

Highland Community Planning Partnership

Chief Officers' Group – 26 April 2018

Agenda Item	10.
Report No	COG 08/18

Community Partnership Resourcing

Report on behalf of the COG Sub Group

The COG is asked to:

- Consider and discuss the issues raised at the Board and then following at the Community Partnership Chair's meeting regarding resourcing of Community Partnerships
- Note the work agreed to be undertaken by Community Partnerships to identify resourcing requirements

1. Background

1.1 Community Partnerships were first established in October 2016 as part of the Highland Community Planning Partnership's response to implementing the new duties relating to community planning contained within the Community Empowerment Act. It was agreed at that time that the 5 agencies responsible for leading community planning would share the leadership of these partnerships between them. No direct budget was allocated to the partnerships and it was agreed that the lead agency for each would support their particular partnership.

1.2 At the CPP Board meeting on the 21 March 2018, under the updates from Community Partnerships, it was highlighted that as the Partnerships move towards implementation of their Locality plans, there was a need to address the issue of resources to support implementation. It was noted that in order to access funding from external sources, a level of local contribution was at times required. The Board agreed that the issue of resourcing be remitted to the Chief Officers Group for consideration.

2. Community Partnership – Initial Funding Issues

2.1 An initial discussion with Community Partnership Chairs on the issue of resourcing was held at the Chairs meeting immediately following the Board on 21 March. A range of resourcing issues were highlighted:

- Operational Resource – resources required in order to support the partnership to operate e.g. meeting expenses, printing, engagement materials. This is both

financial and dedicated officer time to set up. There is variation at present in how this has been taken forward. There were differing views expressed on whether specific resource should be provided or whether this should be absorbed by the lead organisation.

- Project Resource – as locality plans are implemented the need for a small projects budget was highlighted in order to support local projects/activities to deliver against locality plans. At times this may be to attract external funding or perhaps to undertake specific pieces of work. In relation to this it was highlighted the importance of also making use of resources within communities and that it was not always new or additional pieces of work that were required.
- People Resource – people being ‘freed up’/ given the authority to participate and contribute to the work of the partnership and for this to be prioritised as a key part of their role. It was reported that not all local staff felt able to participate at present due to competing work priorities.

2.2 Discussion highlighted that each organisation has taken a different approach to resourcing to date and it was queried whether there should be core requirements set for the future to ensure equity.

2.3 It is important to note that not all partnerships were present and that amongst those that were, there were differing views on the core costs, pressures and requirements. In order to understand these in more detail, each Chair was asked to consider the resources required and to report back on these by the end of April. This would then be considered at a meeting of the Chairs in May.

3. Next Steps

3.1 The Chief Officers group are asked to consider the initial discussion held with Community Partnership Chairs and discuss the issues highlighted, noting that further work is required to fully understand the resourcing requirements of Community Partnerships.

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