
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 as they progress to becoming key partnership groups for local areas to plan and monitor aims and objectives and delivery of services within 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** The Local Area Community Planning Groups have been developing well over the most recent meeting cycles. The provision of formal feedback from the CPP Self Assessment process to the March meetings has enabled the local groups to continue their development taking on board both the positive and negative feedback which was gathered.
- 3.2** The March meetings have had a significant focus on agenda items which have been brought forward by both core partners, and more significantly, community groups and organisations, and which reflect communities concerns and priorities.
- 3.3** The MAKI had an extremely informative presentation and update from Christina West of NHS Highland, highlighting the work being taken forward regarding Reshaping Older People's Services, which generated lively debate and questioning. The meeting was conducted by Video conference across 3 locations, and although the technology was not completely reliable and links were lost at various points in the meeting, the provision of the VC allowed community representatives from Islay, Campbeltown and Mid Argyll to participate in the debate.
- 3.4** Bute and Cowal's March meeting had a focus on the Woodland In and Around Towns Project and a very informative presentation by Alasdair McGregor, CEO of ACHA on the work which the Association have carried out , and plan to complete, in the Bute and Cowal area in upgrading their housing stock. This linked well to excellent input from 2 young women who have been supported by the Women Into Public Life project who highlighted to the group some of the issues which young women face locally in undertaking education or uptaking employment, and the key problem they have of getting, and sustaining, suitable living accommodation. Other

issues raised at the meeting, by the Community Council and the Third Sector Forum, included issues of road maintenance and parking, and the information that NHS Highland has commenced a key consultation on the future of Out of Hours services in Cowal.

- 3.5** The Oban, Lorn and the Isles LACPG meeting was held on the evening of 14th March as a trial for evening meetings, and was attended by more than 40 people, including about 15 members of the public. The agenda was very full and interesting, including items on SAMS, the Tiree Array, the Local Development Plan, the Oban to Fort William Cycle Path and the recent very successful Oban Winter Festival. The meeting was very lively and well received by attendees, though concerns were raised about the length of the agenda, the overrun of the meeting time, and the lack of opportunity for questions to be asked by many who were there. The group agreed that the next meeting should be held in the evening.
- 3.6** The Helensburgh Lomond LACPG meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 20th March, a verbal update will be provided to the Management Committee meeting

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Recent LACPG meetings have had a strong focus on agenda items which more realistically reflect issues affecting local communities than was previously the case, and this has resulted in improved attendance and more positive feedback about the usefulness of the meetings. Additionally, agendas are being generated by partners and community groups themselves, so there is an increasing sense of ownership of the meetings by those who attend. Given the formal feedback on the CPP Self Assessment process groups are now moving forward to implement the agreed changes for each local group, which should continue to improve the effectiveness of the groups. Groups will continue to focus on issues of local concern, and on developing Scorecards which reflect local priorities and provide them with the opportunity to oversee local service issues.

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