

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of the PROVOST'S PANEL held in the BRUCE ROOM, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012 at 12.30pm

Present:

Provost Mike ROBBINS (in the Chair)

Bailie Neil BENNY
Bailie Mark RUSKELL

Bailie Violet WEIR

In Attendance:

Angela Heaney, Policy Officer, Chief Executive's Services
Liz Duncan, Chief Governance Officer, Governance & Resources
Cath Sutherland, Strategic & Community Planning Team Leader
Jean Houston, Committee Officer (Democratic Support), Governance & Resources (Clerk)

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Bailie Fergus Wood.

PV11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PV12 URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

PV13 OVERSEAS TRAVEL – EU CITIES ADAPT PROJECT

The Policy Officer presented a report, providing details of the EU Cities Adapt Project and emerging travel plans for three training workshops as critical elements of the project.

The EU Cities Adapt Project had selected Stirling to be one of 21 cities across Europe to benefit from a tailored training and capacity building programme to develop and implement a climate change adaptation strategy for the city region. Stirling was in a sub-group of 5 Training Cities partnered with 2 Peer Cities, representing 'Northern, North-Central & North-Western' Europe.

Training would encompass web-based tutorials, workshops, city site visits, coaching and peer exchanges, access to a web-portal with tools, guiding materials and a reference library, as well as an interactive members' exchange forum.

Emphasis throughout the project would be on coaching and peer review to guide cities through the process of establishing an integrated adaptation strategy. Stirling's allocated coach was based at the University of Manchester and was scheduled to visit three times during the project, with the first visit planned for the end of November 2012.

The Policy Officer advised that an initial draft Adaptation Strategy would be completed at the end of May 2013, and the final Strategy would be submitted to Council in Spring 2014.

In response to questions by Members of the Panel, the Policy Officer confirmed that, following each workshop, she would provide a progress report to Councillors and would also report back on outcomes to the Cities Alliance and CoSLA.

All travel and accommodation costs for two representatives attending the training workshops would be covered by the project so there would be no charge to Stirling Council.

Decision

The Panel agreed:

1. to give approval for the two most appropriate officers from the Council to travel to Dublin to participate in the EU Cities Adapt Project's first Training Workshop, 6 - 9 November 2012;
2. to give approval for the two most appropriate officers to attend two future training workshops of similar duration next February and April, one workshop at Malmo and the other workshop at one of the participating training cities, exact dates to be finalised;
3. that, following each of the three training workshops, a briefing would be circulated to all Members setting out progress and details of the proposed timetable of the adaptation strategy; and
4. that a draft Adaptation Strategy would be completed by the end of May 2013, for submission to Council.

(Report by Head of Environment, dated 9 October 2012)

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.45 pm