

## The Highland Council

### Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee – 12 June 2014

Agenda Item	10
Report No	CPE 19/14

#### Improvement Plan for Member Scrutiny and Engagement

#### Report by Head of Policy and Reform

##### Summary

This report provides an up-date of progress against the improvement plan.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Progress with the improvement plan for the Committee is considered at each meeting. At the last meeting this showed that of the 20 actions: 10 were completed; 5 were progressing well; 3 were now part of routine business or were on-going; 1 was nearing completion; and 1 was to begin in 2014. Members were advised that the plan should be complete for this summer. This report confirms that outstanding actions are now completed and those forming part of routine business would continue. This is described below.

#### 2. Completing outstanding actions

- 2.1 Since the Committee meeting in March the following actions have been completed:
- Reviewing the community planning arrangements for community safety. This has led to a new partnership structure at Highland level, 'Safer Highland', with partnership governance through the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board, and Council governance through the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities (CPE) Committee and the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee.
  - Showing the connections between Highland wide outcomes and local priorities and actions. With partners there is agreement that community safety matters are to be considered at District Partnerships for local community planning.
  - Identifying data gaps and improving knowledge of community safety needs. This is now part of the process for Safer Highland.
  - Performance reports at Area Committees for police and fire services will begin this year. Dates are shared with the Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and with the Divisional Commander for Police Scotland.
  - Considering how community development approaches can be used to improve community safety locally. The CPP has agreed a partnership approach to community development. This is building on new approaches being trialled in four areas of deprivation and four fragile rural areas. Further information on these approaches will be shared with members in the areas affected and a further report can be made to the Committee in 2014/15.

- 2.2 The four actions that will continue for Members to monitor and scrutinise are:
- Continuously improving the quarterly performance report for Police Scotland, as requested through the CPE Committee;
  - Continuously improving the quarterly performance report for the SFRS, as requested through the CPE Committee;
  - Sharing practice with island authorities on Member engagement and scrutiny; and
  - Considering further shared services opportunities.
- 2.3 An action carried forward is to arrange further workshops for Members in advance of any inspection activity. No date is set for this yet.
- 2.4 The actions in the current improvement plan are either all completed or embedded as part of the Committee process. Any improvement actions arising from future Member workshops will be managed and reported in a new improvement plan.
- 3. Implications**
- 3.1 There are no new risks or resource, legal, equalities, climate change/carbon clever or Gaelic implications arising from the completion of the improvement plan.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 Members are asked to note that outstanding actions in the improvement plan are either all completed or are part of the routine business of the committee. The latter relate to the continuous improvement in the format of quarterly performance reports, sharing practice with the island authorities and continuing to identify shared service opportunities.

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