

## The Highland Community Planning Partnership

Community Planning Board – 5 December 2014

Agenda Item	6
Report No	

### CPP membership

#### Report by the Head of Policy and Reform, Highland Council

##### Summary

This report seeks Board approval for a process to expand the membership of the CPP and makes recommendations for three out of five membership requests received.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment Bill currently contains provisions for community planning that affect CPP membership, including a defined list of participants. Guidance will accompany the legislation once approved, but it would be helpful if the Board can approve the process for responding to other bodies seeking new or different membership of the Highland CPP before new guidance is issued. Currently while bodies to participate in a CPP are listed in the Bill, there is also the provision for the CPP to decide how bodies take part and whether for example they take part in specific outcomes only.
- 1.2 This report provides a framework for considering membership requests, agreed at the Chief Officers Group (COG) and seeks Board endorsement for its use. It also provides an up-date of five requests made to the CPP, with recommendations made for two requests at this time, based on the framework proposed.

## 2. A framework for considering membership requests.

- 2.1 Based on the draft legislative requirements, the principles agreed by the Board<sup>1</sup> and the partnership priorities we are to work together on (outcomes and processes), a framework for extending the membership of the CPP was produced and approved by the COG. It is drafted at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The framework was used in contact with three organisations seeking new or different membership and it has proved useful.

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<sup>1</sup> The Highland CPP has been reviewing its partnership and governance arrangements since 2013 around the following four principles:

1. We continuously learn from our experience and ensure the arrangements support public service reform further in the Highlands (and around the four pillars of reform –prevention, performance, people and partnership/place);
2. The new arrangements support the delivery of the SOA and its future development;
3. We acknowledge the accountability requirements placed on each partner individually; and
4. We address the improvement points identified in the national audit of community planning.

### **3. Requests for new or different membership**

3.1 Requests have been from the following organisations:

1. DWP – for Board membership in addition to the current participation in the employability and health inequalities CPP groups;
2. Highlife Highland (HLH) – for Board membership in addition to the current participation in five CPP groups;
3. Bòrd na Gàidhlig for Board membership.
4. Skills Development Scotland (SDS) – for Board membership in addition to the current participation in the employability CPP group and the Economic Forum
5. Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA) – for Board membership in addition to the current participation in the Environment and Economic forums.

Recommendations for responding, using the framework are set out below.

#### **3.2 Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)**

In explaining the CPP's governance and accountability arrangements in place, the DWP was advised that Board membership was difficult because as a UK Government Department they could not be held to account by our Board or change their approach on the Board's request.

3.3 However in probing why they felt Board membership was needed, and in using the framework agreed, it became clear that their concern was about underachieving on targets to reduce long term unemployment. As an alternative to extending their membership to other CPP groups, a wider partnership discussion was held between the DWP and the COG about DWP aims and how partners could collaborate further to help achieve mutual aims on improving outcomes for this group.

3.4 The discussion agreed further joint action, particularly supported by new EU programmes and as the DWP was assured that it can raise matters with the COG, no further request for Board membership is made.

#### **3.5 Highlife Highland (HLH)**

In discussion with the Chief Executive of HLH and using the framework, the case for extending Highlife Highland's membership of the CPP is that:

1. In providing a statutory function on behalf of the local authority, its role is implied to be within the listed bodies for community planning.
2. HLH already participates in five theme groups on: employability; early years; older people; health inequalities; and community learning and development and it is key to the new work to be progressed on physical activity.
3. The development of a cultural centre in Inverness highlights the importance of arts and culture as route to regeneration and fits with the economic development theme for the CPP.
4. Links between the services of HLH and diversionary activity to reduce offending and support the community safety agenda can be made.

5. HLH's contribution cuts across all themes of the SOA, with participation in five out of eight theme groups at this time. A strategic overview of its participation would be useful to HLH and to the CPP in terms of holding them to account for their contribution.
  6. Arguably HLH can contribute to our process improvements given their contribution to the preventative agenda through their front-line services, to our joint workforce planning work given the size of their work force (1200 staff), their contribution to empowering communities through adult basic education, youth engagement and the use of venues for community action/meetings.
  7. The learning for the CPP by including them further would be through the experience of arms-length organisations as a vehicle for major service delivery.
- 3.6 Board members may be aware that there exists a Highland Culture Strategic Board. It involves the Council, HLH (responsible officer role), HIE, Creative Scotland and Event Scotland. Currently it is not formally part of the CPP structure but it is not clear why this is the case or why it should continue to be the case. Wider partner interest in culture and arts could bring more challenge and contributions from partners and help meet partnership outcomes better.
  - 3.7 It is recommended that the Board approves HLH membership in the COG and at the CPP Board, and that the Highland Culture Board is recognised as a formal part of the CPP structure, with HLH fielding the responsible officer for any COG and Board reports. In keeping with other arrangements, invites would be made to the Chief Executive and the Chair (with substitutes allowed when not available).
  - 3.8 Bòrd na Gàidhlig  
Bòrd na Gàidhlig is not currently included in the defined list of CPP partners, although that may change as the Bill progresses through stages 1 and 2. Other legislation such as the Education Bill once enacted could support their CPP involvement.
  - 3.9 Although not currently a formal part of the CPP theme groups, Gaelic is included in the SOA and all public bodies have a statutory duty to produce a Gaelic Language Plan (GLP). A case could be made for taking a partnership approach to Gaelic language planning, making that planning more effective and more efficient. Bòrd na Gàidhlig identifies where improvements to Gaelic Language Plans are needed, and considering these in a partnership context could provide better support for individual partners. It is worth noting that the local commander and local senior officer are both the leads for producing GLPs for Police Scotland and SFRS and a shared approach would help them in that role.
  - 3.10 Also evidence is available on the alignment of Gaelic and the range of SOA outcomes. The importance of Gaelic for the economy, including for particular

sectors and particular locations, and the employment opportunities it provides are highlighted in a recent report supported by HIE and the Council. There is recognition too of the demand for and growth in Gaelic medium education and the need for Gaelic language in care services (especially older people). Gaelic is culturally enriching and as an asset can support the SOA themes. There are links to the natural environment as well (names of places, mountains and rivers and the location of Gaelic stories, especially important given the oral tradition).

3.11 How Gaelic can be regarded as an asset for the CPP and the SOA, and how individual partners might benefit from a partnership approach to statutory Gaelic Language Planning needs further consideration. Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Chief Executive, John Angus MacKay, has offered to convene a short-life group of officers with responsibility for Gaelic across the partnership for this purpose and to help the COG consider how best to locate it within the CPP structure. This offer was accepted by the COG. A decision on recommendations to the Board would therefore be deferred until this work was done. A Gaelic awareness raising item is planned for the Board meeting in March 2015.

3.12 Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

A contact to discuss the framework with SDS has been requested, but at the time of writing the discussion has still to take place. However it is worth noting that:

- SDS is included in the list of proposed statutory partners for CPPs;
- SDS has been invited to present their contribution to the Highlands at the Board on request of the Board;
- SDS offers a Director to participate on the Board, but without knowing our governance model at this time no Board member is also identified;

3.13 Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA)

A discussion with the CNPA is to take place. It is worth noting that Park Authorities are currently included in the list of proposed statutory partners for CPPs.

#### **4. Recommendation**

##### 4.1 Board members are asked to:

1. Endorse the use of the framework for extending CPP membership as attached at Appendix 1;
2. Note that the membership interest of DWP is satisfied through its recent discussion with the COG and the on-going membership of two theme groups;
3. Agree that HLH is invited to participate at the COG and Board, with invites extended to the Chief Executive and Chair (with substitutes allowed when not available) and that the Highland Culture Strategic Board is formally adopted within the CPP structure;
4. Note that further recommendations will be made on the membership options for Bòrd na Gàidhlig, noting the work it will progress with partners to identify how to make the most of Gaelic as an asset for the CPP, how to improve effectiveness and efficiency of Gaelic language planning and how best to locate it within the CPP structure.
5. Note that further contact will be made with SDS and the CNPA to discuss potentially extending their membership of the CPP, with recommendations to a future Board meeting.

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## Framework for expanding the membership of the CPP

### 1. Legislation

- Is the body listed as a participant in the community empowerment legislation?
- Is the body a community group?

### 2. Partnership priorities

- Which outcomes can the body/group contribute funds, staff, resources and information to?
  - Outcomes: Economy / employability/ early years/ older people/ community safety/ health inequalities/ physical activity/ environment/ community learning and development
- Which processes can the body/group contribute funds, staff, resources and information to?
  - Processes: prevention and joint resourcing; workforce planning and skills development; community empowerment, dialogue and participation; and tackling rural deprivation/fragility.

### 3. Principles for reviewing governance

How will engagement with the partner help us:

- To improve our learning as a partnership?
- To support our efforts in public service reform – i.e. prevention, performance, people (staff) and place?
- To support the development and delivery of the SOA?
- Help them to meet their community planning obligations?
- Address any audit improvement points (if applicable)?

### 4. How best to enable participation?

- If answers to the questions above show there is a case for the body to be involved, what is the most effective and efficient way for them to participate?
  - In an outcome/theme group – state which group(s)
  - In the Chief Officers Group – Y/N
  - In the CPP Board – Y/N
  - In a process improvement group – state which group(s)
  - In a local group – NB need to consider how this might support the evolution of District Partnerships.
- If this is a community group, does it need support to participate? If so, describe.