

**Regeneration Development Partnership
Macduff Town Hall
03/06/2019 – 7-9pm**

Attendees: Cllr R Cassie (Chair)
Cllr M Findlater
Suzanne Rhind – Regeneration Executive
Naomi Mason – Project Officer Town Centre
Jan Emery – B&B Area Project Officer
David McCubbin – Visit Aberdeenshire
Stanley West – Macduff Heritage Group
Chris Moule, Head of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, RGU

Apologies: Linda Hendry – Project Assistant
Edward Acton – Macduff Heritage Group
Patricia Wain – Friends of Tarlair
Angela Keith – Acting Area Manager Banff & Buchan
Hamish Mcleay – Bachlaw Projects
Dr Ian Brooker – Macduff Medical Practice

Item	Description
1	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u> All were welcomed, apologies given and all members of group introduced.</p>
2	<p><u>Note of last meeting</u> Note of last meeting was agreed.</p>
3	<p><u>The LINA Project</u> CM from RGU discussed the LINA (Library Innovation Network Aberdeenshire) project, which is awaiting to hear if it has been successful with a funding application to LEADER for a 1 year programme of activities. Building on the changes in employment, higher education and a recognition of the often 'city centric' focus of entrepreneurial support, RGU have developed a project which will see underutilised space in local libraries developed into a free co-working, skill development and idea sharing spaces. The work will also upskill and empower librarians to share information and support businesses utilising these spaces and resources, along with make use of library resources such as 3D printers etc. There will also be scope to connect all of the A/V equipment in the libraries, and thus allow for sharing of classes and delivery. 2 part time employees will be sought to reach out and connect with local businesses to make use of the programme, along with developing links. The focus areas will be on library clusters in and around Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. The long term goal is to foster business creativity, develop local networks and make the project sustainable. There will be a look to develop links to larger local businesses who may be able to fund elements of the project in coming years. RGU has developed accelerator programmes for students, staff and alumni who have business ideas. They secured £10,000 of Wood Foundation funding towards each successful business idea. These were pitched and awarded as part of a competition. 25 businesses went through to the 'boot camp' – and these are a diverse mix of architecture, coffee, drone, circular economy and</p>

	<p>sugar free chocolate. They also have an Innovation Skills programme which offer lunch and evening classes on business development, idea generation etc. A voluntary mentor group has been developed from alumni of the university – often those retired or semi-retired – who are available to support new businesses and entrepreneurs as they develop.</p> <p>They have developed strong links with Business Gateway, Elevator and Opportunity North East, and will use these connections to develop their programme.</p> <p>CM pointed out the overlap to the Macduff Vision and Action Plan, particularly under the themes of social inclusion, digital economy and also opportunities to provide a sectoral focus for businesses in food and drink, tourism and fishing etc.</p> <p>The Project has had support from Aberdeenshire Council’s leadership and RGU are working closely with services to ensure a smooth delivery. The timescales are for the first cohort (Banff and Macduff) to begin work in September. A press release will be issued later in June once funding is confirmed and the search for the staff will begin.</p> <p>MF expressed his excitement and enthusiasm at the project and it’s potential. He asked for links to be made with Education and Children’s services and Banff Academy – linking into foundation apprenticeships and business and opportunities for young people. There are often issues over the distances to training and development in Aberdeenshire, so this project would aim to alleviate some of them. He asked who could take part.</p> <p>CM responded that the programme would be as inclusive as possible, with the only constraint being the size of space in each library. They also have micro courses which they are developing and will share.</p> <p>JE queried how RGU select mentors for their mentorship scheme and how they get business ideas validated by other peers?</p> <p>CM said they are still looking to recruit more mentors. To date some of those recruited are looking for payment, so they are being removed from the scheme. The team have developed a mentor manifesto. They acknowledge that some businesses will fail, but want to offer support to encourage people to think again, and come up with new ideas.</p> <p>RC is excited over the programme and what it will bring to the area.</p> <p>MF mentioned the lack of a Business Association so they may need support to get mentors locally.</p>
4	<p><u>Financial Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macduff Harbour Fish Landing Table £6000 has been approved towards this project • Macduff Harbour Electrification Study £25,000 has been approved towards an investigative study into the electrification of the North Pier.

	<p>Overall committed budget of £360,850 which is around a 40% commitment level. The budget spend is catching up as money is drawn down for the Ice Plant works.</p> <p>Project Update SR Foyer have 12 clients on their REACH programme in Banff and Macduff. They are looking for community groups and projects some of their students can work with. MF mentioned attending the Community Council to ask for groups and organisations. RC mentioned the Community Growing project in Macduff. ALL to contact SR with suggestions</p> <p>Macduff Aquarium's report relating to the options appraisal is being considered by the senior Education team.</p> <p>NM has submitted an EOI to NESFLAG for a study into the Deepening of the Harbour basin. All funding is currently committed, but we will be notified if there is any remaining surplus. Derek Macdonald and Martin Brebner are looking into sources of funding for the capital works.</p> <p>The Community Development Worker project has received 1 years funding, but CLD are recruiting for a 3 year post for a Banff and Macduff worker as there is a chance of an extension in funding.</p> <p>Community Planning Locality Plan work is underway with a workshop taking place on the 6th of June.</p> <p>JE updated that the Knowes Hotel has recently won an award for best hotel in the north region. Wayne is in negotiation with the Duke of Fife regarding taking ownership for some of the adjacent land which would enable outside events to take place. Farmers Market have moved to the Primary School in Macduff and are working on getting the relevant insurance in place. Smiddy in Banff have surpassed their growth stats, and are signing a contract with NESCOL for their art and metal courses.</p> <p>JW asked how far on the electrification study is? RC responded it has not yet gone out to tender.</p>
5	<p><u>Heritage Banners</u> MF updated that poles were put up some years ago but are not currently being utilised and would like new banners made up.</p> <p>SR enquired what they were advertising before?</p> <p>MF Coast festival.</p> <p>JE commented it would be important to advertise local activities rather than businesses.</p>

	<p>NM mentioned it would be important to speak to the Roads Team in relation to any signage on a main A road. RC intimated it would likely be an activity taking place in 2020 due to time scales and season. MF mentioned the Harbours team could take them up and down.</p> <p>Action: SR to look into.</p>
6	<p><u>Ice House</u> MF updated that the Ice House is up for sale, he is unsure as to whether it is listed. It was owned by Walkers, but is now part of the administrator's portfolio. It could be a good location for the Heritage Society.</p> <p>SW would rather the former Gas Works, as more visible from the Aquarium. Possible issue with contamination at that site.</p> <p>MF could we investigate both buildings?</p> <p>Action: SR to look into.</p>
7	<p><u>Review of Macduff Action Plan</u> SR updated that the Regeneration plans are at the halfway point, and a review will be undertaken. This will look into what has been achieved so far, how well they are working, how the Development Partnership is working etc. The Economic Development Team are looking into how to organise the review but it will likely require a future meeting It was acknowledged that this would need an entire meeting to give full discussion MF commented that people locally are seeing a difference.</p> <p>JW commented that it is a dynamic process and will be interesting to review.</p> <p>SR updated that Ward Members will discuss the process, and then it will come out to the development partnership.</p> <p>SR updated that there had been a successful event held in Macduff on the 28/05/2019. 43 businesses attended, with presentations from Opportunity North East, Connect Local and Visit Aberdeenshire. The SWOT analysis identified a lack of skills and building up of young people, an appetite for local networking opportunities, and a need for collaborative marketing. ONE have since offered a Banff and Macduff Business Familiarisation trip to encourage networking between local food producers, suppliers and distributors.</p>
8	<p><u>AOB</u> MF noted there is a new manager at the Macduff Distillery who is making new walks at the site and seems keen to engage with the local community.</p> <p>Action: SR to approach re potential and opportunities.</p> <p>MF noted the new Tourism Hub in Banff and its potential to have a Macduff focus as well.</p>

	<p>NM noted in her conversations with the lead of the organisation she is planning on focusing on the Banffshire Coast region in her plans.</p> <p>MF noted the Home Bakery is investigating Brown Signs for the Bakery. This sits with Visit Scotland.</p> <p>DM noted that the Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership has appointed a new chair (Malcolm Browning of Coastal Cabs). As an organisation they are not sure what their focus will be as of yet.</p> <p>DM updated that VA is doing a joint marketing campaign with Mackies Ice Cream and they currently have an image of Gardenstown on their ice cream tubs.</p> <p>JW noted that the Macduff Harbour Advisory Committee isn't working in its current format. He feels the meetings are too far apart and the meetings are not useful. In comparison Buckie meet 4 x per year. He feels there are not enough people attending the meetings. JE commented that perhaps new people could be found to attend. RC noted that more frequent meetings are fine, but only if there is something to discuss.</p> <p>JW noted that they are interviewing apprenticeships currently. He finds the school and college links are poor, and young people often end up doing general courses, when they really could/should have been doing more specialised courses. JE noted that with DYW and Career Ready it is still disappointing to see this disconnect is happening. MF felt that NESCOL are letting young people down, but also the guidance from the school is not there for young people who are unsure of the direction to take.</p> <p>Action: SR to follow up.</p> <p>RC noted that it is NM's last meeting and thanked her for her work over the previous 2.5 years. The group extended their thanks and wish her well for her future.</p>
9	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u> Monday 2nd September 2019 Monday 2nd December 2019 All in Macduff Town Hall from 1900 until 2100</p>