

ABERDEEN PROSPERS COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN

Note of meeting, 17th December 2018, Elevator @ the Hub

| | In attendance | Apologies |
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| | <p>Jamie Bell (JB), Scottish Enterprise Allison Carrington (AC), Skills Development Scotland (vice-chair) Gregor Docherty (GD), ACC, City Growth Mary Holland (MH), Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce and DYW NE Ishbel Lavery (IL), ACC (lead officer for Aberdeen Prospers) Matt Lockley (ML), ACC, City Growth (chair) Susan Morrison (SM), ACVO Jonathan Smith (JS), Aberdeen Civic Forum Roz Taylor (RT), Elevator Paul Tytler (PT), ACC, Localities Terri Vogt (TV), Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce and Circular Economy Paul Walsh (PW), DWP Elspeth Winram (EW), ACC, Culture</p> | <p>Duncan Abernethy (DA), Nescol Derick Murray, NESTRANS Rab Dickson, NESTRANS Mark Bremner, ACC Duncan Cockburn (DC), RGU and Cultural Network Joyce Duncan (JD), ACVO Kirsty Jarman (KJ), Department for Work and Pensions Lavina Massie (LM), Aberdeen Civic Forum</p> |
| | Item | Action points |
| 1 | <p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Matt welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Roz and Elevator for hosting at their impressive new facility. Apologies were noted (as above). Matt also thanked Mary and Terri for agreeing to come along today to explore opportunities around the Developing the Young Workforce and Circular Economy agendas.</p> | |

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| 2 | <p>Notes of last meeting, actions</p> <p>The notes of the last meeting were agreed. All actions were in progress or covered by today's agenda.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>LOIP stocktake and latest draft</p> <p>Matt thanked colleagues and partners for their work and input to date on the refresh to the Aberdeen Prospers section of the LOIP. He set out the latest timelines for this to be signed off – an additional meeting of the Community Planning Aberdeen Board has been set for 10th January, at which point the Board would be asked to approve the refreshed LOIP. Today's meeting was therefore the last real opportunity for the group to discuss and finalise its section of the LOIP.</p> <p>Matt talked through some feedback on the refreshed Aberdeen Prospers aims from the chair of the CPA Management Group. This feedback focussed on four distinct areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of reference to Brexit and the potential impacts on the economy and local communities; • Whether the stretch aims were stretching enough; • Lack of any improvement proposals around digital skills; • Lack of reference to the older workforce and improvement activity to support their participation in the labour market <p>The group discussed the economic context for the stretch aims and the rationale for retaining them as proposed. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a relatively tight labour market and an ageing population, meaning that the stretch aim around increasing employment in growth sectors would be challenging; | |

- Most forecasts predict 'lost' growth of around 3% per year for the 10 years following Brexit and this had to be taken into account;
- The growth sectors identified didn't include health and social care or construction which would provide significant volume of new jobs. Agreed to work these in to the stretch aim if possible as this would impact the absolute number of people into employment in growth sectors and provide more of a 'stretch';
- On Brexit, the overall feeling in the group was that due to the significant uncertainty, it was not possible to add in anything specific to the improvement aims but that more context could be added to the narrative at the start of the Aberdeen Prospers section, referencing the fact that Aberdeen Prospers would monitor the implications of Brexit and be flexible in its responses;
- On older workforce, this was in response to an issue being raised by a community member who had attended the stocktake event in September. Several members of the group had been involved in subsequent discussions on this and it was agreed that older people (categorised as 50+) could be included as a distinct target group in the inclusive growth section of the plan;
- For digital skills, SDS were leading some work on this through the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership and Matt suggested that Allison provide some wording for an improvement aim here;
- On the living wage target, again there had been some challenge from the chair of the Management Board as to whether this was stretching enough. The group considered this challenge and reflected that achieving 90% would be stretching given the local economic context and the number of <25s and apprentices in the labour market, who wouldn't automatically attract the living wage

Other comments and input were captured and will be reflected in the final version of the Aberdeen Prospers section of the LOIP.

AGREED to retain 10% increase as target for employment in growth sectors but to revise sector list to include health and social care and construction

AGREED that additional context be added

AGREED to add additional wording / priority for older workforce

AGREED to retain the target as it stands

Matt to circulate final version asap for any late comments.

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| <p>4</p> | <p>Identifying improvement leads</p> <p>In addition to finalising the LOIP it is also important that lead organisations are identified to take forward improvement activity under each of the ‘improvement aim’ headings. Matt stressed that this didn’t all have to happen at once but that over the course of the next 6-9 months, the group would need lead organisations to come back with some proposals for improvement activity and timelines that it could then consider and endorse.</p> <p>The group then considered each of the improvement aims in turn and agreed relevant lead organisations.</p> | <p><i>Matt to circulate revised LOIP.</i></p> <p><i>Some leads were identified who were not in attendance so please ensure that you read through the version of the LOIP that includes the ‘lead agency’ column.</i></p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>Developing the Young Workforce North East (DYWNE)</p> <p>Matt thanked Mary for waiting to speak about DYWNE and said that he hoped she had found the discussion useful as an introduction to Aberdeen Prospers and where there might be opportunities for DYW and Aberdeen Prospers improvement projects to work together.</p> <p>Mary gave an overview of DYWNE activities to date and priorities going forward. She spoke about the strategic and flagship partnerships that DYW was brokering between employers and schools across the city region and some of the targeting that is being factored in to future developments (i.e. looking at STEM issues and focus on the hospitality sector). Employers are showing a willingness to engage and to offer a wide variety of support to schools in terms of preparing their pupils for the world of work.</p> <p>DYW’s work with the hospitality sector (through the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Hotels Association) could perhaps be a template for other sectors, which would align with the focus of the Aberdeen Prospers group. Tourism and food and drink in particular are areas of focus for DYW and DYW could engage with some of the proposed improvement activity in these areas.</p> | <p><i>ACTION: as appropriate, lead organisations for improvement activity invite Mary and the DYW team to get involved with project development.</i></p> |

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| | <p>Mary also spoke about Foundation Apprenticeships and the work that DYW is doing with schools and employers to promote these. Mary is currently working on a project to deliver the 'Biggest Parents' Evening' in March 2019 which would be a springboard for Foundation Apprenticeships and encourage parents and young people to consider them as an alternative option during their senior phase. Aberdeen City Council is supporting the roll-out of Foundation Apprenticeships across the city with Nescol and DYW.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Circular Economy</p> <p>Matt reiterated thanks to Terri for sitting through the first half of the meeting. Terri had been invited on the back of previous discussions in the group about the Circular Economy and a city-wide event that had been held earlier in the month by Beautiful Aberdeen.</p> <p>Terri gave an overview of the Circular Economy for the group and then talked about some of the specific projects she is supporting. The Chamber of Commerce is contracted to deliver Circular Economy activity as part of an arrangement with Zero Waste Scotland and the Scottish Government. Terri is working with a number of companies who have innovative ideas about removing waste from the industrial / commercial cycle and using it to create new products. She highlighted a company that is working with obsolete IT equipment and others working with food and agricultural production waste. She also noted that the North East of Scotland has the highest amount of biological waste in the country as a result of fish processing and that there were commercial opportunities here too.</p> <p>The Circular Economy initiative is pitched as something to support business development and growth and does therefore read across to the work of Aberdeen Prospers, and in particular the stretch aim about increasing employment in growth sectors. There is also an obvious link to locality activity as the Circular Economy fits well with local, sustainable economic development solutions. The group briefly</p> | <p><i>ACTION:</i> as appropriate, lead organisations for improvement activity invite Terri to get involved with project development.</p> |

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| | <p>discussed social enterprise opportunities and recognised that there were potentially some things to explore here.</p> <p>Terri also explained that there is some (not insignificant) funding attached to the Circular Economy programme and that companies (including social enterprises and charities) could receive up to 30 days' consultancy support in the first instance. This could then lead to grant applications for sums between £50,000 and £1million. The group agreed to promote this opportunity (particularly around localities) and encourage businesses and social enterprises to look at it.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>AOB / DONM</p> <p>Allison and Jamie mentioned the (separate) conversations they had had with Averil Webster about employment for the older workforce (referenced above in item on LOIP). Paul said that the DWP is currently out to tender for some local work to support over 50s back into the workplace and that this could form the basis of some improvement activity going forward. There was also a discussion about whether an employer event would be useful.</p> <p>Jonathan suggested that there could be a wider focus on inequality and access to finance, per the recommendations from the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee. This needs further consideration. Jonathan also raised the Scotland is Now funding that Dundee and Edinburgh have secured and encouraged Aberdeen to look to do the same.</p> <p>Susan reminded the group about the work of the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Group and its project on employability and work experience for people with convictions. Noted that there are strong links to Aberdeen Prospers for this work and opportunities for the two groups to mutually benefit.</p> <p>Date of next meeting – w/c 25th February – Matt to circulate date. Offers to host gratefully received.</p> | <p><i>ACTION:</i> Matt to discuss further with Allison and Jamie re next steps and internally with ACC as various folk involved.</p> <p><i>ACTION:</i> Jonathan to provide further details on this.</p> |

