

Inverness Partnership Minutes of Meeting (Workshop session) held in the  
Town Hall, Inverness Town House

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 10 AM

Partners:

Nicola Mackenzie, Employability Officer  
Anne Sutherland, Merkinch Partnership  
Catriona Johnston, Inverness Area CC Forum  
Vivian Roden, Inverness Area CC Forum  
Scott Armstrong, Visit Scotland  
Diane Rawlinson, UHI  
Donald MacKenzie, Highland Opportunity Limited  
Mareva Jordan DWP

Members;

Cllr Ian Brown (Chair)  
Cllr Margaret Davidson  
Cllr Jimmy Gray

Also in attendance;

David Haas, Inverness City Manager  
Hilary Tolmie, Business Support Team  
Linda Smith, Business Support Team

**Business  
(Cllr Brown in the Chair)**

**1. Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and clarified that the meeting would focus on taking forward the action plans being developed by the workgroups.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Laird, Martin Johnston, Mike Smith, Graeme Murdoch, Graeme Ambrose, Marie MacIntosh and Jean Pierre Sieczkarek

**3. Minute of Previous Meeting on 1 March 2013**

Viven Roden requested a change be made Margaret Saunders was representing Inverness area CC Forum and not Strathdearn CC

**4. Matters Arising from meeting of 1 March 2013**

Cllr Prag was concerned that actions outstanding from previous meetings especially marketing would still be completed and not forgotten about. The Chair advised that this would not be the case that all outstanding actions would be completed.

**5. Workgroup Feedback on Progress**

Members broke into two groups to discuss the progress so far of the Workgroups.

**1. Vision, Strategy and Action Plan / City Centre Group**

Scott Armstrong the lead officer for the Vision, Strategy and Action Plan Group explained that they had broken it in five sections.

Active City  
Natural City  
Cultural City  
Gastronome City  
Welcome City

Ideas should be aimed at locals because if something is appealing to locals tourists will use it too.

The top priorities that they consider are Cycling in the Active City section and Welcome City.

The Vision, strategy and Action Plan group is very closely linked with the City Centre Group who agreed that 'Welcome' is of a high priority along with marketing and training.

## **2. UHI Campus – maximising Benefits – Action Plan**

It was **NOTED** that the workgroup will be meeting in early June.

## **3. Employability / Hospitality**

The work group was tasked with working on the key themes of 'employment and tackling unemployment' and 'employability / hospitality'.

The definition of Employability is about people being capable of getting and keeping work. For the individual, employability depends on the knowledge, skills and attitudes they possess. Employability is the capability to move into the labour market to realise potential through sustainable and accessible employment.

Employment means full or part-time paid work, including self-employment.

There are a number of statutory agencies, third sector organisations and partnerships (e.g. Highland Works, Inverness Employability Group and the Tourism and Hospitality Working Group) already actively working in the employability / employment arena, delivering a range of service provision. Highland Opportunity, Business Gateway and HIE play key roles in stimulating and attracting business growth to create jobs.

This working group will seek to provide clarity around what currently exists, thus avoiding any duplication. .

It was **AGREED** that this work group be renamed the 'Employment and Employability Support Working Group'

## **6. Next Steps**

It was **AGREED to** identify the following as priority projects

- I. Cycling / Walking – Healthy Travel
- II. Welcome City
- III. Employability

Workgroups to meet to formulate next steps focussing on the above for next meeting.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Meeting closed at 12noon.