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**Update Report on Local Area Community Planning Groups**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which Local Area Community Planning Groups are making in developing action plans and Scorecards, and in fulfilling their Community Engagement role, as they progress to becoming key partnership groups for areas to plan and monitor aims and objectives for local communities.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the progress which the Local Area Community Planning Groups are making in taking forward their Community Engagement role, and in delivering local outcomes contained within their respective Community Plans.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** Local Area Community Planning Groups have made good progress in establishing themselves, in focussing on regular meeting cycles, and on ensuring that all relevant partners attend meetings and events.
- 3.2** At the November cycle of meetings a Partnership Agreement which outlines keys aims and responsibilities for partners in each of the groups was considered and agreed. Work is now ongoing in identifying all local partnership groups and developing reporting mechanisms for them via Highlight and Exception reporting, which will ensure that local partnerships are connected to the LACPG at the most appropriate level, are committed by agreement to delivering on the agreed aims and outcomes for the area, and have a mechanism whereby they are able to report to the group on progress, or otherwise, in such delivery without having to attend multiple meetings. It is anticipated that in progressing this work some rationalisation of existing partnerships is likely.
- 3.3** The groups also considered items relating to their role in progressing effective community engagement, and each agreed to adopt the suggested Consultation Diary as one method of taking forward this work.
- 3.4** All of the Local Groups now have in place draft Community Plans for their area, which have been developed in consultation with key partners, and, specifically, are a key outcome of the first Forward Together events which were held in each area in Spring/Summer

this year.

- 3.6** In October/November, Forward Together 2 seminars were held in each LACPG area. A report detailing these events, and outcomes from them, is the subject of a separate report to the Management Committee.
- 3.7** The key task which is now in front of the Local Area Community Planning Groups is to cross reference the outcomes from Forward Together 2 to the current Area Community Plans, and to make whatever amendments may be required following that cross matching process, in order to ensure that the Community Plan which is taken forward from April 2011 is realistic and achievable in light of the current public sector budget situation. The plans are currently being revised in light of this community engagement work, and will be considered initially at the January meetings of the Groups, in the expectation that a finalised plan will be agreed at the meetings due to be held in March 2011. At the same time, the draft Scorecards which are currently in place will be amended to reflect any changes in the Plans, and to enable effective capturing of data on local performance which is able to be provided by partners. Additionally, a report on performance on outcomes and performance indicators which are in the draft Plans and Scorecards for this year will be collated and considered at the March cycle of LACPG meetings. This pulling together of performance related work by the groups will enable updates to be considered by the financial year end, and provide a clear work programme of scrutiny and performance management for the LACPG's to take forward in the coming year.
- 3.5** In August, the Bute and Cowal Local Area Community Planning Group considered a report outlining the potential for young people to be more involved in local community planning, and agreed that this work should be progressed. Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Group will therefore pilot a process for young people to entirely plan, lead and facilitate one of it's meetings, which will be the meeting scheduled to take place in January 2011. The Council's Youth Services Manager will be the lead officer in this, and the process will be evaluated with a view to having such a meeting on an annual basis, and in each of the LACPG areas.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1** Local Area Community Planning Groups have made good progress in taking forward their Community Engagement role, and in developing action plans and scorecards to monitor progress in delivery of local service priorities. The key tasks outlined above will ensure that they complete tasks in relation to effective integration of partnerships and finalising Community Plans, and have in place robust performance management arrangements to ensure they can carry out their scrutiny role effectively from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. It is anticipated that an update on all of this work, together with agreed Local Community Plans and Scorecards, will be submitted for approval to the meeting of the Management Committee due to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

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