

The Highland Council

Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee –
25 September 2014

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| Agenda Item | 7. |
| Report No | NBS/21/14 |

Communities Panel Development

Report by Head of Policy and Reform

Summary

The report summarises the approach to developing the Council's new Communities Panel. Members are asked to note the report and suggest any other groups that should be invited to be part of the Communities Panel.

1. Background

- 1.1 It was agreed at the Council meeting on 8 May 2014, that a Communities Panel would be created. This panel would exist alongside the Citizens' Panel and be available for responding to survey based consultations.
- 1.2 The intention is that the Communities Panel be comprised of representative groups across the Highlands. The approach for creating the Panel is outlined below.

2. Communities Panel Approach

- 2.1 The Communities Panel will be comprised of organisations across Highland. The following criteria are to be used when creating the Panel to ensure that the groups on the Panel are representative of Highland communities:
 - All organisations must be community based, located within Highland and be constituted groups.
 - The majority of members of the group should consist of members of that community (that could be community of interest or geography).
 - Membership of the group should be open to any member of that community.
 - Any surplus funds or assets of the group are to be applied for the benefit of that community.
- 2.2 The groups invited to participate in the Panel will be asked to nominate a contact who will receive and respond to surveys on the group's behalf. Groups will be asked to consider how best to engage their membership when compiling any response.
- 2.3 There are a range of core organisations with which the Council currently engages. We have written to each of these groups and invited them to be part of the Communities Panel. These are:
 - Community Councils
 - Parent Councils
 - Tenant Participation groups
 - Representative equalities groups

In addition to the above, services were contacted and requested to provide additional nominations.

- 2.4 A further step has been to contact the Highland Third Sector Interface. They hold a database of community based organisational contacts and have assisted in distributing the invitation list to their contacts on our behalf.
- 2.5 Community Planning Partners were also contacted for advice on groups to include. They will also be able to utilise the Communities Panel for consultation and engagement in the future.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 An initial draft list of groups to be part of the Panel within the Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey area is outlined at appendix 1. This includes groups specifically local to this area but also Highland wide groups that cover Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey. Members are asked to consider the list and provide details of any additional organisations you feel should be invited to participate in the panel. There will also be an opportunity for Members to discuss this at ward business meetings. The Panel is expected to grow over time as more groups participate and new groups form.
- 3.2 The first focus for the Communities Panel will be responding to the second phase of the Council's Budget Consultation. This will consist of a survey based approach developed largely from the consultation responses to stage one and will have a focus on specific proposals. This second consultation phase will begin towards the end of September until November to enable firm budget proposals to be considered by Members from December 2014 onwards.
- 3.3 Although the Communities Panel will be used in the first instance for consultation on the budget setting process, the Panel will provide a useful tool for ongoing consultation and engagement with communities across Highland both on a pan-Highland but also local level for area-based consultations. It would also be available for CPP partner use and will be constructed with that in mind, i.e. data sharing/protection clarity.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Resource – The Panel will be managed from within existing resources.
- 4.2 Legal – Appropriate consents in relation to data sharing will be obtained when constructing the panel.
- 4.3 Equalities – Organisations representing equalities groups will be invited to participate in the Panel and this will contribute to the Duty on the Council to advance equality (Equality Act 2010).
- 4.4 Rural – Groups will be invited from across the Highland area to ensure representation from remote and rural communities.
- 4.5 Climate Change/Carbon Clever – Environmental groups are amongst those to be invited to participate in the Panel.

4.6 Risk – Care will be taken to ensure that the Panel is representative of the Highland community.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the approach to developing the Communities Panel outlined at section 2.
- Consider, and if appropriate suggest, additional representative groups to be included in the draft invitation list provided at Appendix 1.

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 10-9-14

Author: Alison Clark, Policy Officer and Isabelle Baike, Policy Co-ordinator

Communities Panel Invitation List

Appendix 1

Groups that cover Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey

| Name of Organisation | Area / Ward indication |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Community Councils | Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Parent Councils | Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Village Hall Associations | Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Church/Faith Groups | Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Sport Groups | Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Local Amenities Groups | Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Pupil Councils (secondary schools) – to be arranged | Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Nairn Access Panel | Nairn |
| Nairn Allotment Society | Nairn |
| Nairn CAB | Nairn |
| Nairn Community Transport | Nairn |
| Nairn Hydrotherapy Pool Trust | Nairn |
| Nairn Sports Club | Nairn |
| Badaguish Outdoor Centre | Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Badenoch & Strathspey Disability Access Panel | Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Badenoch & Strathspey Transport Company | Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport | Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Family Association for Children with Extra Special Needs | Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Speyside Trust for Handicapped Children | Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Strathspey Visually Impaired Group | Badenoch and Strathspey |
| Inverness and Nairn Transport Association | Inverness and Nairn |
| Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey CAB | Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey |

Highland wide groups that cover Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey – H

| Name of Organisation | Area | Name of Organisation | Area |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| Advocacy Highland | H | Highland Society for the Deaf | H |
| Age Concern Scotland | H | Highland Youth Voice | H |
| Albyn HA | H | Highlands & Islands Equality Forum | H |
| Alzheimer Scotland (Regional Office) | H | Highlands & Islands Theatre Network | H |
| Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands | H | Highlands and Islands Autism Society | H |
| Autism Rights Group Highland (ARGH) | H | HUG - Action for Mental Health | H |
| Barnardo's | H | Kagyu Samye Dzong Highlands | H |
| Birchwood Highland | H | Key Community Support | H |
| Blythswood | H | Lead Scotland | H |
| British Deaf Association Scotland | H | Momentum | H |
| Brook Highland | H | Nansen Highland | H |
| Cairn HA | H | New Start Highland | H |
| Chinese Association SHIMCA | H | North Highland Initiative | H |
| CHIP+ | H | North Highland Tourism | H |
| Community Woodlands Association | H | North of Scotland Archaeological Society | H |
| Connecting Carers | H | Partnerships for Wellbeing | H |
| Contact The Elderly | H | People First Highland | H |
| Creativity in Care | H | Plan B Collaborative Theatre Ltd | H |
| Forest Education Initiative | H | Poppy Scotland | H |
| Friendship Services | H | Promoters Arts Network | H |
| Headway Highland | H | Ross-shire Waste Action Network (ROWAN) | H |
| Health & Happiness | H | Safe, Strong and Free | H |
| Hearing and Sight Care | H | Scottish Huntington's Association | H |
| Highland Bangladeshi Association | H | SHIRLIE Project | H |
| Highland Birchwoods | H | Sight Action | H |
| Highland Buildings Preservation Trust | H | Support in Mind Scotland | H |

| Name of Organisation | Area | Name of Organisation | Area |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Highland Business Women's Club | H | Swans of Scotland | H |
| Highland Developmental Co-ordination Disorders Group (HDCD) | H | TAG Highland | H |
| Highland Environment Network | H | The Highland Football Academy Trust | H |
| Highland Homeless Trust | H | The Highland-Russia Connection | H |
| Highland Indian Association | H | The National Autistic Society | H |
| Highland Islamic Education and Community Centre | H | Waverley Care | H |
| Highland LGBT Forum | H | Women@Work Project | H |
| Highland Multicultural Friends | H | Youth Highland | H |
| Highland Rainbow Folk | H | Waverley Care | H |
| Highland Senior Citizens Network | H | Women's Aid | H |
| Highland Skate Club | H | | |