

INVERNESS PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting held in the Chamber, Town House on Friday, 1 November 2013 at 10.00am

Present

Highland Council

Councillor I Brown Councillor T Prag

Other representatives

Mr G Ambrose (Destination Loch Ness)
Mr M Johnson (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)
Mrs C Johnson (Inverness Area Community Council Forum)
Mr M Smith (Inverness BID)
Mr S Armstrong (Visit Scotland)
Ms D Rawlinson (UHI)
Ms A Sutherland (Merkinch Partnership)
Ms F Morton (Inverness Job Centre Plus)
Mr J P Sieczkarek (NHS Highland)

Also in attendance

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Manager
Mr A Maguire, Head of Housing Development and Estates
Mr S Dalgarno, Development Plans Manager
Mr D Mckechnie, Integrated Transport Manager
Miss C Maragh, Administrative Assistant

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Ian Brown welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been intimated on behalf of Councillor M Davidson, Councillor J Gray, Councillor R Laird, Mr G Murdoch, Ms J Cuddy, Ms M Mackintosh, Ms N Mackenzie, Mr S Nichol and Ms V Rodden.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 16 August 2013

There had been circulated the Minute of the previous Meeting held on 16 August 2013 – which was **APPROVED**.

4. Matters Arising

It was **AGREED** that the City Manager would follow up and circulate a complete list of all strategies and developments in the City Centre to Partnership members.

It was then **AGREED** that the remaining business be conducted in the following order –

6. Partnership Working – New Opportunities

b) City Development Officer Group

There had been re-circulated Report No. CIA/53/13 dated 5 October 2013 by the Director of Planning and Development which provided an update on the projects being co-ordinated through the City Development Officers Working Group.

In this regard, it was confirmed that, in relation to the City Vision Priority Areas, five action areas had been identified where co-ordinated action and more detailed masterplanning was required, namely the City Centre, Ness-side/Torvean, Longman, Muirtown/South Kessock and Inshes/Raigmore, and an update on progress for each had been provided within the report.

An update on progress had also been provided within the report for other projects which were currently underway or at inception stage, including the River Ness Flood Scheme (Tidal Phases I and II), Streetscape 1 and 2, Academy Street Townscape Heritage Project, Inverness Campus, West Link, Prison Relocation, Longman Road Corridor and Private Sector Development Opportunities.

During discussion, it was suggested that consideration should be given as to whether there was any benefit in looking at wider initiatives from other organisations which could be reported directly to the Group.

Thereafter, the Partnership **NOTED** progress by the Working Group on implementing the Inverness City Vision and the priority projects outlined in the report.

b) Land Use and Transport Priorities for Inverness

There had been circulated Joint Report No. CIA/52/13 dated 8 October 2013 by the Directors of Planning and Development and Transport, Environmental and Community Services which recommended a procedure and process to identify land use and integrated transport priorities for improving the quality of the environment in Inverness City Centre and delivering a long term sustainable transport network.

It was explained that together these measures aimed to maximise the role of Inverness as a modern and carbon-clever City and its contribution to the Seven Cities initiative.

The report also outlined a process for consulting with key groups and organisations on achieving these outcomes, including proposals/actions identified in existing transport and land use strategies, with the findings of the consultation meetings being intended to inform a review of the Inverness City Centre Development Brief, related transport strategies and the wider role of integrated transport throughout the Highlands.

In this regard, a Presentation was undertaken at the meeting by the Development Plans Manager which sought the Partnership's views on ways to prepare a sustainable integrated Transport Plan for the City and Landward areas strategy.

Thereafter, the Partnership **AGREED**:-

- (a) to contribute to the scoping and content of an integrated land use and transport strategy for Inverness City Centre;
- (b) that Officers should consult with key partners and interested groups and organisations as identified in Table A within the report to identify priorities and actions for transport and land use in the City Centre, taking account of the opportunities identified in the Inverness

- City Centre Development Brief; and
- (c) that Officers should take forward outputs from Members and consultation meetings to produce an action plan which could be reported back to the Partnership in Spring 2014 and incorporated in a review of the Inverness City Centre Development Brief and other Transport Strategies.

5. Working Group Updates

City Centre

A verbal update was provided at the meeting during which an update was provided on the work undertaken by the Group to date, with specific reference to cycling and walking initiatives.

Active City – Cycle Working Group

There had been circulated Minutes of Meeting of the Cycle/Walking Routes Working Group held on 11 June 2013 - which were **NOTED**.

In this regard, it was confirmed that the Group represented a multi-agency voice which was to focus on an Action Plan to deliver cycling and walking routes around Inverness and improve active travel and community safety.

There had also been circulated a Proposed Cycle document which set out the strategic context for developing cycling infrastructure in Inverness and the surrounding area. It was confirmed that this could be used to support funding applications from local groups for cycling/walking infrastructure developments and also as an advocacy document in support of additional financial resources towards the development of cycling infrastructure.

Inverness Community Safety Partnership

There had been circulated Minutes of Meetings of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership held on 14 August and 11 September 2013 – which were **NOTED**.

Employability

A verbal update was provided at the meeting by the City Manager during which it was confirmed that the Work Group was progressing well and all partners had now completed their mapping exercises.

Marketing

A verbal update was provided at the meeting by the City Manager on the current position in regard to marketing.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would be held in February 2014 – with details to be circulated in due course.

The meeting ended at 11.40am.