

THE ABERDEEN CITY ALLIANCE

MINUTE OF MEETING OF 3 FEBRUARY, 2010

In attendance:-

Lavina Massie, Chairperson
Heather Kelman, Vice-Chairperson
Councillors Crockett, Donnelly, Graham, Malone, Noble, Penny and Kirsty West (substituting for Councillor McDonald) Aberdeen City Council
Councillor Leslie, Chair of Children and Young People's Strategic Planning Group (C&YPSPG)
Councillor Malone, Chair of Locality Planning Forum (from Item 6 onwards)
Val Tweedie (substituting for Bill Howatson), Community Health Partnership
Dave Valentine, Chair of Community Engagement
Sandy Murray, Chair of Homes Forum
Arthur Forbes, Andy Finlayson, David Henderson and Ross Grant (substituting for Allan McIntosh), Civic Forum
David Rout, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service
Jamie Bell (substituting for Maggie McGinlay) Scottish Enterprise
Chief Superintendent Adrian Watson, Grampian Police
Derick Murray, NESTRANS
Lesley Wilkie, NHS Grampian
John Michie, ACCA
Duncan Cockburn, Robert Gordon University
Joan Thorne (substituting for Sandra Walker) Aberdeen College
Ian Paterson, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
Robert Collier, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Godfrey Brown (substituting for Shaunagh Kirby), University of Aberdeen

Also present:-

Abdul Latif, Aberdeen Mosque
Pauline Gerrard, ACVO
David Rodger, Kath Beveridge, Annette Bruton, Mark Armstrong, Sohail Faruqi, Lillias Leighton, Fred McBride, Rhona Atkinson, Rona Benzies, Susan Summers, Allison Swanson and Lynsey Davidson, Aberdeen City Council.

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1. Apologies	Apologies were intimated on behalf of Andy Willox, John Stewart, Richard Carey, Maggie McGinlay, Councillor McDonald, Fletcher and Leslie, Bill Howatson, Stewart Carruth, Sandra Walker, Sue Bruce, Gerry Donald and Stephen Taylor.	

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2. Welcome	The Chairperson welcomed Dr Lesley Wilkie to her first meeting of the Alliance in her capacity as the representative of NHS Grampian, following Heather Kelman's appointment of Vice-Chairperson.	
3. Minute of TACA of 25 th November 2009	Minute approved.	
4. Minute of Meeting of the Executive Group of 19 th January 2010	Minute noted.	
5. Chairperson's Progress Report	<p>With reference to article 6 of the minute of its previous meeting, the Alliance had before it a report submitted by the Chairperson which updated the Alliance on the current position with, and actions being taken by the Executive Group regarding a number of items of business.</p> <p>With regards identifying priorities for the Alliance, the report advised that to date a mapping exercise had been completed which identified all partners' strategic priorities, and that the Executive Group had agreed that a more focused approach to priorities would be beneficial to all partners in achieving the desired results whilst reducing duplication. As such it was agreed that over the next eight weeks a strategic assessment would be undertaken to identify the priority issues for Aberdeen. This approach would provide a robust, evidence led basis for establishing 'high risk' issues. All statutory partners had indicated their commitment and support for the strategic assessment to be taken forward. An interim report on the outcomes of the assessment would be submitted to the next meeting of the Alliance for consideration.</p> <p>Secondly, in relation to the city regeneration strategy, the report highlighted that the regeneration agenda in the city had consistently been raised as a concern at a number of recent meetings. As such the Executive Group had agreed that this issue be discussed at the next themed workshop on 'Safer and Stronger' on 18 March, 2010, to which lead officers had been requested to attend to present an update on the current situation. The report also provided a brief update outlining the physical and socio/economic regeneration activity which was currently ongoing. The main aspects highlighter were:- that the Council had established a Housing New Build Project Board to progress the delivery of 344 new council houses for the City; that the Council's re-submission to the 'Kickstart New Build Council House' programme had been successful in attracting £1.95million towards support for the first phase of the</p>	

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	<p>new build programme; the first phase of the new build programme focused on three sites, Hayton Road, Byron Park and Rorie Hall; and that via the Fairer Scotland Fund Board new programmes of work had been agreed in relation to tackling poverty through improved financial inclusion services, employability and health services alongside continued support for community and neighbourhood based initiatives located in priority regeneration neighbourhoods.</p> <p>The report recommended:- that the Alliance –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) note the progress of the Aberdeen City Alliance to November 2009; and (b) note that an update regarding the City Regeneration Strategy would be provided at the next Alliance meeting on 18 March, 2010, under the 'Safer and Stronger' themed workshop. <p>The Alliance resolved:- to approve the recommendations.</p>	David Rodger
6. Proposed Constitution and Standing Orders	<p>With reference to article 5 of the minute of the Executive Group of 19th January, the Alliance had before it a report prepared by Democratic Services which presented a proposed constitution and set of standing orders for the Alliance, for approval.</p> <p>The report advised that the proposed constitution document reflected the current roles, aims and objectives of the Alliance, the Executive Group and the Challenge Forums, that the Alliance as a Community Planning Partnership had agreed to date.</p> <p>By way of background, the report advised that the Executive Group on 19th September 2009, had considered the constitution and standing orders, and had highlighted that on compilation of the constitution which reflected the current arrangements, it had become apparent that certain aspects needed to be updated, in particular the role of the Executive Group and Challenge Forums. In addition it was noted that ongoing pieces of work such as the review of the Challenge Forums and the identification of priorities for the Alliance etc would impact on the constitution. In light of this position the Executive Group requested that following the approval of the current constitution and standing orders, that the Executive Group and appropriate Boards etc review certain aspects of the constitution in tandem with ongoing pieces of work, and thereafter present proposed amendments to the Alliance in due course.</p>	

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	<p>Speaking in furtherance of the report, the chairperson (a) sought approval from partners to formally accept the draft piece of work before them and (b) advised that partners should provide any comments or proposed amendments or additions to the constitution to the Clerk by the end of February, 2010.</p> <p>The report recommended:- that the Alliance –</p> <p>(a) consider and approve the proposed constitution and standing orders; and (b) request that the Executive Group, in tandem with ongoing pieces of work, review certain aspects of the constitution and report back to the Alliance with proposals in due course.</p> <p><u>The Alliance resolved:-</u> (i) to approve the recommendations; and (ii) to request all partners to submit any comments or proposed amendments or additions to the constitution to the Clerk by the end of February, 2010.</p>	<p>A Swanson All Partners</p>
<p>7. Collaborating for Outcomes in the Public Sector</p>	<p>The Alliance had before it a briefing paper for information prepared by Kath Beveridge, which had been submitted to the Scottish Government's Implementation Group, to provide an overview of the outcome of the Collaborating for Outcomes Event which had been hosted by the Council, in conjunction with the Alliance, in December 2009.</p> <p>The paper explained that the Council had hosted the final module which had focused on bringing the learning together from the other modules, through an in depth peer review of how Aberdeen was approaching the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) by focussing on five 'wicked' problems facing the city. The wicked issues had been identified through forums and partnerships of TACA, which included the Community Health Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, NESTRANS and ACSEF and were identified as the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change – what a waste • Closing the Gap (in educational attainment) • Delivering transport outcomes – healthy travel • Neighbourhood planning – engaging communities 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol and cultural change <p>The paper outlined the various outcomes for Aberdeen and the Alliance, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of actions for each problem owner which stemmed from the specific feedback; • The Alliance agenda was now focused on one outcome with input from each partnership and partner as to how they could add value; • Identification of the need to address the fragmentation and complexity of the partnership landscape; • The need to determine the key priorities where the Alliance could create collaborative advantage and add value to the work of the individual partnerships; • Sharpening the evidence base for action and the performance measurement and reporting of progress at a city wide and local level; • Reframing the wicked issues would deliver different possibilities for action by wider stakeholder group; • Securing senior level direction and leadership within the Alliance to strengthen accountability for delivery of the SOA at agency and partnership level and to sharpen up on roles and responsibilities; and • More effort to bring and develop the common wisdom about the key issues in the SOA and an agreement about 'the way we work' and to develop ownership of this lead strategy in the city and wider region with other local authorities in the north East. <p>There followed discussion regarding the event and the positive outcomes for each of the 'wicked issues' wherein Kath Beveridge clarifies that a 'wicked' issue was an issue which could not be resolved by one agency alone.</p> <p>The report recommended:- that the Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) note the identified outcomes for Aberdeen and the City Alliance as a result of hosting the Collaborating For Outcomes Conference in December 2009; and (b) agree that the respective case owners who facilitated the 'wicked issue' sessions, attend a future meeting of the Alliance to report on actions that had been planned following the Conference. 	

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	<p><u>The Alliance resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to note the information provided; and</p> <p>(ii) to request that an interim paper be brought to the next meeting of the Alliance on 18 March, 2010.</p>	Kath Beveridge
8. Fairer Scotland Fund Thematic Report	<p>The Alliance had before it for information, a report which provided a performance summary for the three thematic programmes agreed by the Fairer Scotland Fund Board for the period April – October 2009.</p> <p>The report advised that the Fairer Scotland Fund Board had identified several priority areas for investment for the Fund in the financial year 2009/10, and had requested a series of strategic proposals for thematic allocation be developed in consultation with stakeholders. The Board had agreed to allocate funding to the following identified:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financial Inclusion - £350,000 ○ Health - £342,000 ○ Literacy's - £100,000 <p>Appended to the report was performance summaries for the three priorities, which highlighted the quarter 2 target, the actual spend and whether progress had been made or not in relation to the performance of the priority.</p> <p>With regards to the Financial Inclusion performance it was advised that 8 of the 9 performance indicators had improved, 6 from 8 of the health performance indicators had improved and 2 had stayed constant, whilst none of the four literacy performance indicators had improved.</p> <p>There followed discussion regarding the future funding and dispersion of the Fund, during which it was requested that a report on this matter be submitted to the Alliance following the Council's budget meeting on 11 February, 2010.</p> <p><u>The Alliance resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to note the information provided ; and</p> <p>(ii) to request that a paper on the future funding of the Fairer Scotland Fund be submitted to the Alliance at its meeting on 18 March, 2010.</p>	David Rodger/Dave Kilgour

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9. Grampian Fire & Rescue Consultation and Engagement Policy and Procedures	<p>The Alliance had before it for information, a report entitled “Grampian Fire and Rescue Service Consultation and Engagement Policy” prepared by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS). The report outlined the consultation process that was used by the service, and aimed to ensure all consultation and engagement undertaken by the service was efficient, effective and consistent.</p> <p>The paper had been made available in order for all partners and challenge forums to be aware of the procedures adopted by GFRS with regards to community consultation.</p> <p><u>The Alliance resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to note the information provided; and</p> <p>(ii) to note that the paper would form part of the next themed workshop on ‘Safer and Stronger’ to be discussed at the Alliance meeting on 18 March, 2010.</p>	
10. Fire Deaths in Scotland	<p>The Alliance had before it for information a paper from the Scottish Government which outlined the findings of a study which examined how to reduce deaths and injuries caused by fire in Scotland; the study that had been undertaken by Brian Sweeney, Chief Fire Officer. The study was carried out over a six month period and examined the wide range of issues which characterise Scotland’s relationship with fire.</p> <p>The report considered the following four key areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the key reasons why Scotland had a higher number of fire deaths and casualties compared to other countries? • What were the key reasons why Scotland suffered an increasing number of secondary fires? • What initiatives were in place to combat these issues? • How could the Scottish Government and Local Government work collaboratively to develop and implement good practice to improve community fire safety? <p>The report concluded that (a) fire deaths were dominated by two main causes; smokers’ materials and cooking appliances (b) in 73% of fire deaths incidents, the fire was started in either the living room or the kitchen (c) health and social factors were identified as key indicators in identifying individuals or groups that may be at risk from</p>	

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	<p>fire (d) alcohol consumption, smoking, mental health and mobility issues all contribute to fire deaths and (e) partnership working and joint working could be strengthened to help reduce fatalities.</p> <p><u>The Alliance resolved:-</u> to note the information provided.</p>	
11. Progress of Business Statement	<p>The Alliance had before it the latest version of the progress of business statement, which tracked the latest position with a number of pending and outstanding items of business.</p> <p><u>The Alliance resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) in relation to item 2 (Public Safety in the City Centre) to note that as agreed by the Alliance at its last meeting Neil Carnegie, Community Safety Manager, and Cheryl Smith, Safer Aberdeen Programme Manager, had attended the last meeting of the Executive Group to discuss how the Action Plan (previously presented to the Alliance) could be progressed; and that an updated action plan detailing indicative timescales for each action, and highlighting the actions which could not be progressed solely by the Community Planning Partnership would be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Group and thereafter to the Alliance; and</p> <p>(ii) in relation to item 5 (Final draft of the SOA) the chairperson advised that an interim report of the performance on this year's SOA was required, and therefore requested that the Head of Performance Management and Quality Assurance submit an interim report on the performance of the SOA to date to the next meeting of the Alliance on 18 March, 2010.</p>	<p>Neil Carnegie/Cheryl Smith</p> <p>M Murchie</p>
12. Smarter Themed Workshop	<p>The Alliance had before it a summary paper prepared by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport, Aberdeen City Council, which provided background information relating to the work currently being carried out by the service in order to give meaning to the shared ambition for Aberdeen to be a City of Learning.</p> <p>The report outlined the work that the Education service had undertaken the previous year in relation to the proposed Learning Strategy and the consultation carried out highlighted the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general vision, the principles and the priorities commanded support from 	

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	<p>stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More needed to be done to engage with tertiary and higher education, with partners in the voluntary sector and with business and industry to develop the vision so that it is better understood and more ambitious • More work was required to be done to make clear the strategy how they deliver the medium and longer term objectives • The Strategy needed to set out more clearly how they would provide not only the best learning opportunities for individuals but also how they would contribute in real terms to the wealth, economy and regeneration of Aberdeen City. • The level of response to the consultation did not match the aspirations held for such an engagement process and therefore concluded that more comprehensive response and engagement was essential to ensure implementation. <p>The report went on to advise that the Council was currently finalising a further round of engagement with stakeholders and highlighted that the earlier draft of the Learning Strategy had set out eight priorities, however it was now proposed that a further 2 be added to allow a more explicit focus on two critical areas of work and help to secure a more effective alignment with the Single Outcome Agreement and the Corporate Business Plan. The ten priorities set out in the new Aberdeen Learning Strategy were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Curriculum for Excellence ○ Helping those with different needs ○ Working together ○ Learning in the wider community ○ Fit-for-purpose schools/learning centres ○ Technology ○ Skilled and trained staff ○ Value for money ○ Community health and well being ○ Community engagement in culture, arts and heritage <p>The report before the Alliance outlined the desired outcomes for the future learning of Aberdeen but advised that these were the subject of on-going debate, however they</p>	

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	<p>were identified as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased recognition of the importance of learning throughout life • Enhanced access to learning opportunities for at risk, disadvantaged and marginalised community members and groups • Higher staying on and course completion rates for pupils/students • Greater levels of literacy and numeracy • Increased access to and use of learning technologies • Increased citizen engagement and social inclusion • Increased recognition of and support for minority ethnic communities alongside a celebration and promotion for our Scottish heritage; and • Greater collaboration among educators and trainers <p>The report indicated that the desired outcomes would contribute to the social, economic and environmental well being of the city and its residents.</p> <p>The Alliance heard from Mrs. Annette Bruton, the Director of Education, Culture and Sport, Aberdeen City Council, who provided an introduction to the workshop session wherein she advised that the session would focus on providing the Alliance with an update on the current position with the Council's Learning Strategy and the development of community learning hubs, as well as identifying areas within the strategy and 'wicked issues' faced by the city under this theme such as 'closing the gap', which partners could help progress.</p> <p>In terms of the Council's draft Learning Strategy, the Director explained that initial consultation on the draft strategy had been undertaken last year in tandem with the Council's estate strategy. As such the majority of responses received had focused on the estates strategy rather than the broader learning strategy. In light of this position the Council's Education, Culture and Sport Committee agreed that further consultation on the strategy be undertaken. Thereafter, the Director highlighted the current position of the strategy and provided an overview of the scope of learning within the document and highlighted that the Council's vision was that learning was a lifelong experience that involved both formal and informal learning and should include everyone from children and young people to adults, both in and out of employment. Finally, the Director highlighted the importance of partners engaging with the Service and providing input into the document. Mrs Bruton thanked the Alliance for allowing the education service the opportunity to engage with partners and requested that any</p>	

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	<p>feedback about any of the items discussed, be fed back directly to the service.</p> <p>Thereafter, Sohail Faruqi and Lillias Leighton provided a brief update on the steps taken to date by the Service to develop the Learning Strategy and advised of the current position of the Learning Strategy, as well as the development of Community Learning Hubs. With regards the Community Learning Hubs, it was advised that the Education, Culture and Sport Committee at its meeting on 8 October, 2009, had agreed that officers start consultation on development of learning hubs. This process was now ongoing and a further report, with proposals on this matter, would be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 15 April, 2020.</p> <p>The Alliance then split into three groups for more detailed discussions, covering topics such as:- the role of TACA and possible contributions from TACA partners in developing a 'City of Learning', thoughts on the Strategy so far, and any ideas for amendments/improvements as well as the challenges TACA partners foresaw for the Council in implementing the Strategy.</p> <p>Following the workshop, a feedback session was held during which each of the three groups reported the main points raised, namely:-</p> <p><u>Red Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was unanimously agreed that learning was wider than formal learning establishments and that schools needed to take a holistic approach to learning; ○ Appropriate support should exist at all levels of learning; and ○ TACA should become a vehicle where partners could share best practice and the learning strategy should impact on the Alliance's other priorities. <p><u>Green Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlighted examples of good practice in partnership working in the city; ● Highlighted that there was a danger of the Learning Strategy becoming a teaching strategy; ● The importance of literacy and numeracy skills as well as specialist skills for the economic growth and long term sustainability of the city; and ● The idea of a 'City of Learning' was plausible and that the Alliance should take 	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">this idea forward and explore it more deeply.</p> <p><u>Blue Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overarching theme was a good idea but would be costly and the documentation needed to highlight areas of spend to save; • That some of the outcomes might be better noted as priorities and vice versa; and • That the priority entitled 'learning in the wider community' should be renamed to reflect the importance of engaging with the wider community. <p>The Alliance then heard from the Director who thanked the Alliance for their input and requested that partners provide any further comments on the strategy, and details of areas which they could contribute, directly to the Service.</p> <p><u>The Alliance resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to request that a summary document detailing the points raised within and outcomes of the workshop sessions be submitted to the next meeting of the Alliance;</p> <p>(ii) to request partners to provide comments and details of areas within the strategy to which they could contribute directly to the Council's Education, Culture and Sport service; and</p> <p>(iii) to thank the Director, and her team for the informative workshop.</p>	<p>David Rodger/Sohail Faruqi</p> <p>All Partners</p>