

**Minute of the Dundee Partnership Management Group**

**held on Thursday, 6 March 2025 at 2.00pm**

**Gardyne Campus Boardroom and online via Teams**

Present:

Alison Henderson, D&A Chamber of Commerce

Audrey May, Children & Families, DCC

Bob Benson, Integrated Joint Board

Emma Fletcher, Public Health, NHS Tayside

Graeme Bletcher, University of Dundee

Judy Dobbie, Leisure & Communities Dundee

Laura McMahon, Department for Work & Pensions

Murray Webster, Community Regeneration Forums

Nicky Connor, Chief Executive, NHS Tayside

Nicky Maccrimmon, Neighbourhood Services, DCC

Paul Robertson, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Peter Allan, Chief Executive’s Service, DCC

Simon Hewitt, Dundee & Angus College

Online via Teams

Bailey Kevin Keenan

Brian Logan, Scottish Government

Christina Cooper, DVVA

Cllr Heather Anderson, Climate Leadership Group

Cllr Mark Flynn, Dundee City Council

Evonne Boyd, Skills Development Scotland

Mark Speed, TACTRAN

Rachael Burns, Police Scotland

In Attendance

Dundee Fighting for Fairness Members: Alex, Andrew, Daniel, and Terri

Danielle Hinton, Faith in Community Dundee

Jacky Close, Faith in Community Dundee

Paul Davies, Chief Executive’s Service, DCC

Apologies:

Alice Bovill, Community Regeneration Forums

Andrea Calder, Chief Executive’s Service, DCC

Bryan Todd, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Connie Calvo, Skills Development Scotland

Graeme Stewart, Department for Work & Pensions

Greg Colgan, Chief Executive, DCC (chair)

Jim McGeorge, University of Dundee

Liz Bacon, Abertay University

Matthew Lockley, Scottish Enterprise

Neale Laker, University of Dundee

Robin Presswood, City Development, DCC

Sean Neill, Scottish Government

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|  |  | **Action** |
| 1. | Welcome / Introductions |  |
|  | Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting and a brief round of introductions was made. Apologies received are noted above. |  |
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| 2. | Minute of the Previous Meeting |  |
|  | The minute of the December meeting was agreed as accurate. |  |
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| 3. | Matters Arising |  |
|  | * Peter to follow up on Northwood invitation with Greg
* Brian to enquire whether any recovered proceeds of crime money could be made available for locality based work
* Work is progressing via Columba 1400 and the Hunter Foundation on developing the work of the DP. This could include looking at the Chair’s role. Peter to follow up on this
 | **PA****BL****PA** |
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| 4. | City Plan – Key Priorities |  |
| a. | Child Poverty & Inequalities |  |
|  | * Audrey presented the Together to Thrive initiative, a new way of working within mental health services. This initiative is funded until 2027 and aims to build capacity within mental health services across the city.
* The discussion focused on measuring the impact of their work and deciding on the appropriate measures to use as an oversight group. The group will finalise its priorities and a dashboard created by the Information & Research Team will be reviewed / presented at future meetings.
* The Linlathen Pathfinder project is progressing well and has links to WM2U and discretionary funding from ADP.
* The SLG agenda emphasized the importance of connecting initiatives and focusing on people.
* Other topics included The Promise, GIRFEC delivery, and WFWF, with discussions on whether to continue with a Tayside-wide plan or individual plans.
* Challenges in the national supply system affecting ADHD drugs were mentioned, with a significant increase noted in the health needs for children over the past four years. Emma to confirm numbers affected locally.
* The Together to Thrive initiative looks at prevention work and aims to support children with a broad spectrum of needs.
* The need for more support for volunteers and better communication was highlighted.
* The discussion also covered the importance of practical wellbeing support for projects and the need for secure funding.
* Information on the impact of the devolved ADP funding was requested – Nicky to pass on for circulation.
* Peter to update the group on prevention work being carried out by the ADP Sub-Group at the June meeting.
 | **AM****EF****NM****PA** |
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|  | Fairness Leadership Panel Recommendations |  |
|  | Andrew shared that the FLP currently consists of 20 people, including those with lived experiences and leaders. They meet five times a year and host an annual conference. They formed three working groups over 2024-25 to investigate specific areas.Alex discussed the Mental Health and Isolation sub-group, highlighting the rise in mental health struggles and the lack of coping strategies. They emphasized the need for more face-to-face support and better signposting to available help.Daniel talked about the Third Sector sub-group, noting the increased demand on volunteers and the need for more support for both staff and volunteers. They also mentioned the challenges of insecure funding and the need for practical wellbeing support.Teri addressed issues with social housing, including poor communication about repairs, the closure of housing offices, and the need for better training for staff. They recommended developing a tenant portal and guidance on damp and mould.The recommendations included:* Coproduction and support for the third sector to know about services and help with referrals.
* More support for staff and volunteers in meeting complex needs.
* Secure funding for projects and practical wellbeing support.
* Better communication methods and a publicity campaign aimed at private tenants and their rights.

The finalised report containing the recommendations will be produced soon and will go to the April City Governance Committee.The recommendations were well received and prompted discussion that included:* **Judy** raised the question of whether any quick fixes could be unpicked, such as implementing a key drop-off system with a locked box for access. **Peter** mentioned that there are deadlines in the circulated paper, with keys expected within two months.
* **Alison** expressed inspiration from the work being done and the clear asks. She questioned whether having DCC as the sole partner for some actions is right and suggested involving other partners. She emphasized the importance of a publicity campaign and proposed an education plan for landlords. **Jacky** mentioned meeting with Gabriella Hays, who works with private sector landlords, and suggested that Dundee Law Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, and Gabriella meet as a group to take private landlord work forward, noting the potential from a small start with ~10k landlords in Dundee.
* Simon discussed the next stages, noting that several projects are coming out of recommendations and questioned whether the DP could take more collective responsibility for action on these. Peter agreed and stated that what is presented is a minimum standard, inviting anyone able to contribute to contact PA.
* Nicky (NHS) acknowledged the clear depth of work carried out and praised the synthesis of recommendations that challenge their thinking. She questioned how inclusive they are in NHS and whether they are communicating effectively. She suggested that Lead Organisations provide a point of contact but also include contributors.
* Simon noted that practical things do come out of this work and change does take place, citing previous work on debt and the wording of letters.
* Next steps will include the report going to the Child Poverty & Inequalities SLG and the Population Health Committee. The recommendations will also feature in the annual Fairness and Child Poverty Action Report

The recommendations as presented were endorsed by the group. All partners to support relevant actions when the report has been published | **AM /****EF****CPTeam****All** |
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| b. | Inclusive Economic Growth |  |
|  | Alison talked to the circulated paper. The discussion covered the developed structure of the group, with themed meetings around challenges and different sectors. Key Points included:* Nighttime economy in the city centre needs to be developed more.
* Ex-Mecca Bingo hall is being developed into a conference venue for up to 4,500 people and aiming to open in May this year. This development will create a decent number of hospitality and security jobs.
* Scottish Enterprise presented their mission-led support provision, using a local lens to clarify investments in Dundee, including Michelin Innovation Parc Scotland (MIPS) and new technologies.
* Community Wealth Building (CWB) update showed significant progress with very positive stats in terms of increased procurement via local companies. Community Wishes has started but faced challenges in administration and implementation. There are 42 wishes on the system, but only 4 have been picked up to date. The Living Wage and challenges due to increasing National Insurance from April were also discussed. The Charter on CWB will come to this group to renew commitment.
* The Dundee Growth story was presented at the last DPMG meeting. It now has additions of a new theme for climate and sustainable growth. Measures were reviewed, and there have been some decreases recently.
* The group aims to support youth participation.
* All partners give an update on progress that is collated and shared.
* Highlights included college, offshore wind, and new partners at MIPS.

Discussion Points:* Bob expressed an interest in workforce development opportunities. NHS has apprenticeship development, and papers could be shared with Elaine Watson (Director of People and Culture) to help join things up. Peter suggested linking NHS Anchor work with CWB too.
* Nicky Connor highlighted the need to share knowledge better and suggested providing a summary of these meetings for broader circulation. There are wider issues around people with sickness preventing them from working, and there may be a need for discussion around getting people back into the workforce.
	+ Simon chairs the Discover Work partnership and will bring information from that sub-group to this group to help improve links with NHS and others.
* Heather appreciated the sustainable growth theme and suggested that the Dundee Sustainability Team could present to the working group to add to knowledge. Alison agreed to speak with Robin to slot this in.
* Murray highlighted the need for improved communication, which is currently a weak spot for the DP in getting the message out to the wider community. He suggested forming a working group of Communications Leads to utilise available technology and get positive news out. The group agreed on this suggestion.
 | **EF / RT****SH****PA** |
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| c. | Climate Leadership Group |  |
|  | Heather talked to the circulated update:* Heat Network Fund: The CLG and DCC have been designing plans for a new energy centre in the city centre. Abertay University have applied for £12.3 million for this project. The Head of the investment group and the Clean Heat representative met with the CLG to discuss decarbonisation and the key role of the Abertay Project. Visitors were impressed by the level of collaboration in place.
* Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) Monitoring and Delivery: This was discussed in detail at the last CLG meeting. The National Energy Systems Operator presented on the new grid, and Fergus from NESO has joined the CLG.
* Climate View Platform: Dundee was the first local authority to adopt the Climate View platform, which is now being rolled out across all 32 local authorities.
* The CLG’s terms of reference have been updated to focus more on adaptation and nature-based solutions, and they are looking to agree on this at the next meeting.

Discussion included:* Peter mentioned that the SLG is good at making demands of national funders and the Scottish Government. He suggested that other SLGs could be more outward-looking and act in a similar fashion.
	+ Simon asked if there are other opportunities to showcase what we do and suggested that partners look at this within the Communications group suggested above.
* Graeme highlighted the critical timings coming up and the need to draw down funding. He may call on partners for letters of support.
* Mark emphasized the need to show off what is being done, especially where it is forward-thinking, such as HEAT networks and college campus development.
* Emma noted the importance of cohesiveness in the room for visitors to see the reasoning behind the benefits.
* Brian mentioned that Scottish Government colleagues could be asked about what they see in other local authorities. He noted that JP Marks' visit went well, highlighting successes and providing learning that led to the expansion of the model. He is happy for SG representatives to be invited to future meetings as well as potential cabinet secretary meetings.
* Alison mentioned that the Dundee Economic Summit is in June, and there is a request for the Deputy First Minister to come to the summit and listen / talk with the business community. Alison and Brian will liaise on this.
* Nicky Connor emphasized the importance of connectivity between workstreams and how to show this off to outsiders. This is something for the Communications Leads to consider.
 | **AH / BL** |
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| 5. | Local Planning & Locality Leadership Update |  |
|  | Nicky Maccrimmon talked to his presentation on LCPPs. The main points included.* A focus on those with the most disadvantage and prevention work
* LCPP work feeds into the National Performance Framework and Fairer Scotland Duty
* There are issues around capacity, duplication of work and lack of focus on tackling issues (i.e. action)
* There will be a streamlining from 8 to 6 LCPPs for a variety of reasons, with the change taking place in July
* He asked the group to try and help ensure that the change is an improvement. There is a need to have representatives from partners at the LCPPs and working with communities

Discussion included:* We want to see organizations and services getting involved with both LCPPs and communities. Audrey mentioned that empowering communities makes their job easier, although they do need support
* Simon asked what is needed from LCPPs and suggested bringing the asks to partners or the group
* Murray shared that Coldside and Maryfield representatives attended a recent meeting and expressed disappointment with the lack of community involvement to get to this stage – a backwards step from the norm, with the change presented as a fait accompli
	+ He added that the LCPP for Coldside and Maryfield areas will cover 25% of the Dundee population and will have a reduction in staffing by one Communities Officer in each of the paired wards
	+ Community members from these areas will be approaching Elected Members about this
	+ Simon commented that this group is the place for lessons learned to be shared, and Nicky said that conversations with communities will continue to take place
* Alison found the input from the Fairness Leadership Panel (FLP) powerful and suggested hearing from communities at future meetings regarding this change. Nicky M to include in future updates to the DPMG
* Audrey emphasized that involvement starts with 'turning up' and that people need to have clear expectations, not just receive updates. They need to see data and look at what needs to be done, which would be a better use of time.
* Emma stated that most Public Health contribution to Community Planning is through the Strategic Leadership Groups (SLGs) and that there needs to be some thought about where in Health is best placed to link with LCPPs (e.g., Community Health Team). Nicky M will discuss this with Emma and Nicky C once needs are identified
* Murray emphasized the need for all partners to be at the table.
 | **All****NM****NM / EF / NC** |
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| 6. | AOCB |  |
| a. | Paul R reminded group members about the SFRS Draft Strategy for 2025/28 [consultation](https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/draft-sfrs-strategy-2025-28/), which runs for approximately four more weeks. | **All** |
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| b. | Values Based Leadership Experience – was covered under Matters Arising |  |
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| c. | Bob passed on his thanks for the arranging of an accessible meeting place. |  |
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| d. | Nicky C noted that this would be Emma’s last DPMG meeting and that she had advocated partnership working and challenged the NHS Executive Team in her role at Public Health. Simon formally expressed the thanks from the group. |  |
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| 7. | Dates for Future Meetings |  |
|  | * 12 June, 10am – 12pm
* 11 September, 10am – 12pm
* 4 December, 2pm – 4pm

Venues: Physical venue tbc hybrid with Teams |  |

Attachments: