

Community Empowerment Group
 Thursday 29th January 2024, 2-4 pm

Member	Present
Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council (Chair)	Apologies
Allison Swanson	Apologies
Maggie Hepburn, ACVO (Vice Chair)	
Claire Smith, Police Scotland	
Dave Black, SHMU	
Susan Thoms, ACC	
Colin Wright, ACC	Apologies
Martin Wyllie, ACC	
Elaine McConnachie, NHSG	
Iain Robertson, ACHSCP	Apologies
Margaret Stewart, ACC	
Anne McAteer, ACC	
Jade Leyden, ACC	
Murray Dawson, SHMU	Apologies
Allison Swanson, ACC	
Carol Hannaford, ACC	
Maria Jose Pavez, GREC	Apologies
Bea Dawkins, HDRC	

Item	Title	Lead	Notes/ Actions	Responsibility
1.	Welcome & Apologies	All	Apologies noted as above.	
2.	Actions from meeting 25th January	All	<p>Actions from the last meeting were marked as complete or will be considered on todays agenda with the exception of the following:</p> <p>Follow up meeting between Bea Maggie and Susan to discuss the Consultations and how they are managed. This meeting has been arranged for the week of the 4th March and an update will be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>Dave Black asked for the Community Empowerment Network to be added as another item (8) to the agenda for today.</p> <p>The minute was agreed by the group.</p>	MH/BD/ST

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3.	S016 Project Exceptions	All	<p>The City Voice Project is in its last few months and Dave Black asked if there were any opportunities for an invitation to participate in City Voice could be sent out via any paper-based method as a way to recruit to the City Voice panel. It was discussed that paper-based mail from the City Council tends to be bills, such as council tax or rent increases.</p> <p>Margaret let the group know that the libraries have a “What’s on” leaflet which is physically printed, and it is also available electronically, and there is potential to have a page on Community Empowerment in that publication.</p> <p>Carol Hannaford suggested that there could be link to City Voice put into the monthly gov.notify email to the 13,200 tenants. Carol said that she would take that forward, Anne agreed to send information to Carol for actioning.</p>	CH/ AM
4.	4.LOIP Refresh: update on feedback following the public consultation	All	<p>The group discussed this document together and considered the responses in reference to this particular group.</p> <p>There was a group discussion on the learning from this process, and the group looked at the specific parts of the document that specifically referenced community empowerment. In response to that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret mentioned that through the libraries they are thinking of setting up a digital inclusion group and would be happy to hear from others about anything that they might be able to contribute to that. • Community spaces – Elaine did some work last year about cost of living, and it was found that access to community spaces was becoming a barrier and we have been asked to take that paper to the NE Population Health Alliance and Michelle is on the steering group, and so we have been asked to take that through that group too – noting a common theme. • Jade noted that in the locality plans digital inclusion comes through strongly and raised that generally we should be trying to make things as digitally accessible as possible. • Maggie raised that ACVO have a community spaces page on our website. • Maggie asked for any other points to be shared back to her for collating as part of the minutes. 	All
5.	Digital Inclusion findings so far – Presentation from Martin	MW	<p>Martin delivered his presentation which was well received and posed the questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should the CPA proceed? • Development of a CPA strategy? • Add a section to Community Empowerment Strategy? • Do nothing? Or Something else? 	

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			<p>Questions from the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave asked about the City Voice feedback and asked if it was a generational or poverty issue? Anne went through some of the figures from the last City Voice report to clarify. • Dave suggested a one page of principles as an appendix to the CE strategy. • Elaine spoke about the cost of living work being done by her team last year and the cost of broadband for young people came up and how with difficult choices being made this was lower in priorities. • Margaret let the group know that the library service has seen an uptake in PC use, and an increase in people coming in with their own devices to access the wi-fi. In relation to the digital strategy Margaret suggested looking at the national digital strategy – A Changing Nation. Suggests that there may be some things that we can refer to nationally. Margaret agreed with the idea of a set of principles. • Martin found doing the research very interesting and sometimes surprising and would value a coherent view of how many people are excluded in the City, where are they and where can we signpost them to the best information that might help them become more included. Martin suggests an additional page to the existing strategy. • Susan would like to have information of social tariffs for groups of organisations she works with, and suggests it should be readily available possibly on the cost of living webpage on the council website. Martin offered to send this round, Colin included a reference to this in the chat. • A page to be added to the Community Empowerment Strategy in the future. Martin to speak to Michelle about adding the page to the strategy. 	MW
6.	Community Asset Transfer	MH	<p>Maggie shared information about ACVO's new web page on Community Asset transfer, which is the beginning of a journey. There is a hope that partners can suggest additional information which can be added to the site and use it as a springboard to have further conversations about the best kind of help and support for those undergoing Community Asset Transfer processes.</p> <p>Questions: Dave raised this point that we can advertise processes, but if the processes are not working well where is our responsibility in that? How can we engage partners properly and what is the role of the CEG in this work? Speak to Sandy and make a plan to speak to Kate at the City Council to find out whether there are any improvements that they can suggest that can be incorporated into the website.</p>	MH/ST

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			<p>Susan Thoms has been part of this process with a community group and offered to connect their Chair with Sandy for learning about the process.</p> <p>Dave offered the information that as part of the Celebrating Communities Project Shmu are starting a show on inspirational project within communities, and he would like community asset transfer as a theme. The first show is due to go out late March / early April. The group thought this was a good idea.</p>	
7	Joint Grampian Engagement Network / Community Empowerment Group meeting proposal	DB/EM	<p>Elaine advised that there are plans to have a session on the community paradigm, which has been tested out in North Aberdeenshire with The Kings Fund as a learning partner. There is growing interest in this as an approach, and Dave Black shared some documents around this. We would like to share information and grow momentum around this – could we have a joint session at the next CEG meeting to showcase some of the work already done?</p> <p>It was agreed that the invitation should go out to a wider audience. Dave and Elaine to decide what shape of event they wish and to approach partners for access to relevant distribution lists.</p> <p>The group were happy with this idea and agreed that the next meeting should go ahead as a learning session.</p> <p>Additional item 8 – Dave asked about the future of the Community Empowerment Network, but it was felt that it may be more useful to have Michelle present for a fuller discussion on this – defer for a future meeting to discuss this and make a plan for the future. Dave agreed to do a one page proposal about how the Community Empowerment Network may evolve.</p>	<p>DB/EM</p> <p>All DB</p>
	AOCB		<p>Margaret let the group know that the CEG and CLD planned sessions had to be rescheduled and information will be coming out about these rescheduled meetings, and thanks to those who contributed feedback to the CLD plan.</p>	MS
9.	Date of next meeting	All	The date of the next meeting is 28 th March	