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**Title: 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 their Action Plans and associated Scorecards, and in developing effective Community Engagement mechanisms, 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 made generally good starts in establishing themselves, focussing on regular meeting cycles and on ensuring that all relevant partners attend meetings and events. This work is continuing, but it should be noted that there are varying degrees of success with this across the four decentralised areas.
- 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. This is work in progress, with initial linkages agreed and identified by the groups, and agreement made that this will be a standing item on agendas to ensure that the information shared by groups remains both current and relevant. Local key partnerships will soon be asked to submit performance information to the Local Community Planning Groups by way of Exception and Highlight reporting.
- 3.3** Groups continue to be reminded about the Consultation Diary process, and the benefits for groups and communities to make effective use of this. It remains to be seen how significant the uptake in it's use will be.
- 3.4** The Local Groups made progress at the March and May meetings with refining their Local Area Community Plans, and work is now underway to develop amended Scorecards; it is expected that these documents will be finally agreed at the September cycle of meetings.

- 3.5** Specific items considered by the local meetings in May included Fire Safety in Tenement Properties (Bute and Cowal), feedback on Third Sector Partnership Community Engagement ( Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands), update on CHORD (Helensburgh Lomond), and feedback on the Community Development and Engagement training which has recently been carried out.
- 3.6** Although there has been generally steady progress with the development of structures, processes and levels of understanding around the LACPG's, this has not been consistent across all four areas, and it remains the case that a significant number of concerns about the effectiveness of the groups have been expressed at the last two meeting rounds. Such concerns include lack of clarity or purpose for the groups, lack of commitment to attendance by Core Partners and key community groups, and, significantly, about duplication in some areas of existing structures which are carrying out local community planning in an effective and recognised way, and have been doing so for some considerable time. The opportunity for partners and community groups and representatives to feed such concerns into the current Self Assessment of Community Planning has been widely welcomed, and the outcome of this process should enable such concerns to be addressed, thereby ensuring improved focus and clarity of purpose for those groups who see limitations in the current arrangements. It is anticipated that the outcome of this process will be clear and available for consideration at the forthcoming Management Committee meeting, and that Local Area Community Planning Groups will be able at their September meetings to focus on these outcomes and consider how best they can develop in light of these, to take forward the challenge of working effectively towards becoming key partnership groups for areas to plan and monitor aims and objectives for local communities.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1** Local Area Community Planning Groups have made good progress in developing their role in Community Engagement and in beginning to identify key priorities for local service delivery across partners. Updated Action Plans and accompanying Scorecards will be considered and adopted at the September meeting cycle. Concerns being raised about the purpose and effectiveness of the groups will be progressed at the September meetings of the groups following collation and actioning of issues raised through the current process of Self Assessment of Community Planning.

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