
Scottish Government Review of Community Planning Update - May 2012

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report informs the Community Planning Partnership of the progress of the Scottish Government's review of Community Planning.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership note the report.

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 was 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 decentralised and integrated decision making across the public sector.
- 3.3** The first stage was 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 was published in March 2012.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/soa>
- 3.4** The second stage was 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. This stage involved a detailed questionnaire which was returned in early April. There was an expressed 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 will be 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** The latest update for the Scottish Government (10th May 2012) outlines three core proposals for implementing the Statement of Ambition building on existing duties and clarifying responsibilities.
1. *Strengthening duties on individual partners through a new statutory duty on all relevant partners, (whether acting nationally, regionally or locally), to work together to improve outcomes for local communities through participation in community planning partnerships and the provision of resources to deliver the SOA*
 2. *Placing formal requirements on Community Planning Partnerships by augmenting the existing statutory framework to ensure that collaboration in the delivery of local priority outcomes via Community Planning and the SOA is not optional and is made as effective as possible.*
 3. *Establishment of a joint group at national level to provide strategic leadership and guidance to CPPs.*
- 3.7** The next steps will be to determine the scope of these arrangements and develop an implementation plan. This will require discussion and debate.
- 3.8** The intention is that guidance will be available for the development of the next SOA. The review board is anticipating that this will be available in Autumn 2013 to inform the new SOA that must be in place for April 2013.
- 3.8** Any changes requiring legislation and/or formal consultation will begin as soon as possible.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The update sets out the progress to date. A joint leadership event has been scheduled for the 12th of June to take stock of developments and agree how best to take forward the implementation plan. This event will bring together COSLA,

Scottish Government Cabinet Secretaries, Scottish Government Ministers, new Council Leaders and relevant appointed chairs of public bodies. Formal invitations are expected imminently.

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