



Note of meeting – 9 April 2025

Present:

- Fiona McKenzie (Chair)
- Colin Blair
- Billy Bowie
- Richard Grieveson (for Eddie Fraser)
- Graham Ghillie (for Susie Chow)
- Councillor Barry Douglas

Apologies:

- Angela Cox
- David Cameron
- Councillor Douglas Reid
- Lilian Jones MP
- Lynne McNiven
- Chris McMail

In attendance:

- Pamela Clifford
- Norman Gill
- Barbara McNaughton

Number	Item	Board Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions Fiona welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.	
	Actions Arising	N/A
2.	Opening Remarks Fiona highlighted how much We Make Kilmarnock had achieved through community-led engagement events which shaped the strategy. Trusted relationships have been formed and development of local alliances which supported action on important issues in communities.	
	Actions Arising	N/A
3.	Note of Last Meeting Members reviewed the note of the previous meeting and agreed it is an accurate reflection of discussions. Discussion around overall town PR and the requirement for external expertise. NG stated a brief was being written for procurement purposes which he will take forwards.	
	Actions Arising: NG will work on the draft PR brief for members to discuss.	NG



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4.	<p>Chair update</p> <p>Fiona gave an overview of the many achievements made to date including trusted relationships, public engagement, Kilmarnock Fair Festival to name a few. There had been a pause on various elements due to political and external factors, but momentum has been sustained and Fiona thanked everyone involved. The revised prospectus was released 12 March and the board has to be confirmed by 22 April although other Board Members can join by invitation in future as required.</p> <p>The We Make Kilmarnock Strategy is recognised as an exemplar by UK Government but Fiona also warned that £200k of capacity funding is not a lot of money therefore it is even more important to be strategic, bold, ambitious and community led.</p>	
	Actions Arising	N/A
5.	<p>Town Centre Redevelopment:</p> <p>RG and PC took the board through a slide show prepared by East Ayrshire Council of various town centre locations and capital investment. The Board agreed it was important to join up projects where possible to maximise investment and partnership working.</p> <p>Discussion around vacant properties and town centre living. CB had his team do some research on town centre living previously and will pass on the results to RG.</p>	
	Actions Arising: CB to pass on town centre living study results to RG	CB
6.	<p>SCIO/Fund Manager</p> <p>NG gave an overview of the differences between progressing as a SCIO or having a Fund Manager. The Board agreed to progress with the Fund Manager option. NG to progress by creating a brief for response by prospective fund managers.</p>	
	Actions Arising: NG to progress brief.	NG



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7.	<p>Decisions Required</p> <p>FMcK and NG are still having discussions with UK Govt in regards to funding. Option discussed to ask East Ayrshire Council to frontload £299k funding to allow more work to be completed in FY25/26. There are ongoing discussions with the Council's Chief Financial Officer. The Board agreed to ask EAC for £299k.</p> <p>Discussion took place in respect of the Plan for Neighbourhoods boundary and the requirement for proposed changes to be clear, evidence based and understood by members.</p> <p>There was discussion around the inclusion of various areas around the existing boundary. In particular, that rural funding is not available to Hurlford or Crookedholm but is to other areas just outwith the existing boundary such as Crosshouse.</p> <p>RG noted that all Board members were not present and that consideration may wish to be afforded to engaging the members unable to attend the meeting in terms of decision making including re boundary.</p> <p>On this basis it was to be minuted that the Board agreed they wish to retain the option to revise the boundary again at some point in the future. This point will be clarified in due course with UK Government. The Board agreed to include Hurlford and Crookedholm within a revised boundary per the map shown at the meeting for the purposes of the 22nd April 2025 governance and boundary UK Govt return.</p> <p>The Board agreed membership with current members and noted that Peter Telfer has stepped down and the Board thanked him for his valued contributions. It was also agreed that membership can be by organisation rather than named persons due to possible personnel changes.</p> <p>Board discussed financial plan shown by NG, further meetings will be offered to Board members to consider the detail therein. Overall PR profiling agreed subject to tendering processes.</p> <p>Discussion around radios to tackle anti-social behaviour. Board agreed in principle and GG suggested the Board should give consideration to how effectiveness is measured to inform any future consideration of funding.</p>	



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Number	Item	Board Action
	Actions Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NG and FMcK will continue to have discussions with UK Govt on funding. KP to ask for clarification on future boundary changes RG will progress request for backfill monies of £299k from EAC. NG to consider how effectiveness of the radios can be measured 	NG / FMcK RG KP NG
	AOCB Date of next meeting discussed to ensure momentum is kept going. Sub groups may be required. CB asked for meeting dates to be put on agenda for discussion at next meeting. RG and PC asked to attend next meeting to give further updates.	NG RG / PC
	Actions Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NG to put meeting dates on agenda RG and PC attend next meeting 	NG RG/PC
	Meeting Actions Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NG will work with Frame PR on the draft brief for members to discuss. CB to pass on town centre living study results to RG NG to progress options for Fund Manager RG will progress request for backfill monies of £299k from EAC NG to put meeting dates on agenda NG to consider how effectiveness of the radios can be measured. RG and PC attend next meeting 	
	Date of next meeting 28 May 2025 at 3pm – 5pm at Centrestage	

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