

Date: 20th June 2012.

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 Partnership 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 and June 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** In March The MAKI group 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 June meeting had extensive and useful update provided by a number of core partners and organisations, and also noted work being progressed in developing a proposed Islands Forum. Both meetings were conducted by Video Conference across 3 locations, which allowed community representatives from Islay, Campbeltown and Mid Argyll to participate in the debate, however technical difficulties with the equipment caused significant frustration for many attendees and a request has been made to consider alternative IT solutions, including the Council's Lync system.
- 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. The June meeting had a focus on Reshaping Older People's Services, and addressed a number of issues raised by the Caucus of Community Councils regarding public entertainment licences and roads issues.

- 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 Tìree Array, the Local Development Plan, the Oban to Fort William Cycle Path and the very successful Oban Winter Festival. The June meeting focussed on updates on service delivery and development issues from core partners and on the future focus for the group itself, resulting in a sub group being tasked with considering ways to improve community involvement and engagement with the group itself and with existing community planning structures across the OLI area.
- 3.6** In March the Helensburgh Lomond Group benefited from update information about service delivery from Strathclyde Police, and from ACHA regarding the work the Association is carrying out in improving and upgrading homes and in managing tenancies in the Helensburgh Lomond area. The June meeting was a very well attended one with excellent information being discussed in regards the implications of Reshaping Older Peoples' Services in the area and a very informative update from the MOD on the Maritime Change Programme currently underway at the Faslane Naval Base.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Recent local community planning 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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