



Lochaber Enterprise

Iomairt Lochabair

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LOCHABER ENTERPRISE

29th August 2006 at St Mary's House, Fort William

FOR PUBLICATION

- Present** Drew McFarlane Slack (Chairman)
John Jennett (Vice Chairman)
Steven Bracken
Paul Brennan
Iain Brown
Edward Daynes
Hans Petter Lange
Gerald McIntyre
Scott Shiells
- In attendance** Charlotte Wright
Morven Cameron
Scott Dingwall
David Oxley
Donna Beck (Secretary)
Colin MacKenzie (Highland Council) – Part II only
Calum Davidson (HIE) – Part II only
- Observers** Grant MacLennan (Youth Observer, Lochaber High School)

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ann Martin.

2) MINUTES

The minutes and the minutes for publication of the meeting of 29th August 2006 were approved.

Charlotte Wright provided an update on issues raised by the community at the June Board meeting in Knoydart.

Local services – Charlotte Wright will update John Hutchison at the local partnership meeting on Thursday 31st August.

Local Forestry Development – Scott Dingwall had meeting with Grant Holroyd and his colleagues.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Scott Shiells declared an interest in the BSW update. Steve Bracken declared an interest in the Ocean Nutritionals update.

4) MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5) UPDATES & ADVANCE NOTIFICATIONS

a) Paragraph removed for reasons of commercial interest.

b) Fort William Waterfront update – Scott Dingwall

Contents of the update paper were noted. Highland Council have instructed Ryden Property Consultants to update the development brief for Fort William waterfront. A prospectus has now been prepared by Highland Council seeking interest in the acquisition of Council assets and the development opportunity at the waterfront, a closing date for interest to be registered has been set for October 2006. It is felt that the development of the waterfront has potential to be a key strategic project.

c) Ocean Nutritionals update – Scott Dingwall

Steve Bracken declared an interest and left the room.

Scott Dingwall updated the Board with the current situation with Ocean Nutritionals. Ocean Nutritionals have had lease at Annat Industrial Estate since February 2006. In that time they have ordered equipment etc and secured planning permissions. However numerous conditions have yet to be fulfilled before Lochaber Enterprise can release undertaking and funds. The conditions were noted by the Board.

Steve Bracken returned to the room.

6) APPROVAL OF COMPANY ACCOUNTS

It was noted that the Accounts for year end 31 March 2006 were in a relatively healthy position with no issues.

The Board APPROVED the Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2006.

7) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) There was no relevant correspondence to be circulated.

b) Recruitment of Directors – 8 applications were received with 5 being short listed for interview. The recommendations to the Board are Peter Short and Ingrid Henderson for immediate start and Ian Buick and Martin Stubbs-Partridge for starting 2007.

The Board **APPROVED** this decision. Peter Short and Ingrid Henderson to be invited to the September Board meeting.

The Chairman informed the Board that the December Board meeting would be his last one.

- c) Economic Review – EKOS have submitted the first draft of the Economic Review which gave the opportunity to raise issues as it didn't measure up to expectation. Further feedback will be provided once the second draft has been received.
- d) The Highland Council re-organisation has been approved by committees and it is anticipated that next year there will be two wards with 7 members. All 7 members will have responsibility for urban and rural areas.

8) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- a) Unemployment statistics as at the end of July was 1.7%.
- b) The current budget stands at £2.4million for the year with spend at £1.4million against target of £900,000. HIE have advised that many larger projects across the Network are slowing down and therefore it is likely that will obtain more funds.
- c) The European Audit is a significant matter for the Network. Companies are being asked to resubmit evidence of financial assistance which is proving to be a large administrative task.
- d) Integrated Management of Careers Scotland will begin from 1st October 2006. Scottish Enterprise are taking the opposite route and splitting from Careers Scotland. At a local level, the key issue is location of all Lochaber Enterprise and Careers Scotland staff.
- e) The Highland Area Tourism Plan is produced by the Highland Area Tourism Partnership. Lochaber Enterprise and a number of others have made fairly critical comments on the plan, which due to timing had to be submitted before being put before the Board.
- f) The HIE Tourism Strategy was created by the Network Tourism Group. Iain Brown attended the workshop and noted that it had been very worthwhile. Charlotte Wright to provide update on how the strategy will be taken forward.
- g) Paragraph removed for reasons of commercial interest.

9) OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to report.

10) ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the September Board meeting will now be held in Lochaber High School with possibly an earlier start. Further details will be issued in due course.

PART II

Colin MacKenzie from Development & Strategy, Highland Council joined Part II of the Board meeting to give a presentation on the Local Plan. This was then followed by a

presentation on MIT/Distance Lab by Calum Davidson, Head of Knowledge Economy,
Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

Donna Beck (Secretary)
31/08/06

Signed :.....

Print: **ANDREW MCFARLANE SLACK**

Position: **CHAIRMAN**

Date: **26th September 2006**