

**CITY CENTRE REGENERATION WORKING GROUP
MINUTE OF MEETING OF 17 FEBRUARY 2015**

In attendance: Councillor Boulton, Chair; Councillors Laing, McCaig, Thomson, Yuill and Young; Bob Collier, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce; Colin Crosby, ACSEF, Steve Harris, Visit Aberdeen; Richard Noble, Aberdeen Inspired and Derek McCrindle, Scottish Enterprise. Officers –Angela Scott, Takki Sulaiman, Louise MacSween, Andrew Win, and Lynsey McBain.

Also in attendance: Scott Mackenzie and Christian Nielsen, BDP; Malcolm Hewines, Montagu Evans; Chris Paddock, Regenerus Consulting and Russell Henderson, AECOM.

No.	Agenda Item	Notes of Discussion	Action / Decisions	By Whom
1.	Welcome & Apologies	Apologies were received from David Leslie, Aberdeen City Council and Professor Ferdinand Von Prondzynski, Robert Gordon University.	Noted	
2.	Minute of Previous Meeting of 28 November 2014	Bob Collier highlighted that item 2 was not accurate and as a result meant that the minute was not correct as stated at item 3. The Chairperson indicated that at item 4 of the minute, Feedback from City Centre Working Group members, the event was held in Cults and not Culter.	Note the comments. Minute agreed. Amend minute of previous meeting	L McBain L McBain
3.	Draft Masterplan and Delivery Programme	The Working Group received a presentation from BDP which contained information on the Draft Masterplan and Delivery Programme for Aberdeen. Before the presentation commenced, Scott explained that over the last 6 months they had worked to collate people's views and feedback on the changes needed to Aberdeen and advised that this was the first version of the Masterplan which was confidential. <u>PRESENTATION</u> Scott explained that for phase 1 was to re-energise the		

No.	Agenda Item	Notes of Discussion	Action / Decisions	By Whom
		<p>city centre and advised that the Masterplan needed to be bold, vibrant, ambitious and particular to Aberdeen. This would be a 20 year programme and had to be robust, costed and an achievable delivery programme. They aimed to achieve economic prosperity, creating jobs and bringing people back to live, work and socialise in the city centre. The vision was for Aberdeen to be “A city centre for a global city.”</p> <p>The presentation then focused on strategic policy themes which had been developed, namely economy, community, environment and infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Economy</u> – the city centre should be the heart of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire economy and the economic strategy recognises that a mix of interventions would bring together a broad constituency of partners. It was noted that the tourism sector was required to be worked on.</p> <p><u>Community – a city for people</u> – aimed to create a more desirable and inclusive city centre where more people would choose city living, improve the retail environment, create a public service hub and also improve the culture and leisure facilities.</p> <p><u>Environment – Light of the North</u> – aimed to conserve and enhance buildings by using special lighting.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure – The Connected City</u> – Russell Henderson explained that the focus within the city centre would be for walking and cycling. At the moment the city centre is easily accessible for cars but not ideal for people on foot. It was noted that in Scotland,</p>		

No.	Agenda Item	Notes of Discussion	Action / Decisions	By Whom
		<p>people felt that pedestrianisation was better and more enjoyable. In regards to infrastructure, it was explained that various things would be looked at:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-imagine car movement within the city centre • Pedestrian and cycle friendly streets • Improve bus travel • Expand the rail network • Ensure a resilient utilities infrastructure. <p>Finally Russell advised that they were not looking to exclude cars from the city centre but to restrict where they could go.</p> <p><u>MASTERPLAN</u></p> <p>Christian Nielsen then spoke the Working Group through the various options that were being proposed in regards to the city centre Masterplan. Proposed changes included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's Square • Castlegate/Castehill • South Dee • Denburn Valley • Hotel Academy • Woolmanhill <p>Malcolm Hewines, Montagu Evans then spoke the Working Group through the delivery plan for the Masterplan and advised that there would be many delivery agents to the Masterplan and highlighted how all of these partners would be required to work together for the effective delivery of the plan. Delivery agents included Aberdeen City Council, Scottish Government, NESTRANS, Scottish Enterprise, developers, landowners and the community. Malcolm also</p>		

No.	Agenda Item	Notes of Discussion	Action / Decisions	By Whom
		<p>explained how all of the projects totalled over £1billion and highlighted that there were more than 10 major projects being proposed.</p> <p><u>QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>Following the presentation, members of the Working Group asked a number of questions in regards to the proposals. Members queried whether the plan was too big and whether it should be concentrating on fewer changes. Scott MacKenzie explained that all of the proposals have come from listening to the public and asking what changes they wanted to see within the city centre. Scott once again highlighted that this was the first draft of the plan, with 33 proposals, however indicated that not all of these proposals would go any further.</p> <p>Councillor Ross Thompson queried how it would be possible to demonstrate the 33 different proposals to the public during the consultation exercise,</p> <p>Councillor McCaig questioned why the beach was not included in the plan. Scott explained that whilst they aimed to improve connections to the beach, the city centre stops at the beach and suggested that a beach Masterplan be looked into at a later date.</p> <p>Various members showed their support for the plan. Bob Collier suggested that some of the proposals be mixed together to cut the number down from 33.</p> <p>Councillor Young questioned where the proposals had come from and if it was officers suggestions or had a lot of it came from talking to the public. Malcolm indicated</p>		

No.	Agenda Item	Notes of Discussion	Action / Decisions	By Whom
		<p>that it was a mixing pot and explained that following the consultation period, changes could be made to the Masterplan. Scott advised that the themes and objectives had come from previous consultation and they went away and developed them based on what had been suggested.</p> <p>Colin Crosby asked various questions in regards to the transportation aspect and was unsure how to get people into the city centre again to use facilities if cars were not allowed.</p> <p>Richard Noble commended the amount of information presentation to the Working Group and asked whether BDP were looking for feedback from members. Andrew Win explained that there was a three week window before the public consultation would commence, and highlighted how council officers were working alongside BDP. Members then asked how they could feed into the proposals and it was suggested that members contact Louise MacSween directly to provide feedback. Louise explained that she would be available to go through the proposals again with members should they wish it, as the presentation would not be made available at this stage. The clerk agreed to email the members with Louise MacSween's contact details and they would get in touch with Louise in regards to feedback and going through the proposals.</p> <p>Finally discussions focused on the media and how the Masterplan would be presented to the press. Takki Sulaiman, Head of Communications and Promotions spoke to the Working Group about the use of the media and how the council website could be used during</p>	<p>The clerk to email all members with Louise MacSween contact details.</p> <p>Members to contact Louise with any feedback</p>	<p>L McBain</p> <p>All members</p>

No.	Agenda Item	Notes of Discussion	Action / Decisions	By Whom
		<p>consultation.</p> <p>Councillor Boulton concluded the meeting by providing a summary of the meeting. She explained (1) that not one particular person was responsible for the Masterplan and that lots of stakeholders were involved; (2) that the beach had to be removed from the city centre Masterplan as it was unmanageable and (3) advised that there was a lot to be commended.</p> <p>Councillor Boulton thanked everyone for their hard work to date.</p>		
4.	Date of Next Meeting – 2.00pm, Tuesday 21 April 2015			