
Title: Update Report on Local Area Community Planning Groups

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which Local Area Community Planning Groups are making in taking forward their Action Plans and in developing effective Community Engagement, 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.

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. The most recent round of meetings in January were generally well attended and generated good quality debate amongst partners about future direction and aims for the groups, and for the local communities they represent.
- 3.2** Work is continuing in all areas in identifying key local strategic partnerships who need to be aligned with the LACPG, and who are frequently the deliverers of key local outcomes contained in the developing LACPG plans. It is expected that this work will be significantly completed in time for a full report on linked local partnerships to be considered at the March round of LACPG meetings. Following this, the agreed process of Highlight and Exception reporting on key aims and outcomes will be introduced, giving the local groups the information they need to ensure that local priorities are, in fact, being progressed. It remains the case that as a result of the work in aligning partnerships there may be some rationalisation of these groups at local level.
- 3.3** Groups recently adopted the Consultation Diary as part of their community engagement work; limited responses have been received to date, but there is plenty of scope to build this as one method in taking effective community engagement work forward.
- 3.4** All of the Local Groups are working hard on finalising their Community Plans in light of recent consultation work, and in developing local scorecards which will allow for effective scrutiny of

local performance against agreed outcomes; this work will again be finalised for the March cycle of meetings, such that an agreed plan and associated Scorecard will be in place for implementation from 1st April.

- 3.5** A progress report on the work of the LACPG's, and the delivery of the agreed plan, for the current financial year, will be submitted to the March meeting cycle.
- 3.6** The January meetings all considered an item in regard to the developing Community Engagement Toolkit, which was extremely informative. Each group now has in place an agreed training date for late February, to which all LACPG partners and community groups will be invited. The feeling of the groups was that the opportunity for such training was invaluable, and a key step forward for groups in terms of developing their community engagement role.
- 3.7** Unfortunately, due to adverse weather and dangerous road conditions, the planned input of youngsters to the Bute and Cowal LACPG did not take place. This was envisaged as a pilot process, to be evaluated with a view to having such a meeting on an annual basis, and in each of the LACPG areas. The input from the young people will be re scheduled for later this year to accommodate both the ongoing work of the LACPG, and the educational commitments of the young people due to be involved in this process.

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 1st 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 6th April 2011.

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