
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 Partnership notes the progress which the Local Area Community Planning Groups are making as they develop into key partnership groups for local areas.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Local Area Community Planning Groups have made good progress in establishing themselves, in focussing on regular meeting cycles, and in ensuring that all relevant partners and community representatives attend meetings and events. The January round of meetings 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. A full report on linked local partnerships is being considered at the March round of LACPG meetings, at which time groups are taking the opportunity to ensure that linkages and representation are most relevant to local circumstances. Following this, the agreed process of Highlight and Exception reporting on key aims and outcomes will be introduced to linked partnerships, giving the LACPGs the information they need to ensure that local priorities are, in fact, being progressed. It remains the case that as a result of this work in aligning partnerships some rationalisation of these groups is also taking place, which is helping to address concerns about duplication of groups, structures and meetings.
- 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. Draft amended plans are being considered at the March meeting rounds, following which it is expected that Scorecards will be available for agreement at the May round of meetings.
- 3.5** A progress report on the work of the LACPG's, and the delivery of the agreed plan, for the current financial year, has been submitted to the March meetings.
- 3.6** The January meetings all considered an item in regard to the developing Community Engagement Toolkit, which was extremely informative. 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. Training is now being provided to each of the groups, and local partners.
- 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 is being 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, will be submitted for approval to the meeting of the Management Committee due to be held on 6th April 2011.

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