomery Regeneration Matters (D)  Linda Smith NHS  Jim Hume Community Safety Inspector  Grampian Police | **In Attendance:**  Dave Kilgour Aberdeen City Council  Anne Knight Aberdeen City Council  Susan Thoms Aberdeen City Council |

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| Agenda Item | Notes | Actions |
| **1. Apologies** | Aileen Davidson Regeneration Matters (Jackie deputising)  Acky Stewart Regeneration Matters (Leonora deputising)  Sylvia Davidson Regeneration Matters  Adrian Watson Police Scotland  Joyce Duncan ACVO  Andy MacLeod Civic Forum  Yvonne Allan ACC |  |
| **2. Note of meeting held on 13th March, 2014** | Notes approved as accurate account of last meeting |  |
| **3. Matters arising** | **Item 3.** Question on whether there would be a cut to the FAF budget for the year 15/16. The final decision for the budget would not be known until the full council meets to agree the budget for 15/16. Jenny confirmed however that, as part of the current administration’s budget proposals for 2015-16, Fairer Aberdeen Fund would not be cut, as previously indicated in the 5 year budget. Members of the Board were very happy with this decision.  **Item 4**. Dave explained that there had been deliberation about longer term funding for projects, for example, 3 year funding. This was a topic that would have to be discussed further with Finance Officers. An option for how we will determine funding projects for 15/16 was discussed. It was decided not to roll out funding to Projects, as last year, but for projects to go through the application process. The process of deliberating on applications would be similar to 12/13 where meetings for each of the priorities would be held. There will be five sub groups set up to consider the applications, these sub groups will have members of the Board, support team and invited relevant advisors to consult on applications. Arthur queried whether the Community Learning & Development Review had been completed and asked whether this would have an influence on decisions made on certain projects. There was uncertainty about when this review would be going to committee.  Item 6. Susan explained that once we had completed the 2nd workshop of the review she would give feed back to the Board. It was decided at the first workshop, which looked at priority areas, that Mastrick would be included as one of the Regeneration areas to receive funding from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. The second workshop would look at membership of the Board and the role of representatives. It was agreed that that 2nd workshop would take place on Saturday, 7th February at Café Coast. | DK to check status and update |
| **4. Annual Report 2013-14** | Susan went through the Annual report with the Board explaining how it gives quantitative as well as qualitative feedback on the funded projects. Susan highlighted that over the year £1,642,000 was awarded to 50 projects and 6 capital developments. A total of 25,285 people were involved in or benefited from funded initiatives and 5,000 of them were under 16 years old. An impressive 943 volunteers contributed 101,625 hours of volunteering time with a value just under £1.5m. It was acknowledged that the Fairer Aberdeen Fund has been used effectively in the regeneration areas since the funding was unringfenced from the Scottish Government.  Jim asked if we knew how the funding had been used in other cities in Scotland since the funding was unringfenced. Anne said she would gather some information on this and forward it for information.  Dave stated that one successful outcome of the funding was the element of community empowerment through local people being involved in the decision making process of allocating funding. The Fairer Aberdeen Board is an excellent example of good practice in community empowerment. The Board members believed that their work should be highlighted to show how effective local people can be in making decisions regarding neighbourhood needs. Arthur spoke of the exemplary work achieved in Station House Media Unit where 16-19 year olds start their course with very little confidence and by the end of their time at SHMU they have a feeling of self-achievement and the confidence to take part in radio shows and actively look for employment. Jenny stated that she had attended the graduation ceremony at SHMU and endorses Arthur’s comment.  Susan explained to the board that the report would be printed and copies sent out to all FAF projects and interested parties. It will also be presented at the next full Council meeting. | AK to provide info  ST to update |
| **5. 6 month report 2014-15** | Susan continued by taking the group through the 6 month report from March – September 2014. It was explained that the majority of projects are on track to achieving their targets; some projects have more than achieved their targets at the half year, for example, Pathways getting people into work. Jim stated he was impressed with the figures shown for the Credit Union, it shows that people are still managing to accumulate savings as well as being able to access low interest loans. Jody remarked that local people were benefiting from CFINE distributing good quality food through their FareShare allocation. |  |
| **6. Financial report** | Susan discussed the financial report with the Board, stating that there was presently an underspend of £84K.  Also discussed was the funding which Northfield Academy had received for the welding course but had returned as it was not spent in the last financial year. The school has now started to work with Balfour Beatty and other firms to develop a Construction Academy for the City which will be based in Northfield Academy. It is anticipated that the firms involved will contribute money to setting it up, in addition to the Fairer Aberdeen funding. Susan explained that she had spoken with the Head Teacher about the project and it will start at the beginning of the school year. It was also mentioned that the Head Teacher will be willing to come to a Board meeting to discuss the project in more detail.  There was discussion on the underspend and it was reported to the board that information from the 6 monthly monitoring reports showed that Aberdeen Mental Health counselling services were stretched and had a number of people on their waiting lists. It was suggested that extra funding could help to reduce the waiting list for this year. The WEA’s monitoring report stated that there were a number of people who could not access some of the courses due to travel costs. A small amount of funding could ensure that fares could be provided for those people who wished to attend sessions but were unable to do so for lack of money.  Another suggestion for the underspend is to ask for applications for capital projects, this was successful last year, and the Board thought this preferable to having an open bidding round, considering there was limited time until the end of the financial year. It was agreed that there was little time to have an open bidding round, the time scale would put projects at a disadvantage as they would be preparing their applications for 2015/16 round of bids. It was mentioned that there was a constraint on applications last year, allowing project to only apply for the same amount of funding they had received the previous year. Although projects are reminded that there is limited funding there will not be the same restriction put on new applications. It was discussed that funding through the Fairer Aberdeen Fund has meant that some projects have been able to apply, and be successful, in receiving match funding from other funding organisations.  The Board were informed of the funding received for the Middlefield area of £1.6 million to expand the Henry Rae Centre to provide new premises for Middlefield Community Project. |  |
| **7. Northfield Welding project update** | Discussion on update in item 6 – Financial Report  Funding for the Welding project was not spent in previous financial year. Work has started on the development of a Construction Academy for the City which will be based in Northfield Academy and it should commence at the beginning of the school year. In addition to the Fairer Aberdeen funding it is anticipated that firms involved will also contribute funding to the set-up of the Academy. |  |
| **8. AOCB** | No AOCB |  |
| **7. Date of next meeting** | Meeting to look at applications for remaining 2014-15 funding: Thursday 15th January 2015, 6pm.  Workshop 2: 7th February 2015, 9.30am. |  |