

The Highland Council

Lochaber Area Committee – 26 August 2013

Agenda Item	5
Report No	LA 1/13

Community Planning and Partnership Working in Lochaber

Report by the Corporate Manager

Summary

This report summarises the work of the Lochaber Partnership and asks Members to consider its work in light of the current review of community planning arrangements taking place in Highland.

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will be aware, from the Single Outcome Agreement report presented to Highland Council on 27 June 2013, that a review of community planning arrangements in Highland is currently taking place. The review proposes an approach that meets the public service reform agenda; builds on current arrangements; and links to each partner's governance and accountability arrangements. Progress on this will be reported to the Highland Public Services Partnership Performance Board (the Board) later this year.
- 1.2 The Board has proposed a strategic framework that will ensure strength of leadership and accountability, whilst embedding the ability of partners to both challenge and support to ensure best practice and measurable progress.
- 1.3 In line with the strategic framework, further work is being carried out by each strategic lead partner on the Board to map the local community planning arrangements at the operational level. This will include consideration of what is needed to deliver results and also the ability of existing groups to deliver and, if appropriate, be integrated into local community planning arrangements.

2. Lochaber Partnership

- 2.1 The Lochaber Partnership is the over-arching community planning partnership for Lochaber. Established in 1996 it remains broadly as originally conceived, a constituted group with its membership comprising the key delivery agencies in Lochaber. The current partners are:
 - Association of Lochaber Community Councils
 - Forestry Commission Scotland
 - Fort William & District Chamber of Commerce
 - JobCentre Plus
 - Highland Council
 - Highlands & Islands Enterprise

- Lochaber Housing Association
- Lochaber Trades Council
- Mallaig and District Chamber of Commerce
- Marine and Coastguard Agency
- NHS Highland
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Canals
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- SEPA
- Skills Development Scotland
- VisitScotland
- Voluntary Action Lochaber
- West Highland College UHI

It has proved a highly effective lobbying voice in issues such as the 'Save the Belford' campaign; upgrading of the A82; and in supporting grant funding applications for schemes such as the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.

- 2.2 Over a number of years the Lochaber Partnership has co-ordinated a local development plan, originally a Lochaber 'version' of the Community Plan for Highland produced by the Highland Wellbeing Alliance. This Lochaber Development Plan underwent a fundamental revision in 2009, when it was refocused in order to respond effectively to the opportunities offered to communities by the EU LEADER funding programme.
- 2.3 The Plan is currently arranged under five 'themes' which at the time of development reflected the Scottish Government's key objectives. These themes are – Wealthier; Healthier; Smarter; Greener; and Safer. Within each of these themes a number of partners are brought in to reflect a wide range of activity. The current model is as set out at **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 Within each theme there are a range of actions which have been developed with local partners and community groups. At each Lochaber Partnership meeting, one theme is considered and the actions reviewed for progress. As actions are completed they are removed from the Plan and any new priorities are added. Any actions which are failing to move towards completion are scrutinised and suggestions made to improve progress. This process is now well developed and requires attendance by partners only at the meeting discussing the relevant theme and therefore cuts out unnecessary meetings for partners.

Each theme has a lead that ensures the relevant section is reviewed and brought up to date before consideration by the Lochaber Partnership. Leads are as follows: Wealthier – Fort William Chamber of Commerce; Healthier – Lochaber District Partnership; Smarter – Employability Partnership; Greener – Scottish Natural Heritage; and Safer – Community Safety Action Team.

- 2.5 Lochaber has a considerable number of partnerships operating at a number of levels and this structure has been effective in engaging with a wide number of partners who would not normally be at the Community Planning 'table'. This ground up approach has led to the range of priorities and projects being

identified, worked through and delivered by all the partners.

However, the Lochaber Partnership has also been very aware of its role in helping to deliver against the Single Outcome Agreement and each section of the Plan identifies which specific outcomes it is delivering against.

- 2.6 In terms of future direction, Members may wish to consider recommending to the Lochaber Partnership that the five current themes are reviewed and altered to reflect the emerging themes being proposed by the Highland Public Services Partnership (HPSP). The emerging themes are: Employment; Economic Growth; Environment; Early Years; Community Safety; Older People; Community Development; Deprivation; Public Sector Property; and EU programmes.
- 2.7 At a micro-level, the Council in partnership with Voluntary Action Lochaber, has commissioned a suite of local development plans. These consist of detailed work with the broadest community and to date two have been delivered – a development plan for the Small Isles and one for the Fort William/ Inverlochy/ Caol/ Corpach areas. These have provided a wealth of detailed views from communities setting out their concerns and aspirations and have been structured to reflect the current five themes to allow them to be easily built in to the Lochaber Community Development Plan as each section is reviewed.

Members may wish to consider recommending the roll out of these plans to other areas of Lochaber and the realignment of the themes to again meet the emerging themes of the HPSP.

3. Implications

- 3.1 There are no known resource, legal, climate change, risk or equality implications as a result of this report

Recommendation

Members are invited to:-

- i. note the achievements of the Lochaber Partnership and the key role it plays in community planning in Lochaber;
- ii. agree to recommend to the Partnership that the Lochaber Community Development Plan is reworked to reflect the emerging themes of the HPSP, with appropriate lead partners identified; and
- iii. agree to recommend the roll out of micro-development plans to further areas within Lochaber.

Designation: Corporate Manager

Date: 13 August 2013

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<i>Wealthier and Fairer</i> (Economy)	<i>Smarter</i> (Children & young people)	<i>Healthier</i> (Health & Equality)	<i>Safer and Stronger</i> (Community safety)	<i>Greener</i> (Environment)
<p>Fort William Chamber of Commerce</p> <p><i>Employers Coalition Chamber of Commerce Federation of Small Businesses</i></p> <p>Employability Partnership</p> <p>OCUK Visit Scotland</p> <p>Gaelic Development Group</p> <p>Tourism forum</p> <p><i>Skills Development Scotland Jobcentre Plus West Highland College /UHI Highland Council inc Highland Opportunity</i></p> <p>Voluntary Action Lochaber</p> <p>Association of Community Councils</p>	<p>Employability Partnership</p> <p>Lochaber Youth Forum</p> <p>Drug & Alcohol Forum</p> <p>Community Safety Action Team</p> <p>Childcare & Family Resource Partnership</p> <p>Gaelic Development group</p> <p>Migrant workers forum</p> <p>Housing Development Forum</p> <p>Voluntary Action Lochaber</p> <p>Association of Community Councils</p>	<p>Lochaber District Partnership</p> <p><u>Adults</u> Community Care Forum (defunct)</p> <p>Mental Health Local Implementation Group (LIG)</p> <p>Employability Partnership</p> <p><u>Children & young people</u> Childcare & Family Resource Partnership (RSL)</p> <p>Lochaber Youth Forum</p> <p>GIRFEC Forum</p> <p><u>Adults and children & young people</u> Drug & Alcohol Forum</p> <p>Housing Development Forum</p> <p>Migrant Workers Forum</p> <p>Transport Forum</p> <p>Access Forum</p> <p>Disability Access Panel</p> <p>Voluntary Action Lochaber</p> <p>Association of Community Councils</p>	<p>Community Safety Action Team</p> <p>Migrant Workers Forum</p> <p>Drug & Alcohol Forum</p> <p>Voluntary Action Lochaber</p> <p>Association of Community Councils</p>	<p>SNH</p> <p>OCUK</p> <p>Lochaber Access Forum</p> <p>Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG)</p> <p>FW Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Lochaber Biodiversity Group</p> <p>Nevis Partnership</p> <p>Voluntary Action Lochaber</p> <p>Association of Community Councils</p>