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**ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING  
MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**3rd OCTOBER 2007**

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**UPDATE ON THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HUB INITIATIVE**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring the Management Committee up to date with the progress of the Hub Initiative.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Management Committee note the current status of the Hub Initiative and agree that a follow-up report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee as further relevant information becomes available.
- 2.2 In addition, the Management Committee note that George Harper, Director of Development Services, will be the main Council contact with the Shadow Hub Board and the Council's principal point of contact with Chief Executives from NHS Boards and Local Authorities included within the Northern Hub territory.
- 2.3 That the Management Committee also note Nick Allan's continuing involvement both with the Hub Scotland Shadow Board, as a representative of CoSLA during the Pathfinder Evaluation process, and as a member of the Hub Delivery Group.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 The Management Committee will recall the content of the previous report on the Hub Initiative presented at the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007, and the subsequent discussion that took place.
- 3.2 The Labour Administration decided not to proceed with the Hub Initiative prior to the Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May and, post-election, there was an element of doubt as to whether the new SNP Administration would wish to continue with this proposal.
- 3.3 However, on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007 a letter from the Scottish Executive - Health Finance Directorate - regarding the Hub Initiative was circulated

by email to the Chief Executives of all Local Authorities and NHS Boards. A copy of this letter has been **attached** to this report. Although the letter does not explicitly state that the Hub Initiative would be implemented in full, it does however demonstrate that the Scottish Government is committed to taking the Initiative forward to the next stage.

- 3.4 The content of the attached letter is self explanatory and requests that organisations interested in being involved as part of a pathfinder territory should lodge their interest with the Hub Programme Director by 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007. In addition, the letter requests that the organisation in question identifies an individual to act as the main point of contact on Hub related matters.
- 3.5 At its meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007 the Council's Strategic Management Team considered this request and agreed to send a formal response intimating the Council's interest in being considered as a pathfinder participant within the proposed Northern Hub Territory. In addition George Harper, Director of Development Services was selected to be the Council's nominated contact point for subsequent discussions with the Hub Shadow Board and other Northern Territory Partners.
- 3.6 The Hub Delivery Group held a workshop event at Stirling University on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 to explain how it intended to evaluate the readiness of all interested parties. By the end of September participating local authorities and health boards will have had to complete a series of complicated pathfinder evaluation forms to provide the Delivery Group with a profile of their own organisations together with information on the extent to which their Community Planning Partnerships are engaged in joint planning activities.

All returns across Scotland will be assessed and scored by the Delivery Group and the results presented to Ministers during October. The timescale for completing these readiness assessment forms is, without question, severe.

For this reason, there is some doubt as to the ability of all participants to be able to respond with meaningful and robust information on time, particularly when it is recognised that there will be a requirement to take part in a series of discussions with territory partners at both a strategic planning, and also potentially at a political level prior to the submission of the completed forms.

- 3.7 Notwithstanding the above, at the time of compiling this report Argyll and Bute Council and Highland NHS have arranged to attend a meeting of the Northern Hub Territory partners together with the Hub Delivery Group to be held in Aberdeen on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007. It is envisaged that the completion of the pathfinder evaluation forms by the Council will take place after this proposed meeting and once a view has been reached on the overall readiness of the Northern Territory partners to participate in this Initiative at this stage.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Management Committee note that the Hub Initiative has entered a pathfinder evaluation stage and, on its planned completion towards the end of October 2007, Ministers will be informed of the results. Thereafter, it is possible that certain pathfinder territories will be selected and the Hub Initiative will move into an implementation phase.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

<b>POLICY</b>	None
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	None
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	None
<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>	None
<b>LEGAL</b>	None

For further information please contact:-

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14<sup>th</sup> September 2007

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Your ref:

Our ref:

20 July 2007

*Issued by e mail*

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Dear Colleague

**The hub Initiative – Building Better Local Services Together – Update on Development and Pathfinder Process**

This letter updates colleagues on the current status of the hub initiative and sets out next steps in the initiative's development.

At the end of 2006, following input from Local Authorities and Health Boards, the hub strategic business case was completed. Following on from this, the continued development of the hub initiative through the establishment of shadow working arrangements and the identification of pathfinder areas.

Therefore, the next stage of development is for us to engage with public sector bodies across Scotland in order to identify their commitment and willingness to be initial pathfinder territories which will develop and procure appropriate community based premises projects through hub. As colleagues will be aware a key focus for such projects will be the promotion of joint working at a local level.

The draft Memorandum of Information previously issued proposed 5 hub territories covering the whole of Scotland. Assumptions regarding the coverage and number of hub territories will be further refined through the Pathfinder Process when the extent of public sector commitment and participation is confirmed.

Currently your organisation is envisaged to be part of the North territory. The core public sector participants and Community Planning partners in your territory are Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Argyll & Bute Council, Highland Council, Moray Council, Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Islands Council, Western Isles Council, NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles.

The Pathfinder Process work is expected to span 3 months from August to October 2007. This timescale enables the outcomes of the Pathfinder Process to be considered within the timetable for Spending Review 2007. Pathfinders will be selected through an objective evaluation process.

Potential pathfinders will work with the hub Delivery Team in assessing and completing a set of "readiness criteria". Each of the 5 hub territories will receive funding of £20,000 to support their involvement in this initial work. This assessment will require discussion within and across a range of community planning partnerships.

Following the initial work, the Pathfinder Territories selected will receive practical and financial support to take forward the establishment of hub in their areas. Financial support will be provided to assist with project management costs, initial set up costs, procurement support costs and organisational development activity.

**Initially you should respond to this letter by 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007 indicating whether your organisation is interested in being involved as part of a pathfinder territory. Responses and requests for information should be sent to Ben King, hub Programme Director c/o Room 49, 1 St Colme Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6AA. ([ben.king@partnershipsuk.org.uk](mailto:ben.king@partnershipsuk.org.uk)). These initial responses should also identify the contact details for a nominated person within your organisation who will act as the main point of contact on hub related matters.**

Following receipt of your initial response copies of the Readiness Criteria Forms and details on financial support available will be issued. The hub Delivery Team will arrange to meet with your organisation and other interested partners within your hub territory to help you understand more about hub, discuss next steps and detail the pathfinder process requirements.

Our intention is to implement the hub initiative on a phased basis across Scotland subject to Cabinet approval. Therefore, for those territories not selected as pathfinders, participation will be available through subsequent phases. These are expected to follow 9-12 months beyond the initial phase.

We look forward to receiving your response and to working with you in taking forward this important development.

Yours Sincerely



Mike Baxter  
Directorate of Health Finance  
Scottish Executive Health and Wellbeing



Ben King  
Hub Programme Director