

**Regeneration Development Partnership  
Macduff Town Hall  
22/05/2017 – 7-9pm**

Attendees: Cllr R Cassie (Chair), Cllr M Findlater,  
Christine Webster – Regeneration & Town Centres Manager  
Jan Emery – B&B Area Project Officer  
David McCubbin – Visit Aberdeenshire  
John Watt – Macduff Shipyards  
Tristan walker – Head Teacher, Macduff Primary School  
Susie Sue - Bayview

Apologies: Paul Thomas – All-in-House  
Duncan Abernethy – NESCOL  
Linda Hendry – Project Assistant (Note Taker)  
Caroline Smith  
Hamish McCleay – Bachlaw Projects

Item	Description
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b> All were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>
2	<p><b><u>Note of last meeting</u></b> Note of the last meeting was reviewed and agreed.</p>
3	<p><b><u>Social Regeneration</u></b></p> <p>Jan Emery gave feedback to the group regarding some work on social regeneration to find out what was causing the increase in food bank usage, and previous child poverty figures for the Troup ward.</p> <p>The three main areas that have been identified as having an influence on poverty are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor carer / parental choices – there was some debate about the language being used and where this fitted in – i.e. some of the explanations given were not directly related to poverty per se but lack of appropriate care in providing breakfast to children.</li> <li>• Difficulty in managing household budgets. This is likely to become more difficult as Universal Credit is rolled out in that it is paid in larger chunks than current benefits. Also discussed was the transportation issue with particular regard to reaching NHS services in Gamrie. George Rutten is doing some further work on this, which will be brought to the group at a later stage.</li> <li>• Welfare Reform gaps. There is a gap between someone falling into need regarding benefits and the payment of</li> </ul>

	<p>benefits – often around 6 weeks. This is part of the newsystem.</p> <p>At Macduff Primary there are 26 families and 40 children who receive free school meals. Despite information on a change of system to make claiming free school meals more anonymous, there still appears to be an issue. <b>Councillor Findlater agreed to follow this up.</b></p> <p>There was discussion regarding further research on child poverty involving substantial consultation through schools. <b>It was agreed to request that Amanda Davis, who is managing this research, be approached to narrowing the work onto the Banff and Buchan area. Jan Emery to follow up.</b></p> <p><b>There has been research into child poverty in the Orkney area. Christine and Jan to pursue.</b></p>
4	<p><b><u>Macduff Property Grant Scheme</u></b></p> <p>This is now live. Letters are going out to property owners on Shore Street and Duff Street this week to invite them to apply to the Macduff Property grants Scheme. Grants of up to £10,000 or 75% of the costs of frontage improvements are available to improve the visual appearance of the main routes through the town.</p> <p><b>Partnership members were invited to contact Linda Hendry if they knew of anyone interested. In particular if any elderly residents required support to complete an application.</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Findlater offered to promote the scheme on “Macduff and its Community” facebook site.</b></p> <p>Susie gave a brief update of their plans for the Bayview which were welcomed by the group.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Community Garden</u></b></p> <p>No one from the group was present. Councillor Cassie updated the group that a community consultation had taken place and work had started.</p> <p>The group will be encouraged to engage with officers and funders and continue with good community relations.</p>
6	<p><b><u>Digital Sector Development</u></b></p>

	<p>Christine gave a short presentation on the scoping process for creating additional jobs and businesses in the digital sector. Members were asked about targets they would like to set, partners to get involved in the initiative and any businesses they already knew about operating in this field.</p> <p>There was discussion about the potential for a hacking club. It was agreed that a working group could take forward a digital open day to explore those interested in this area and start to activate local interest. <b>Jan to organise and include Jim, Tristan Walker and a representative of Macduff Shipyards.</b></p>
7	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>The Terms of Reference were agreed and should be finalised.</p> <p>The group were asked about their views on the gateway signs which had been brought up previously. There was agreement that the dates on the current “Macduff” sign made it look like nothing had happened in the town since 1984. It was agreed to keep it simple and even replace the wording on the bottom to: ...”Burgh of Macduff since 1784”. <b>Christine to request roads colleagues to consider how this could be done.</b></p>
10	<p><b><u>Date and time of next meeting</u></b>  Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016  @ 7pm Macduff town Hall</p>