
Title: Update Report on Area Community Planning Groups

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report provides a brief update on the series of meetings held by Area Community Planning Groups in January 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the role which the Area Community Planning Groups can play in facilitating effective local community engagement.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The CPP Management Committee agreed in December 2012 that the Area Community Planning Groups should be used to take forward community consultation on the developing new Community Plan, as a result of which a special series of meetings was put in place for January 2013. Following the decision for these meetings to take place, the Council decided to carry out community consultation on budget priorities as part of the same meetings.
- 3.2** Meetings of each Community Planning Group were held in the second and third weeks of January, and were generally reasonably well attended. The Oban Lorn and the Isles Group met in the evening and attracted an attendance of 19 community members. Most, but not all, attendees were members of Community Councils.
- 3.3** The discussion at all meetings was lively, and generally recognised the budget difficulties which the Council and partners are facing. In regards the new Community Plan there was a desire for effective use of joint planning and delivery of services, particularly recognising the skills and strengths which the third sector can provide, which were generally felt to be underutilised.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** This special round of Area Community Planning Group meetings

have provided a very useful community consultation mechanism for both the Community Planning Partnership itself, and for the Council as a key partner. The model of facilitating such engagement through these forums should be recognised by the Partnership and by all key partners.

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