
Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Bute & Cowal Area Community Planning Group

3rd March 2015

Agenda Item



Area Community Planning Group Terms of Reference and Future Ways of Working

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give update on the progress of the development of Area Community Planning Group (Area CPG) Terms of Reference (TOR) and future ways of working, and to ask the Area CPG to agree and adopt these.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Area CPG members are requested to:

- Agree and adopt the revised Terms of Reference submitted in this report
- Nominate and elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Bute and Cowal CPG, and agree that they take up these posts with effect 1st April 2015
- Agree the revised meeting schedule and dates submitted in this report
- Agree to incorporate a pre agenda meeting into the administration process for the Area CPG
- Agree that these revised ways of working are undertaken on a trial basis for a period of one year, with a review on their effectiveness then being carried out by the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee, and the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Area CPG Governance arrangements have been under review since July 2014. This review process has now reached its final stage.

4. Detail

- 4.1 The draft Terms of Reference, including the comments made by the Area CPGs during the September round of meetings, was approved by the CPP Management Committee on the 31st of October 2014. They were also considered and agreed by the Argyll & Bute Policy & Resources Committee on the 18th of December. A copy of the approved draft has been included at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Changes made to the Terms of Reference include changes to the membership of CPGs (which is the subject of a separate report to this meeting) and to the chairmanship of the group, whereby the Chair and Vice Chair of the Area Community Planning group will be elected by the members of the group, and will be appointed for a period of two years. Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be proposed by Area Community Planning Group members; each member will have one vote and a simple majority vote will determine the outcome of the election process. Members of the group are therefore asked to nominate and elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the group at this meeting, in accordance with this detail in the Terms of Reference.
- 4.3 In order to provide focus for meetings on the SOA: Local (subject of another report to this meeting) and facilitate effective discussions around local issues in the SOA: Local, it has been agreed to amend the cycle of meeting dates for Area Community Planning Groups such that they will meet half way between the programmed meetings of the CPP Management Committees. To that effect members are asked to agree that the meeting dates for the Bute and Cowal Area CPG will be:

Tuesday 12th May 2015, 10am in Castle House, Dunoon

Tuesday 11th August 2015, 10am in Eaglesham House, Rothesay

Tuesday 10th November 2015, 10am in Castle House, Dunoon

Tuesday 9th February 2016, 10am in Eaglesham House, Rothesay.

There will be two main aspects to linking CPP Strategic to Local ; ongoing dialogue through meaningful agendas, and annual review of actions towards outcomes and indicators. Each Area Community Planning Group agenda will therefore focus on the 2 Outcomes discussed at the previous CPP Management Committee meeting, considering the main points of discussion and focusing on local trends/ implications for their area. The agenda will also focus on the 2 Outcomes which will be the focus of the forthcoming CPP Management Committee meeting, concentrating on the local dimensions to these, highlighting good practice and partnership working at local level, work that is being taken forward locally to

address gaps and opportunities, and raising any concerns to the Management Committee in relation to existing work, gaps or opportunities.

- 4.4 As part of the work in developing agendas which have focus on specific Outcomes in the SOA, and to ensure effective linking of strategic community planning to local groups, it is proposed that a pre agenda meeting is incorporated into the administrative process for Area CPGs. This will assist the Chair and Vice Chair of the CPG, in partnership with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Area Committee, to proactively develop a meaningful agenda for the forthcoming CPG meeting and to be able to request such information in relation to agenda items as they feel would be useful to the group.
- 4.5 As part of the ongoing commitment to keep under review the effectiveness of community planning processes and structures, it is proposed that these revised ways of working are undertaken on a trial basis for a period of one year, with a review on their effectiveness then being carried out by the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee, and the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The review process for Area CPGs has been carried out in consultation with community groups and partners over the period since summer 2014. The recommendations being made as an outcome of that review will give clarity, strengthen partnership working and make best use of available resources, enabling Area Community Planning Groups to build on positive foundations and play an increasing role in effective partnership working and service delivery in their local areas.

6.0 SOA Outcomes

Not applicable. The report relates to the administration of the Area CPG.

Name of Lead Officer

Donald MacVicar, Head of Community and Culture

For further information please contact:

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Supplementary Papers

- Appendix 1- Area Community Planning Groups Terms of Reference

Appendix 1

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Terms of Reference: Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group is a sub group of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

It is an unincorporated partnership of agencies and organisations with membership drawn from the public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships that have an interest in Bute and Cowal

Purpose

Argyll & Bute is a large and diverse area. Communities inevitably have different issues even within the overall umbrella of a community plan for the whole area.

Area Community Planning Groups are the vehicle to ensure that there is effective community planning delivery at a local level by:

- Acting on behalf of the Full Community Planning Partnership via the Management Committee to oversee the implementation of Localised Delivery Plans which contribute to the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement /Community Plan
- Acting on behalf of the community to ensure that local concerns and priorities are highlighted to the Full Community Planning Partnership via the Management Committee.

Role

The role of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group is to:

- Oversee the implementation of the Localised Delivery Plan for Bute and Cowal
- Encourage effective working across community planning partners at an area level
- Act as a conduit to ensure that local priorities are met and local issues addressed

Remit

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group has the authority to:

- contribute to the development of a Localised Delivery Plan for Bute and Cowal
- monitor progress of the Localised Delivery Plan with regard to the agreed outcomes on what is being done within Bute and Cowal

- provide the scrutiny role for the Full Community Planning Partnership within Bute and Cowal consider regular performance monitoring reports and provide information to the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership Management Committee by submitting written reports . A nominated member may also attend a meeting with prior agreement from the chair to provide additional information should a specific issue of concern to the group be scheduled as an agenda item
- form short term working groups to undertake defined pieces of work as required by the group
- engage with communities within Bute and Cowal to understand their needs and requirements
- inform and consult on issues relating to Community Planning at an area level
- contribute to an annual report on progress on the agreed outcomes

Short Term Working Groups

Short Term Working Groups initiated by the Bute and Cowal area Community Planning Group must:

- be approved at a meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group and its purpose recorded in the minute of the meeting
- have a named member of the [insert name] area Community Planning Group acting as lead officer for the group
- have a list of members of the group agreed at inception
- have a clear objective agreed at inception
- have a clear remit agreed at inception
- have a clear output agreed at inception
- have a clear start and end date agreed at inception
- have an appropriate source of administrative support identified and agreed at inception
- have an appropriate funding package identified at inception where relevant and a named member of the short term working group undertaking financial responsibility for the initiative
- provide regular reports of activity and progress to the Bute and Cowal area Community Planning Group
- any changes to the above must be approved by the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group and recorded in the minute of the meeting

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group will seek to ensure that promotion of equal opportunities is central to its on-going activities

Criteria for Membership

- Membership is drawn from public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Bute and Cowal area.

- Membership is open to all organisations public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Bute and Cowal area with an interest in at least one of the six outcome areas of activity identified in Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).
- Organisations can self-nominate, be invited to join or have a statutory obligation to participate.
- In order to ensure democratic accountability, the Chair and Vice Chair from the Argyll & Bute Council Bute and Cowal Area Committee and one other Elected Member from an Argyll & Bute Council Bute and Cowal Area Committee Ward not already represented by the Chair or Vice Chair will sit as members of the group.
- In order to ensure democratic accountability, community councils situated within the Bute and Cowal area will sit as a member of the group. Subject to local needs, this may be individual community councils, or by way of a caucus arrangement agreed by the community councils situated within the Bute and Cowal area, or alternatively one community council representing all of the community councils on a rotational basis. The community council undertaking this role will be nominated by the other community councils within the area on an annual basis or more frequently if agreed locally.
- In order to comply with legislation which governs community planning in Scotland, some organisations have a statutory obligation to participate in community planning. The organisation will nominate the most appropriate person within their organisation to sit as a member of the group.
- In order to reflect the needs of the community and range of activities covered by the Localised Delivery Plan, other organisations and partnerships operating within the local area are also able to sit as members of the group.
- In order to obtain a balanced representation of the above and to ensure a community focussed approach, a ratio of no more than 50% public sector membership should be maintained throughout the lifetime of the group.
- The representatives ought to be able to speak on behalf of their organisation and where appropriate commit funding and other resources to local partnership activity.
- Membership should reflect the needs of the community and can therefore change subject to approval by a simple majority vote of the other members of the group.

Role of Members

Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group members have the following responsibilities:

- To attend the scheduled Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group meetings.

- Consistency in attendance by members is necessary to build momentum and progress the activities of the group. Members will be encouraged to appoint substitutes to attend meetings on their behalf if they are unable to attend.
- To communicate information relating to the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group with other members and officers within their own organisation and other organisations operating within the area of activity they represent.
- To communicate information relating to their organisations area of activity to other members of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group at meetings.
- To raise community planning related issues (that is issues related to Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership's SOA) on behalf of the community at Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group meetings.
- To contribute to the development, on-going monitoring and review of the Bute and Cowal SOA Local Plan.
- To participate in short term working groups as required.

Meetings

Chair

- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group will be elected by the members of the group and will be appointed for a period of two years.
- Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be proposed and seconded by Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group members. Each member will have one vote and a simple majority vote will determine the outcome of the election process.
- The elected Chair, or in their absence, the Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting. If both are absent, partners will choose a member from the floor to preside.
- Members should respect the authority of the Chair who will decide matters of order, competency, relevancy and urgency.

Quorum

- The quorum for a meeting will be 5.
- If a quorum is not present within 10 minutes of the scheduled start of a meeting or if at any point after a meeting has commenced attendance falls below the quorum the meeting will be declared inquorate.
- If a quorum is not present, at the Chairperson's / Vice-Chairperson's discretion, the meeting shall proceed and any decisions taken will be homologated at the next meeting.
- For purposes of the quorum, participation of partners by video-conferencing or telephone conference links will be considered as present.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Area Community Planning Groups of the CPP will normally meet once each quarter (4 times each year).
- These meetings will normally be held in February, May, August and November..
- Where business requires, further meetings can be called with agreement of the Chair subject to the required notice being given.

Conduct of Meetings

- Meetings of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group will be held in public.
- Observers can only participate in discussion with the agreement of Chair.

- Members must declare any conflict of interests at the start of a meeting and take no part in the consideration of the relevant item.
- Observers wishing to participate in discussion must declare any interest in the subject under discussion.
- All meetings will be minuted and a minute made available through the Council's website and available from a link through the community planning partnership website.
- Meetings of the Area Community Planning Groups will be conducted in accordance with the lead partner's (Argyll & Bute Council) standing orders for meetings subject to any necessary changes as set out above (mutatis mutandis).

Decision making

- All members of the group have equal status
- Each member has one vote
- The Chair retains the casting vote
- All decisions must be clearly minuted with a brief summary of the discussion and reason for decision recorded as well as the outcome
- The minutes should clearly record who or whatever organisation is responsible for action
- Observers and persons attending the meeting in an advisory capacity may provide information but are not part of the decision making process and are not able to participate in a vote

Accountability

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group is an integral part of Community Planning in Argyll & Bute and is accountable to the following bodies:

- Full Community Planning Partnership via the Management Committee
- Community within its local area
- Argyll & Bute Council as lead partner of Community Planning.

Support

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group will be supported by:

- A Lead Officer, Argyll and Bute Council Community Governance Manager, to facilitate and promote the smooth operation of the group and work closely with group members to ensure a supportive structure, which responds to the needs of the members in addressing issues.
- Administrative support, organising meetings, taking minutes and associated administrative support will be provided by Argyll and Bute Council, Governance & Law.
- A Local Community Development Officer will have a key role, working in partnership with organisations in the support of community groups, organisations and individuals, particularly those who do not traditionally engage in community issues, to participate in local community planning.

Issue of Papers

- The agenda and papers for the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group will normally be issued 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

- The Chair can agree to accept late papers.
- The draft Agenda detail will normally be circulated four weeks in advance to allow members to propose items for inclusion
- The agenda and papers will be published on the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership website, the Argyll & Bute Council website and available from a link through the community planning partnership website.

Communications

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group is an integral part of Community Planning in Argyll & Bute and will follow the guidance set out for Area Community Planning Groups within Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership's Communication Strategy.

Winding Up

The Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group is a sub group of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership.

- If the Argyll & Bute Community Partnership is dissolved, the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group will cease to exist by default
- If a review of Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership delivery structure should recommend that Area Community Planning Groups should be dissolved to facilitate a new delivery structure, the decision whether or not to wind up the group will be made by the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership following consultation with the Area Community Planning Groups and Argyll & Bute Council as lead partner for community planning within the area.
- Area Community Planning Group members may initiate a proposed wind up of the group by submitting a report outlining the reasons why it was felt the group was no longer required to the Management Committee in the first instance. The decision whether or not to wind up the group will be made by the Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership following consultation with Argyll & Bute Council as lead partner for community planning within the area

Approved and adopted at the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group meeting held on 3 March 2015