
Title: Update Report on Area Community Planning Groups

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which Area Community Planning Groups are making as they progress in developing as key partnership groups for local areas and play an increasing role in considering services for local communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the progress which the Area Community Planning Groups are making.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The Area Community Planning Groups have had meetings in June and September, with all of them being generally well attended by partners and also by community groups and representatives. Their agendas have been focussed on items of partnership significance to areas in regards service development and delivery by partners, and on updates relating to specific local service issues, again provided by a cross section of partners. This has resulted in the meetings having a generally improved balance of debate about matters which are for the future, and on current local issues which are being resolved and updated around the CPG table.
- 3.2** Matters which were discussed across all 4 areas in June included the development of the Joint Health Improvement Plan where all areas were asked to identify key health improvement issues and actions for their locality, the development of the Gaelic Language Plan, the new Community Engagement Strategy, and an update Primary Schools Standards and Quality Report where partners were updated on key performance and development plans for primary schools in their area. Items discussed across the areas in September included the development of a sexual health strategy and the ongoing work being taken forward in planning and organising the Area Forum events scheduled for later this year.
- 3.3** Specific local items which have been progressed in Bute and Cowal include work in resolving issues raised by the caucus of Community Councils, and updates provided by third sector partners including Cowal Elderly Befrienders and the Cowal Dog Club. In addition the group received its bi annual update from ACHA on work being taken forward by them in the area.
- 3.4** The MAKI group have been progressing matters relating to mobile phone and broadband coverage in various locations in the area,

and have also been considering the matter of local partnership groups in specific areas which have been carrying out effective community planning work on a local basis for some time. The agreement of the September meeting of the CPG was that the Kintyre Initiative Working Group and the Mid Argyll Partnership be recognised as effective community planning groups within their own areas and invited to become key strategic partnerships of the MAKI CPG, and be requested to provide highlight/exception reports to meetings of the CPG outlining the work which they are progressing. This step forward will enable the good work being carried out by these groups to continue in providing partnership support to local projects and services, but will also tie that work in to the overall partnership work of the MAKI area and hopefully avoid duplication of both work and meeting attendance for key partners and community representatives.

- 3.5** The Helensburgh Lomond Group continues to be well attended by most key partners, and in addition to the common items detailed at 3.2 above the group have considered updates on progress of development of HM Naval Base Clyde, and received an informative presentation in June from Katie Burke, MSYP, on her work representing the views of young people in Argyll and Bute in the Scottish Youth Parliament. The group have also discussed issues in regards the Scottish Land Fund, and received the Transport Outcomes Report from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport which enabled them to debate local service issues in regards rail, bus and ferry infrastructure in the area.
- 3.6** The Oban Lorn and the Isles group continues to be well attended, with a good number of community councillors now coming to each meeting and bringing forward updates on the work they are carrying out and items for discussion and resolution around the CPG table. Items which have been discussed include the potential for core paths in the area to be developed and managed in a joined up way as a key driver of tourism activity, and coupled to this the group are progressing a piece of work looking at how public transport can be better integrated to support people who want to make use of paths and cycle routes. The group have also been looking at the potential for communities to make applications to the Scottish Land Fund and have been considering issues relating to broadband and to renewable energy.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Area community planning groups are continuing to provide opportunities for partners and community representatives to discuss matters which are strategic in nature and relate mainly to potential service development for the future, and matters which are often quite local and specific to particular communities or parts of an area. The generally increased and sustained level of attendance demonstrates that people feel that attending the group is worthwhile and that groups are becoming more confident in their ability to deal with matters and resolve local issues. Building on the regular attendance of strategic partners will continue to develop this momentum, as will the continued drive to develop agendas which reflect matters raised by local communities and groups. Key

pieces of work which will be taken forward in the next few months will be the effective integration of KIWG and MAP into the Mid Argyll and the Islands CPG, and the holding of the planned Area Forum events in each area; these events will seek views on the new SOA 2012-13, in particular in relation to the overarching issue of de-population and regeneration.

For further information contact: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance
Manager, Customer Services

Telephone 01369 707134