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**Scottish Government Review of Community Planning – Statement of  
Ambition**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report informs the partnership on the progress being made in the Scottish Government's review of Community Planning.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Management Committee note the report.
- 2.2** The Management Committee is asked to note the attached draft statement of ambition.
- 2.3** The Management Committee note that the Pathfinder for Police and Fire national forces will integrate with the review of Community Planning and will present positive opportunities for better integrated working at an Argyll and Bute level.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** The Scottish Government is currently undertaking a 3 stage review of community planning. This is being carried out in partnership with COSLA, SOLACE 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 was to produce 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 is now available in draft.
- 3.4** The second stage will 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 begin to implement 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** The statement of ambition is now available and it is hoped that this will enable new Councils to have a clear view of their leadership responsibility after the elections in May. The Statement of Ambition is attached to this report.
- 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. Integration of these proposed changes with the pathfinders and creation of national police and fire services will be critical and this has already been raised by partners with Scottish Government.

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