

The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee 1.9.16

Agenda Item	6
Report No	CIA/35/16

Taking Forward Community Partnerships

Report by Acting Head of Policy

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the next steps for establishing a Community Partnership for Inverness.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board agreed at its meeting on 30 June 2016 to establish 9 local partnerships across the Highland area to support local planning arrangements as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act and the Community Learning and Development Regulations. This was also the position agreed by the Council at its meeting on 29 June 2016. This included creating one partnership for the City of Inverness Committee area, as proposed by Members of this committee at the meeting on 2 June 2016.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the next steps for establishing a Community Partnership for Inverness.

2. Taking Forward Community Partnerships

- 2.1 *Geography*

The Community Planning Partnership Board agreed to establish 9 Community Partnerships across Highland primarily based on the existing District Partnership geographies. For Inverness, it was decided that one partnership for the whole City Committee area would be preferable. The current District Partnerships within Inverness will be incorporated into the new Community Partnership arrangements. Some amendments are proposed to the existing geography for District Partnerships and this includes the Kilchuimen Associated School Group being included within the Inverness Community Partnership, which was previously within the Lochaber District Partnership area.
- 2.2 As discussed at this Committee on 2 June, and following that at the CPP Board in June, it will be important to consider how one partnership for the Inverness area would operate, particularly given the number of partners likely to be involved. It was suggested that a sub-group structure is likely to be needed in order to ensure the aims and priorities of the partnership are taken forward. How this may be progressed will need to be considered at the first meeting of the Inverness Community Partnership and there will be opportunities for Members and partners to explore how this may operate prior to that first meeting.
- 2.3 *Membership*

Under the terms of the Community Empowerment Act, community planning is

the responsibility of 5 named partners – Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, NHS Highland and Highland Council. Therefore the core membership of each partnership will be each of these 5 named partners along with representation from the Third Sector arranged through the Third Sector Interface. In addition, there are a further 10¹ named partners in the Community Empowerment Act who would attend on a thematic basis. It will be for each Community Partnership to determine what other representation would be appropriate, particularly in relation to community representation.

2.4 In relation to Council representation, it is anticipated that all Councillors for each Community Partnership will be members of that partnership. Council officers will attend when required, although it is expected that Care and Learning staff and Ward Managers will be in attendance given the role around developing local children's plans and their local community role respectively.

2.5 *Partnership Priorities*

In addition to the commitment to a localism approach, the drivers for establishing the new partnerships across Highland relate to the requirements contained within the Community Empowerment and Public Bodies Acts. Under these Acts, there is a need to develop plans at a local level – combined locality and community learning and development plans (focusing on communities facing greatest inequality), children's plans and adult plans. These are the initial priorities for each of these partnerships. In addition to these, each Community Partnership is likely to want to develop their own priorities. It will be important to consider existing plans and partnership structures already operating in Inverness and how these fit into the new Community Partnership structure. A framework to support the development of the new plans is currently in progress which enables a link between the partnership strategic priorities but allows for local flexibility.

2.6 *Partnership Support*

Currently the District Partnership in each area of Highland is supported by the Council. In the future, each Community Partnership across Highland will be supported by one of the 5 statutory partners. This reflects the change in responsibility for leading on community planning. This means that this partner will Chair the meeting, provide the secretariat for the meeting and be responsible for driving the agenda.

2.7 For Inverness, it is proposed that the Council will take responsibility for providing the secretariat support for the Partnership. If agreed by the CPP Board on 7 October, the Council will support the Inverness Community Partnership for the next 3 years at which time a different partner will take on the responsibility. If this is agreed, and to enable the first meeting to take place towards the end of October/November, it is proposed that the Provost be nominated to chair the first meeting as an interim measure, prior to this committee being enabled to appoint a chair at the meeting of City committee in December.

¹ For the Highland area the listed bodies are; Police Scotland; Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS); NHS Highland; HIE; SNH; the Cairngorm National Park Authority; UHI; Historic Environment Scotland; regional college Boards; SEPA; the Scottish Sports Council; Skills Development Scotland; HITRANS; and Visit Scotland. Community planning is a shared duty to be facilitated by 5 of the listed bodies, for Highland they are the Council, NHS, HIE, Police Scotland and SFRS.

- 2.8 There will be a place on the CPP Board for a member of each Community Partnership – likely the Chair but this should be decided locally – to ensure that there is a link between local and strategic planning across the area.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Across Highland, it is recognised that the coming months will be a period of transition between the former District Partnership arrangements and the new Community Partnerships. Development sessions will be held for Highland Councillors in different parts of Highland during October. This will be an opportunity for Members to contribute to the development of their local Community Partnership but also to ensure there is joint understanding about the roles and responsibilities, aims and priorities of the partnership. A development day is planned for the end of September to bring officers from the different partner organisations together to consider roles, responsibilities and priorities, and Local Committee Chairs and current District Partnership Chairs will be invited to attend this day.
- 3.2 As discussions between partners develop over the coming weeks, the framework to support Community Partnerships will also develop. It is expected that the new partnership arrangements will commence from October. Members are asked to note the developments to date and that regular updates will be provided to the Communities and Partnerships Committee.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Resource: Partners have agreed to jointly resource supporting local partnerships across Highland.

Legal: The new arrangements will help the Council and its partners deliver on new duties contained within the Community Empowerment Act as well as the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act and the Community Learning and Development Regulations.

Equalities: The new legal duty on CPPs to reduce inequality arising from socio-economic disadvantage should enable better partnership action for groups in the community with protected characteristics. Inequality and disadvantage are often associated with protected characteristics e.g. gender, age, disability, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Climate Change/Carbon Clever: None identified.

Risk: There is a risk that the Highland CPP does not comply with the new legislation. This is being mitigated by taking early action with partners in advance of the new duties coming into place.

Gaelic: None identified.

Rural implications: Arrangements for taking forward community planning are proceeding in rural areas of Highland.

5. Recommendation

Members are asked to:

1. Note the next steps to taking forward a local Community Partnership for the Inverness Committee area.
2. Agree the Provost to chair the first meeting as an interim measure, prior to this committee being enabled to appoint a chair at the meeting of the City committee in December.

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