

## The Highland Council

Ross and Cromarty Committee – 3 August 2016

### Taking Forward Community Partnerships

#### Report by Acting Head of Policy

Agenda Item	6
Report No	RC/025/16

#### Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the next steps for establishing local community partnerships within Ross and Cromarty.

## 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 report provides an update on the next steps for establishing local community partnerships within Ross and Cromarty.

## 2. Taking Forward Community Partnerships

- 2.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board agreed to establish 9 community partnerships across Highland based on the District Partnership geographies (with the exception of Inverness). For the Ross and Cromarty Committee area this means that there will be 3 local community partnerships:

- East Ross Community Partnership,
- Mid-Ross Community Partnership and
- Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Community Partnership.

The current district partnerships incorporated into the new community partnership arrangements. It is proposed that there is an amendment to the current district partnership geography around Assynt so that this community is incorporated into the Sutherland Community Partnership.

- 2.2 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 The 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 10<sup>1</sup> named partners in the Community Empowerment Act who would

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.

- 2.3 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 at each meeting given the role around developing local children's plans and their local community role respectively.
- 2.4 Each community partnership is likely to want to develop their own priorities as the partnership develops. However, the initial focus for each partnership will be the delivery of local statutory plans – locality plans (focusing on communities facing greatest inequality), community learning and development plans (focusing on inequality) children's plans and adult plans. A framework to support the development of these plans is currently in progress which enables a link between strategic priorities but allows for local flexibility.
- 2.5 Each community partnership across Highland will be supported by one of the 5 statutory partners. This means that this partner will Chair the meeting, provide the secretariat for the meeting and be responsible for driving the agenda. Following agreement of this new approach by the CPP Board, discussions are underway with partners to determine who should support each partnership. This will be agreed at the Chief Officers' Group on 11 August 2016.
- 2.6 It is recognised that the next two months will be a period of transition between the former District Partnership arrangements and the new Community Partnerships. There are a number of the current District Partnership meetings already scheduled during August and September and it is proposed that these go ahead but that all core partners including the third sector are included in these meetings. This will provide an opportunity to discuss how each community partnership could go forward, however the formal new arrangements will not begin until October.
- 2.7 As discussions between partners develop over the coming weeks, the framework to support community partnerships will also develop. Members are asked to note the developments to date and that regular updates will be provided to the Communities and Partnerships Committee.

### **3. Implications**

- 3.1 **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 eg 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.

#### **4. Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the next steps to taking forward local community partnerships within the Ross and Cromarty Committee area.

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Date: 11 July 2016