

The Highland Council
Communities and Partnerships Committee
9 June 2016

Agenda Item	10
Report No	CP 15/16

Taking Forward Local Community Planning

Report by Acting Head of Policy

Summary

This report considers the discussions held to date around developing local community planning arrangements within the context of the new duties contained within the Empowerment Act but also other local planning responsibilities contained within the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Members are asked to consider the discussions to date to take forward local partnerships, agree the proposals set out in Section 3 to enable a recommendation to be made to the Highland Council on 29 June 2016 and note that the final decision will be made at the Highland Community Planning Partnership Board on 30 June 2016.

1. Background

- 1.1 Part 2 of the Community Empowerment Act sets out new duties for Community Planning. This report provides Members with an update on the discussions held since the March meeting of the Communities and Partnerships Committee around developing local community planning arrangements. This is within the context of the new duties contained within the Empowerment Act but also other local planning responsibilities contained within the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.
- 1.2 The report outlines the discussions around geography, resourcing and guidance to take forward local partnerships, asks Members to consider the discussions to date to take forward local partnerships, agree the proposals set out in Section 3 to enable a recommendation to be made to the Highland Council on 29 June and note that the final decision will be made at the Highland Community Planning Partnership Board on 30 June.

2. Community Planning Duties

- 2.1 Part 2 of the Community Empowerment Act sets out new duties for Community Planning at a pan-Highland and local level. As outlined above, the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 also establishes new duties for community planning for named partners for children, adults and community learning and development at a local level. It is within the context of these new community planning duties that there is a need to establish partnerships at a local level. A diagram illustrating these joint

responsibilities, the geography they are required at and the supporting operational structures can be found at Appendix 1. A summary of these new duties is outlined below:

2.2 *Community Planning duties through the Community Empowerment Act:*

2.2.1 Who should be involved in community planning – in Highland there are 15 public bodies to be involved and that would form the Community Planning Partnership. The Partnership will agree how partners contribute e.g. taking part in a particular outcome or across them all. The listed bodies must work together and work with any community body who wishes to take part.

2.2.2 Who leads community planning – this is now a shared duty between 5 public bodies – the Council; NHS Highland, HIE, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

2.2.3 What the CPP needs to do – the CPP must act to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. It must produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan and also Locality Plans.

Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) – will replace the SOA and needs to demonstrate how the Partnership will respond to national outcomes. The LOIP needs to outline key local priorities but also to reflect improving outcomes and tackling inequalities. The plan must be evidence based and be developed involving communities. Statutory partners are responsible for delivering the aims however other local bodies may also be included. The first plan is due in October 2017.

Locality Plans – at a local level in order for partners to tackle inequalities for communities facing disadvantage and make it easier for community bodies to be involved. The plans should be evidence based. The statutory guidance notes that the CPP should use its “understanding of local needs, circumstances and opportunities to identify those localities for which it should undertake locality planning.” The geography for these Locality plans is for the CPP to decide but it is expected that they reflect natural communities. It is proposed to use a combination of the Socio Economic Performance Index (SEP – identifying rural communities) and SIMD, to identify the communities on which the Partnership initially completes Locality Plans for. The first Locality Plans are expected by October 2017.

2.2.4 Supporting community bodies to participate – is a key component of the Empowerment Act in general and specifically in relation to Community Planning. The Partnership will have a duty to support community bodies to participate at all levels therefore it is particularly important for new local arrangements for community planning to be established as organising such involvement at a Highland level would not be feasible as most community bodies, volunteering and community action are local.

2.3 *Community Planning duties through Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland)*

Act 2014 and the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

- 2.3.1 The Public Bodies legislation establishes the new arrangements for the integration of health and social care services. It includes the requirement for each partnership to have a strategic plan, and in Highland this includes local plans at an area level.
- 2.3.2 The Community Learning and Development regulations, made under the powers of the 1980 Education (Scotland) Act, require the local authority to work with partners to develop local CLD plans that target individuals and groups with greatest needs. The Highland CPP has determined this should be undertaken for localities and it is anticipated that Locality and CLD plans are likely to be one and the same given their focus on inequality and the most vulnerable.
- 2.4 The CPP Board has agreed that one of the partnership's agreed priorities is to engage in dialogue with communities in order to empower them to participate in service planning and delivery. The next section of the paper considers the discussions and developments to date on taking forward community planning locally.

3. Planning at a local level

- 3.1 In some parts of Highland local partnership arrangements have been established for some significant time and operating well. Elsewhere, there are currently no arrangements in place and whilst it would be preferable to enable partnerships to grow organically, the joint responsibilities that local partners now have mean that there is a requirement to establish a framework at an area level across Highland to deliver on the joint responsibilities contained within the Community Empowerment and Public Bodies (Joint Working) Acts.
- 3.2 Following the last meeting of this Committee, further discussions have taken place to explore how to take forward local planning arrangements. These discussions have been with Local Chairs, Ward Managers, partners through the Chief Officers Group, the City of Inverness Area Committee and, as agreed at the last meeting, a discussion with District Partnership Chairs will take place on 21 June 2016.
- 3.3 The discussions have focused around establishing a framework at a local level to enable local partnerships to take forward the new duties; considering the geography, resourcing and guidance for local partnerships.
- 3.4 **Geography**
The potential to use the geography currently in place for district partnerships has gained support. This approach would also see incorporating the existing District Partnerships into the new partnership arrangements, with some proposed amendments around certain boundaries such as Assynt and Fort Augustus. While the District Partnerships were established by NHS Highland and Highland Council to support local integration, both agencies have been aware that these further requirements on Community Planning Partnerships would impact on their developing role, and that has been discussed with all

Partnerships over the last two years.

3.5 The benefits of using the district geography include providing a focus for partnership activity locally, avoiding multiple meetings and alignment with operational geographies for Council and NHS children and adult services to support operations and service delivery.

3.6 However, whilst the alignment with Local Committee geography in some areas of Highland makes utilising the district geography for developing local partnerships a natural step, the challenges of this around Ross and Cromarty and Inverness where a number of partnerships currently span the Committee geography have been recognised. Around Ross and Cromarty, it has been suggested that, allowing for amendments to the partnership geography for the west in relation to Assynt, it would be worth trialling this approach. The City of Inverness Area Committee will discuss and provide a view on the options for Inverness on 2 June 2016, and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting on those discussions.

3.7 Discussions with partners, at the Chief Officer's Group, decided that it would be helpful if they could come to a consensual view on how to progress local planning, and although it was not everyone's first choice, they did agree that utilising the district geography across Highland would be helpful and should be recommended as the preferred approach for the partnership. This would result in 10 local partnerships for Highland:

- Caithness
- Sutherland
- East Ross
- Mid Ross
- Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross
- Lochaber
- Inverness East
- Inverness West
- Nairn
- Badenoch and Strathspey

3.8 It was acknowledged that whilst the district partnership geography is not ideal in all areas, it does provide a useful starting point for local partnerships. It has been agreed that it will be critical to review arrangements after 12 months to establish their effectiveness and amend if necessary. The CPP Board will be asked to agree the geography on which to establish local partnerships at its meeting in June.

3.9 **Resourcing**

A further area for discussion around establishing local partnerships has been in relation to resourcing and how these partnerships will be supported. With 5 statutory partners now responsible for leading on community planning, there is a need to consider how this is shared across the different agencies.

3.10 It is proposed to take a lead agency approach for resourcing which would establish how the Partnership will be supported at Board, Chief Officer and Local Partnership level. Each of the 5 statutory partners would take it in turns to Chair, and provide the secretariat, for the Board and Chief Officer Group for one year at a time. At a local level, each partner would take responsibility for supporting 2 local partnerships. The benefits of this approach result in the sharing of responsibility across the five statutory partners, providing greater ownership around community planning.

3.11 The partner supporting at a local level would provide the secretariat support for the partnership, Chair the meeting and be responsible for driving forward the local agenda. Each local partnership would have a place on the CPP Board to ensure links are established between local and strategic level.

3.12 The CPP Board will be asked to agree how partnership activity should be resources at its meeting in June.

3.13 ***Local Partnership Guidance***

Discussions have also taken place on how best to support local partnerships. It is important to enable flexibility to allow partnerships to develop and meet the needs of local communities but there are statutory requirements that partnerships will be required to deliver on and it will be important to provide local partnerships with guidance.

3.14 Initial discussions have suggested that early guidance should contain the following:

Name

- Each local partnership adopts the name Community Partnership and to prefix it with the locality name i.e. Caithness Community Partnership, Sutherland Community Partnership etc. This moves away from the use of 'planning' in any name which has resulted in confusion in the past but emphasises the importance of community given the new rights afforded to community bodies.

3.15 *Membership*

- All 5 statutory partners – Fire, HIE, Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police - and Third Sector representation arranged by the Highland Third Sector Interface at each Local Partnership
- Other 10 named partners would attend as and when required on a thematic basis
- Local partnerships to determine other organisational representation including community organisations
- All partners have shared and equal responsibility

3.16 *Core Remit*

- Developing Local Plans for Children and Adults – statutory
- Develop Locality Improvement Plans/CLD plans focusing on communities facing the greatest level of inequality as a result of socio-economic disadvantage - statutory
- Identify local actions and priorities

3.17 *Meetings*

- Local Partnerships meet no less than 4 times annually
- Consider taking a thematic approach to meetings
- Scrutiny of local plans should be action focused and based on evidence
- Meetings should be in public but not public meetings. There should be the opportunity on each agenda for members of the public to ask

questions/raise any points.

3.18 *Links between Strategic and Local Partnerships*

- Each Local Partnership will nominate a representative to sit on the CPP Board. In most circumstances this will be the Chair.

3.19 Beyond the areas noted above, further work is required to consider governance of local partnerships and other operational elements. There is also the need to provide frameworks to support local partnerships to develop Locality plans for their target communities and also children and adult plans. In addition, local partnerships will have a key role in the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and work is required to ensure there are the appropriate links between local and strategic level to enable this to happen. It has also been suggested that local partnerships may welcome some support and training, building on good practice elsewhere.

4. **Next Steps**

4.1 Establishing local partnerships is the first step in taking forward the duties outlined in section 2. The new approach to community planning is a significant change for all partners and work will be ongoing to take this forward over the coming year. As noted at paragraph 3.8, there will be a need to review arrangements after 12 months to ensure that the framework in place is working effectively for partnerships locally.

4.2 The CPP Board will be asked to agree the geography, resourcing and initial guidance for local partnerships at its meeting in June. If agreed, it is proposed the first meetings of local partnerships take place early Autumn.

5. **Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

- Note the new duties for community planning contained within the Empowerment Act but also other local planning responsibilities contained within the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.
- Consider the discussions to date to take forward local partnerships and agree the proposals set out in Section 3, taking into account the verbal update from the ICAC, to enable a recommendation to be made to the Highland Council on 29 June.
- Note that the final decision will be made at the Highland Community Planning Partnership Board on 30 June.

Date: 27.5.16

Author: Alison Clark, Acting Head of Policy Tel (01463) 702512

Appendix 1: Highland Levels of Community Planning

Highland Levels of Community Planning

