

**Banff Development Partnership
Deveron Community & Sports centre, Banff
7 October 2019 at 1900 - 2100**

Attendees: Cllr Glen Reynolds – (Chair), Cllr John Cox, Christine Webster-Regeneration & Town Centres Manager, Phil Hemsley (Banff Harbour), Matt Lockley – Service Manager, Business & Community, Debbie Robertson – Project Officer, Suzanne Rhind Regeneration Executive, Angela Keith Interim Area Manager, Jan Emery Project Officer Area Manager, David Locke Churches Together.

Note Taker: Linda Hendry, Project Assistant

Item	Description
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>All were welcomed to the meeting, introductions were made, apologies were received from Sandy Buchan and Cllr M Roy</p>
2	<p><u>Note of previous meeting / Call to Action</u></p> <p>There were slight changes requested to the last note. All actions have been completed.</p> <p>A community reference group has been set up to help steer The Vinery project.</p>
3	<p><u>Introduction to the Mid Term Review</u></p> <p>CW gave an outline of the 5 year plan for Banff which was launched in September 2016, the results from the socio economic data were the basis for formulating of the plan. As we are now midway through the plan it is key to hold a mid term review. This is not a detailed evaluation of the plan, this is a steer to determine what we need to prioritise. This data gives a mixed picture of how the town is performing. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average incomes have increased from £22,877 (2016) to £33,000 (2018). Banff and Macduff still sit lower than regional income. 16 – 60 age working is lower than regional as a whole; long term sick is relatively high. • Poverty indicators medium to strong – e.g. highest take up school meals in Aberdeenshire • Population shrinkage in overall academy catchment by 1.7%, the highest decrease in Aberdeenshire. With the area around Macduff medical practice and the primary school, been the highest affected, largely due to a reduction in the number of children.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Sector job reduction with the majority of jobs been part time. There was a discussion around the table about the public sectors place in creating employment more work will be required to ascertain a current factual picture. Further enquires to the Council HR department will be made cy CW/ML.
4	<p><u>Familiarisation with the Action Plans</u></p> <p>SR outlined the outcomes and outputs of the action plan and highlighted progress to date. Discussion followed:</p> <p>Theme 1 Diverse Economy (£435,000) the majority of spend with 10 projects supported with 3 of these since our last meeting. Funds remaining £223,425</p> <p>Theme 2 Infrastructure and Connectivity (£175,000) with 3 projects supported, Funds remaining £343.00.</p> <p>Theme 3 People and Community (£100,000) 2 projects supported. Funds remaining £4,855. The vinery has received the majority of funding. SAMH is the approved operator of facility with funding received from Scottish Government Town Centre Fund. The application to RCGF is due back this week with feedback in January. There will be an open event on 26 October showcasing what SAMH is looking to achieve.</p> <p>Projects coming forward:- LINA, Banff Harbour, The Vinery, Business Support, Digital Sector and Food and Drink Sector.</p> <p>RGU have appointed a Co Ordinator for the LINA project who will be based in the area. A successful launch took place, concerns were raised that there was no representation at the launch from school aged children. The group were advised that a separate meeting was taking place to involve the pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each theme contains multiple Objective and Action; Actions include activities led or supported by services across Aberdeenshire Interventions supported include direct Council delivery or funding and delivery support for partner projects; Our plan target for leverage is 3.1 million to date it is sitting at 2 million Jobs created/sustained plan Target 60 to date 30 has been achieved. There was a discussion about the jobs created and the Partnership felt that a need to look at the wider economy would be beneficial. There was a discussion about protentional opportunities in the Health care sector for future employment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banff harbour concerns over low availability of space and therefore would generate a limited economic value. Further discussion to take place with ward 1 members and Area Management Team. • Business Sectors Officers are carrying out a series of conversations with business to establish the challenges and what support can be offered through the Regeneration plan or other Council Services. Councillors wish to be kept involved in the outcomes. ACTION - SR • Concerns that there is limited progress within the voluntary sector of the plan. • Digital and Food & Drinks sectors are moving forward with a pilot project happening at the Academy. Scotland IS are looking to host a business event in the near future we are also exploring opportunities for a Maker fayre which is an international event. • Business familiarity tour is happening with 6 businesses across Banff and Buchan. This will be a great networking opportunity.
5	<p><u>Review Focus and Priorities</u></p> <p>The group were asked to look at the themes and rate (using sticky dots) the priority of projects. By doing this it gave a good opportunity to see visually what the members thoughts were. Members not in attendance will also get the opportunity to take part to ensure everyone's reflection has been considered.</p>
6	<p><u>Discussion on Key Factors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 monthly report gives a good overview of where we are at. We can be very critical until you look at the updates and see what is due to happen. • It was discussed that communication could be improved. • Still negativity around the town and a concern about lack of progress due to many project not yet been visible. • Engaging in the community and building confidence and capacity building is key. Delivery of the plans is a collective responsibility and the need to ensure good communication and changing of perspectives to achieve progress. • Tourism more could be made of tourism opportunities in the town. Visitaberdeenshire are a key partner and this could be explored in partnership. • Our long term focus is community ownership. Partners around the table are ambassadors for the regeneration activity and can do more to shout about it in discussion with stakeholders.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate the 6monthly plan to wider stakeholder for feedback. – Action SR
7	<p><u>Summary and Next Steps</u></p> <p>Circulate the 6 monthly plan to the wider community? A review report will be drawn up this will be complete by January 2020. Possible topics for 2020 meetings:- Youth priorities Our High Street Climate Change Explore a community plan possibility for youngsters to lead</p>
8	<p><u>Date and time of next meeting(s)</u></p> <p>Monday 20 January 2020, time to be confirmed Monday 20 April 2020 Monday 24 August 2020 Monday 23 November 2020</p> <p>All at Deveron Community and Sports Centre</p>