

# MINUTES OF STRATEGY MEETING

## MID DEESIDE COMMUNITY TRUST – BOARD AND STAFF

21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Victory Hall, Aboyne

<b>Present:</b>	Hamish Forbes (HF)(Chair), Alan Emslie (AE), Mark Mitchell (MM), Lynn Mackie (LM), Duncan Cassie (DC), Wilson Forbes (WF), Gil Barton (GB), Richard Smout (RS), Ruth Powell (RP) MDCC observer, Gail Amey (GA) and Sam Basford (SB) minutes
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Peter Argyle (PA),
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Aim of Meeting:</b></p> <p>GB thought it would be helpful that due to HF standing down as Chair we need to determine a strategic direction moving forward focusing on our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Accounts:</b></p> <p>GA discussed our financial position and the need for other projects to bring in money to MDCT as we will be looking at a shortfall at the end of the year and in future years.</p> <p>GA suggested that other projects could a contribution to operational costs.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Funding:</b></p> <p>Health &amp; Wellbeing is a broad area and can include transport and woodlands into one large project. GB stated that the Health &amp; Wellbeing group are currently finalising a pilot with costings and funding for this is being sought with the longer term goal to use the evaluation of the pilot to support applications for substantial funding.</p> <p>AE proposed forming a Funding Sub-Committee which was unanimously agreed.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> AE will now head up the Sub-Committee with WF, RS and SB.</p> <p>WF pointed out that the youth would like their own space and suggested that we try again to engage with the school on this matter. Ideally if a pupil from S5 or S6 would be willing to attend the MDCT meetings it would be very helpful in engaging with this age group. RP offered to send the results of the MDCC survey from the Academy to see their thoughts.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RP to forward the survey results.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Transport:</b></p> <p>GA informed everyone that rural transport grants are EU funded and there is an uncertainty whether these funds will stop or what the impact will be due to Brexit. To ensure sustainability there needs to be a significant increase in usage of the Community Buses or there is a possibility that DCT would lose the third bus next April 2020 when the application for the next 3yr grant is due. GA is looking at different ways to increase the usage of the buses.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RP will forward the MDCC list of voluntary groups.</p>

5.	<p><b>Communication:</b></p> <p>The addition of a database to our website was discussed and also the challenge of keeping this up to date. It was agreed that this should be part of a Communication Strategy incorporating social media and funding to support this needs to be addressed. WF suggested involving the Academy.</p> <p>Other suggestions were Active Aboyne/Deeside and other events to get tourists into our area. MM was concerned that we are not here to drum up business but to see how to move forward and suggested that a Community Event be organised over a weekend which can be organised with all the clubs in the area (i.e. tennis club, canoe club, etc)</p> <p>It was also decided to get in touch with VisitAberdeenshire as we may be able to offer our services in some way and also to speak with other local Community Councils.</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u> Communication Strategy required (ALL - thoughts by next meeting)</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Board Succession Planning:</b></p> <p>GB put to the Board a need for a more formal recruitment drive with a clear direction of who to target. It was suggested that once the strategy is determined the areas of expertise required should be highlighted in a recruitment drive for both Board Trustees and members. MM thought that it could work but that it could also create management problems. AE thought that we also need a Board Succession Plan. The difficulty in recruitment was acknowledged.</p> <p>RS thought that more people would be happy to volunteer for projects but are reluctant to become a Director/Trustee and the respective responsibility. WF suggested a possibility of a special interest group for future community projects which will compromise of volunteers.</p> <p>As we already have established Health &amp; Wellbeing, Woodland and Transport subcommittees that meet regularly it was decided that the main Board would meet every 2 months once the overall strategic direction had been finalised.</p>
8.	<p><b>Fundraising:</b></p> <p>Horseracing night, an auction sale and a quiz night were possible ideas.</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u> SB to check the Victory Hall calendar for possible dates and pass to LM.</b></p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at 7pm in the Conference Room, Victory Hall</p>

Date Approved .....15/5/19.....

..........Chairman