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**Argyll and Bute Community Planning  
Partnership**

**Full Partnership  
15 February 2012**



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**Scottish Government Review of Community Planning**

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**1. SUMMARY**

**1.1** This report informs the partnership on the Scottish Government's proposed review of Community Planning. Further updates will be brought to the partnership as it progresses.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1** It is recommended that the partnership note the report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

**3.1** The Scottish Government is currently proposing a 3 stage review of community planning. This is being carried out in partnership with COSLA, SOLCCE and the Improvement Service. Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission have also been involved.

**3.2** There are a number of stages to the review and different timescales attached to them. The principle is to establish whether community planning is as effective as it could be and whether there are changes that could be made from the centre that would allow for better decentralized and integrated decision making across the public sector.

**3.3** The first stage is the production of a clear statement jointly developed by partners regarding what is expected of the Community Planning process in terms of partner involvement, identification of priorities, and the achievement of better outcomes for communities that are clear and measurable. This statement will take into account the four key elements of public service agreed through the spending review process e.g.:

- focus on place and integration of services
- preventative spend
- a transparent performance culture
- a focus on workforce issues.

This statement will also have to take into account how Community Planning should be developed to deal with changes in the public sector environment such as health and social care integration.

## Appendix 1(h)

- 3.4** The second stage would be an assessment of what capacity and systems local Community Planning Partnerships would have to have at their disposal in order to effectively deliver the joint expectation of Community Planning. There is an understanding that while this may involve the development of practice issues locally it is equally likely to require changes in systems and legislation nationally.
- 3.5** The third stage of the process is to start the process of implementing the changes that will allow local partnerships to build the capacity to deliver on the shared statement of Community Planning purpose and expectation. This stage may involve the sharing of best practice, training and development for public sector staff, the creation of new systems at a national level and potentially new legislation if it is deemed to be required.
- 3.6** In terms of timescale the Government are committed to the statement of expectation of Community Planning to be developed, completed and available throughout the public sector by the end of February or early March. This will enable new Councils to have a clear view of their leadership responsibility after the elections in May.
- 3.7** The latter two stages of the review i.e. identifying the capacities required and beginning to develop them will necessarily follow after that first stage is concluded. Further information on this will be reported to the partnership as it is made available.
- 3.8** The process of agreeing the joint statement is taking place through the joint review group at national level. It is not clear what the role of Community Planning Partnerships will be in developing this, although the Council will have an opportunity to comment at COSLA Leadership meetings.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1** The review will assist in aligning Community Planning with the results of the Christie Commission report on public sector reform. At present there is

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