

## Minute of Meeting Forum for Empowering Communities Group

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 20 September 2017	14:00	Engage Renfrewshire, 1 Falcon Crescent, Paisley, PA3 1NS

### **PRESENT**

L O'Brien, Barnados; I McLean, Bridgewater Housing Association; A Clark, Create; A McNiven, Engage Renfrewshire; S Duncan, Leap; J Wilby, Paisley West & Central Community Council; S McLellan, RAMH; S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel; K Taylor, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

### **CHAIR**

A McNiven, Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

I Cunninghame, J Ferrie, H Kay, K Miller and S Miller (all Engage Renfrewshire), S Graham and C MacDonald (both Renfrewshire Council); and R Robertson, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership.

### **APOLOGY**

K Graham, Renfrewshire Wide Credit Union.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

## 1 **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities Thematic Group held on 14 June 2017.

Under reference to item 2(a) – Remit of Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities A McNiven intimated that the Forum practice of receiving updates from the other thematic boards had been held up as an exemplar in the Renfrewshire Council Best Value Assurance Report.

Under reference to item 2(b) Contributions and Asks it was agreed that a copy of the Communication pro-forma be sent to I MacLean. Discussion took place on the best way to ensure that Community Planning Partners were kept informed and updated in relation to Forum activities. A McNiven indicated that he would raise the matter with the Executive Group and asked that if anyone had any ideas to facilitate better communication then they should let him know.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That the updates be noted; and
- (b) That the Minute be approved.

## 2 **ROLLING ACTION LOG**

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

### **RFG140617(3B) - NEW MEMBERS AND EXPANDED REMIT**

Discussion took place in relation to membership criteria. It was agreed that only 3rd Sector organisations would become Forum members while Public and Private Sector organisations would be welcome to contribute to the Forum as appropriate.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be agreed that only 3rd Sector organisations would become Forum members while Public and Private Sector organisations would be welcome to contribute to the Forum as appropriate;
- (b) That the updates be noted; and
- (c) That the Rolling Action Log be approved.

## 3 **CULTURE AND THE COMMUNITY PLAN**

The Project Manager, Create, gave a verbal presentation relating to the Paisley City of Culture bid and the relationship with the Community Plan.

It was noted that Dundee City Council had filtered culture throughout all their community planning themes. Discussion took place in relation to culture, Renfrewshire Community Planning and Renfrewshire Creative Network. A McNiven advised that he would raise the issue of culture throughout the community planning themes at a future meeting of the Executive Group. It was also agreed that an update be given at the next meeting of the Forum for Empowering Communities Group in relation to how local business, the Forum and Renfrewshire Creative Network could work together to enhance cultural activity.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be agreed that A McNiven raise the issue of culture throughout the community planning themes at a future meeting of the Executive Group;
- (b) That it be agreed that an update be given at a future meeting of the Forum for Empowering Communities Group in relation to how local business, the Forum and Renfrewshire Creative Network could work together to enhance cultural activity; and
- (c) That the verbal presentation be noted.

**4(a) COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & ASSETS**

The Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire gave a verbal update on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Discussion took place on the development of the Community Empowerment Toolkit and the need for a streamlined and methodological approach. It was agreed that the Asset Team, Property Services, Renfrewshire Council be contacted to obtain case studies to assist with the development of the Community Empowerment and Assets toolkit.

S Miller advised that discussions were on-going in relation to a Funding Officer from Big Lottery being based within the Engage Office once a week. It was agreed that S Miller would email Forum Members with the blog/link relating to the Big Lottery and lease and ownership of assets.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be noted that S Graham was continuing to develop the toolkit;
- (b) That it be agreed that the Asset Team, Property Services, Renfrewshire Council be contacted to obtain case studies to assist with the development of the Community Empowerment and Assets Toolkit;
- (c) That the information in relation to the Funding Officer from Big Lottery be noted;
- (d) that it be agreed that a copy of the blog/link in relation to Big Lottery - Lease and ownership of assets be email to members; and
- (e) That the verbal update be noted.

#### 4(b) **COMMUNITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

The Partnership Manager gave a verbal update on the development of the new Community Plan.

He intimated that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduced a statutory requirement for community planning partners to publish a new ten year Local Outcomes Improvement Plan by 1 October 2017, referred to as the "Community Plan". A key requirement of the new plan was that it had to develop at least one locality plan which would address inequality across an agreed geographical area or community of interest. Work had been undertaken by community planning partners to commence the development of the Community Plan and to identify potential options for the locality plans. It was noted that this had specifically been aligned to early work on the preparation of a new Council Plan covering the period 2017/2022.

A summary of the development work undertaken for the new Community Plan was highlighted which included engagement with communities and partners to consider the findings. The Partnership Manager advised that the information gathered through the process was used to shape common themes and areas of priority. It was intended that further work would be undertaken by officers to finalise the content of the Community Plan for submission to full Council for approval on 28 September 2017.

Post-publication implementation and governance would consider development of detailed targets and performance management arrangements; implementation of new local governance arrangements and development of district local action plans with local communities; and establishing arrangements for progress reporting to communities and Scottish Government. It was noted that there would be a need to update the Community Planning toolkit to take cognisance of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

#### **DECIDED:**

(a) That it be agreed that Forum Members be sent the link to the Community Plan once the Council agenda had been published; and

(b) That the verbal update be noted.

#### 5 **CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT**

The Partnership Manager gave a verbal update on the feedback received from the consultation and engagement sessions which had been organised during June and July 2017 across different locations in Renfrewshire and with interest groups. The sessions were set up to test the findings of the strategic needs assessment with the public by using the Place Standard tool to gather feedback on how people felt about where they lived.

It was noted that the Partnership Manager would disseminate the breakdown of the assessment once it became available.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be agreed that the Partnership Manager would disseminate the breakdown of the assessment once it became available; and
- (b) That the verbal update be noted.

**6 LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Partnership Manager gave a verbal update on the progress of the Local Area Committee review.

**DECIDED:** That the verbal update be noted.

**7 COMMUNITY CHOICES FUND 2017**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire relative to an update on the Community Choices Fund 2017.

The report advised that Renfrewshire Council had been notified that it was to be awarded £10,000 in Scottish Government Community Choices funding toward developing participatory budgeting approaches in Renfrewshire which was allocated for use by March 20187.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the award to Renfrewshire Council of £10,000 from the Community Choices fund be noted; and
- (b) That the involvement of the Forum for Empowering Communities Group in activity to develop participatory budgeting in Renfrewshire be agreed.