

**Regeneration Development Partnership
Macduff Town Hall
02/09/19 – 7-9pm**

Attendees: Cllr R Cassie (Chair)
Cllr M Findlater
Matthew Lockley – Service Manager
Christine Webster - Regeneration & Town Centres Manager
Suzanne Rhind – Regeneration Executive
Debbie Robertson – Project Officer Town Centre
David McCubbin – Visit Aberdeenshire
Pat Wain – Friends of Tarlair

Apologies: Linda Hendry – Project Assistant
Angela Keith – Acting Area Manager

Item	Description
1	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u> All were welcomed and all members of group introduced.
2	<u>Note of last meeting</u> Note of last meeting was agreed.
3	<u>Introduction to the Mid Term Review</u> CW gave an outline of the 5-year plan for Macduff and reminded the group that in 2010 the results from the socio economic data were the basis for formulating the plan. As we are now midway through the plan, the first session of the review is at tonight's meeting. Key socio-economic factors were highlighted and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average wage has increased from £22,877 (2013) to £33,000 (2018). RM expressed his surprise at these figures considering the levels of deprivation around Macduff. He asked if the figures could be broken down for more clarity? • Population shrinkage. MF noted that houses in the area are selling and there does seem to be a rise in young families moving into the area. There does seem to be a spread in the demographics as there are an amount of retired people moving to the area also. MF did express potential concerns with the Medical Practice moving to Banff and therefore a possible stretch on the staff and service. Also the same concerns with the hospital especially with an ageing population and those retiring moving into the area. However, it was noted that the quality of life is exceptional in the area and this is a big attraction to people moving in especially with the completion of the AWPR. • Public sector job reduction. RC discussed that he would not want to see any jobs leaving the area, especially Council posts. CW noted that she will look to find figures to support this.
4	<u>Familiarisation with the Action Plan</u> SR outlined the outcomes and outputs of the action plan and highlighted progress to date. Discussion followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress is on track, with some areas already exceeding initial targets

- Some anomalies identified during the process around volunteer numbers and hours. This will be addressed going forward.
- In-Kind Contributions – This has not been measured so far but steps will be taken to monitor the amount of in-kind support achieved.
- No of students –
- No of visitors – Again, another anomaly has been picked up with numbers versus percentage increase. MF suggested that a good measure of recording people coming into the area is through the number of bed spaces being occupied in the local hotels.
- MF suggested the possibility of looking into a possible ‘event’ that can be shared on social media that gets the local involved in what they think of the changes and improvements to Macduff. This is to be explored further but suggestions were raised about doing some kind of community involvement that showcases pictures of the changes ‘before & after’ and gauge the local enthusiasm and interest.

Projects supported to date:

Theme 1: Place Development

SR commented that all the projects outlined in theme 1 are now completed. MF asked what progress has been made with Macduff Aquarium? It was noted that there has been no decision on a way forward as yet. The ECS Leadership team have considered the report and have requested an analysis of the options by their finance team. Both MR and RC suggested some quick action is needed here from the leadership team. If the money cannot be spent there then it needs to be ring-fenced for another project in Macduff. They would not want to see that money being used out with the area.

Theme 2: Community Well-Being.

This is the least developed area of the plan but the new Community Development Worker for the area is likely to act as catalyst for project developments.

Theme 3: Diverse & Forward Facing Economy

SR outlined a number of new initiatives coming forward under this theme including a pilot video project with Skills Development Scotland and Banff Academy, exploration into the potential for developing opportunities around growing and using seaweed.

It was raised that the Ice Plant is still not finished. This was meant to be operational by April so unfortunately has meant the loss of the squid season.

It was also mentioned that there have been a number of complaints about cars being accidentally sprayed with the residue from the spraying of the boats. This has happened on a few occasions and the question was asked if there can be some sort of screen/shield perhaps erected as a protector so that parked cars are not at risk. May be worth revisiting covered berth option.

SR mentioned that the LINA project is progressing well with the launch date scheduled for the 7th October in Banff Library. This project supports individuals who are working from home or remotely the opportunity to link in with others,

	<p>work from various library bases and have the opportunity to tap into support, training and opportunities from the project. Currently there are 2 co-ordinators being recruited for this project. On the back of this investment in Macduff Library has been brought forward and the project is due to start there in the New Year.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Review Focus and Priorities</u></p> <p>The group were asked to look at the themes on the wall and rate (using sticky dots) the priority of projects and how they feel that should be rated with 3 being the highest, 1 the lowest. This was a good opportunity to see visually what the members thoughts were. This will also be circulated to other members of the group who were not present so it gives a more fair reflection of everyone's thoughts.</p> <p>Priorities and scores from the night:</p> <p>Theme 1 – Place Development: Destination Macduff. Tarlair (8) Regeneration of property (8) Walking & cycling routes (6) Macduff Marine Aquarium (6) Tourism product development (2) Visit Aberdeenshire marketing (0)</p> <p>Theme 2 – Community Wellbeing and Quality of Life. Community Capacity building and leadership (9) Community food projects (4) Local Innovation Fund (3) Cultural development (3) Partner Macduff Sports Centre (0) – proposed to remove from plan River Deveron (0) – proposed to give one last try and then remove</p> <p>Theme 3 – Diverse and Forward Facing Economy. Macduff Harbour (6) Improved educational attainment (4) Develop Macduff Industrial Estate (1) Invest in Macduff – One Stop Shop (1) Macduff Digital (0)</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Discussion on Key Factors</u></p> <p>It was felt that the plan was still relevant and clear in its aims and objectives.</p> <p>Both Cllr Findlater and Cllr Cassie commented on how impressed they were about the progress in the town to date. However there is always more to do and to keep pushing forward. This includes identifying people to take on the mantel.</p> <p>MF said on speaking with his constituents it has been a success and generally people are 'chuffed' with the look and feel of the town.</p> <p>There was discussion around broadening out the membership of the group and this was felt to be a key priority for the coming year.</p>

	<p>MF did comment on looking into the reviewing of the action plan with the possibility of a 'community event' to showcase the towns' improvements so far. There could also be opportunities to involve the local school children as well as other key groups such as the Community Council. This could help to raise the profile of the work being undertaken and encourage more people to get involved.</p> <p>It was felt that more press coverage could be achieved for the positive news stories.</p> <p>Need to get a community mind-set that is 'us' not 'them' when it comes to achieving long-lasting change.</p> <p>PW questioned whether there could be support for building renovations given that many buildings are old and more expensive to work on. This would encourage physical regeneration.</p>
7	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u> Monday 2nd December 2019, Macduff Town Hall from 1900 until 2100.</p>

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