

## Highland Community Planning Partnership

Community Planning Board – 19 December 2018

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| Agenda Item | 3ii.      |
| Report No   | CPB 13/18 |

### Developing Community Partnerships – Update from Chief Officers Group

Report by:

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Alison Clark, Acting Head of Policy, Highland Council

Mhairi Wylie, Chief Officer, Highland Third Sector Interface

The CPP Board is asked to:

- Note the update on resourcing of Community Partnerships and that a meeting of lead agencies will take place in the New Year to progress this work.
- Note the outcome of the Aspiring Communities bid and recruitment process and to provide their support for the following 12 month project plan.
- Note the outputs from the Community Partnership development day held in Strathpeffer on 16 November.

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 A sub group of the Chief Officer's Group has been meeting regularly to progress a number of strands of work including considering options for resourcing community partnerships, developing and submitting a bid for funding to support Community Partnerships undertake community engagement work and deliver a development day for community partnerships to share information and learn from each other, and plan for the future. This report provides an update on these activities.

#### 2. Resourcing Community Partnerships

2.1 As reported previously to the Board, work has been undertaken to explore the different resource needs of Community Partnerships and consider the best way of addressing these needs going forward. A paper was considered by the Chief Officer's Group in September, which explored a number of options for progressing resourcing of the Partnerships. This included an option for partners to make financial contributions, setting agreed resourcing requirements for lead agencies or providing dedicated officer resource. Discussions highlighted the important of equity and fairness and agreement reached that support for partnerships would likely best be achieved by providing dedicated staff resource as opposed to monetary resource. It was agreed that a Partnership hub/virtual resourcing model should be developed.

2.2 Prior to progressing this approach, it was agreed to explore what national resource and support may be available. This was progressed by the Scottish Government Location Director and reported

back to the November meeting of COG. The feedback received suggested it was unlikely any government funding would be made available to support this approach. Discussions did note the importance of this element in relation to the Local Governance Review and this is picked up within item 4 on the agenda. COG agreed to proceed to convene a meeting of lead agencies to agree how to progress how a Partnership hub/resourcing model could be resourced. This will be taken forward in the New Year and reported to the March meeting of the Board.

### **3. Aspiring Communities Bid**

3.1 In June the HTSI submitted a bid to the Aspiring Communities fund on behalf of the south, west and mid Community Partnerships for five 'Community Engagement Workers' and a Project Co-Ordinator. Caithness were to submit their own application and Sutherland had already submitted a successful application previously.

3.2 Following an indication that the funding application had been successful and that they were happy for us to go ahead with recruitment the process was started in October with Interviews in November. Some CP chairs took part in the selection process.

3.3 We have now appointed James Taylor as the Community Engagement Workers for East and Mid Ross, Ainya Taylor as the workers for Inverness, Rhona McNicol as the worker for Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey and Lucy Cooke as the worker for both Lochaber and Skye, lochalsh and Wester Ross areas; all of whom will officially start in January. Elisa de Waal has just started in, Mid December, as the Project Co-Ordinator.

3.4 The staff have commitments over the January period as part of their induction. The key project activities are outlined in Appendix 1 and Elisa and the Community Engagement Workers will be looking to the Chairs initially, and the full CP going forward, to support the development of individual work plans for the 12 month period.

3.5 The Project Co-Ordinator will also be leading on a piece of work to plan a larger scale event in the second half of the 2019 year and we would be looking to have the support of the CPP in the delivery of that event.

### **4. Community Partnership Development Day**

4.1 The Community Partnership Development Day was held on Friday 16 November 2018 at the Strathpeffer Pavilion. All nine community partnerships were represented at the event. The event was opened by Ian Murray, Chief Executive of Highlife Highland.

4.2 Community Partnerships had an opportunity to hear about development of the HOIP Delivery Groups and to discuss how the Delivery Group structure should work with the Community partnership structure. Transport had been highlighted as an issue by all of the Community Partnerships. A panel of people involved in transport initiatives in Highland about the work that is going on across the CPP presented information and the Partnerships had an opportunity consider what information they might need on transport in relation to their area and what possible partnership action they could undertake.

4.3 The partnerships had an opportunity to reflect on the process of self evaluation that some partnerships had completed and consider how the outputs from the self evaluation exercise might influence how they do things in future.

4.4 In the afternoon, the Partnerships were able to share information about how their partnership was developing and what they had achieved and also had an opportunity to think about what they wanted to achieve in the coming year.

4.5 Feedback from the day was very positive with Community partnerships placing a high value on the opportunity to come together, learn from each other and have an opportunity to consider the issues that are important to them going forward. The presentations and outputs of the day will be shared with Community Partnerships and COG.

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1 The CPP Board is asked to:

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### **Authors:**

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## APPENDIX 1 – Aspiring Communities Project Key Activity Programme

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| <b>Milestone</b>   |
| <b><u>Quarter 1 (January – March)</u></b>  |
| Stages/Milestones  |
| Recruit Project Staff  |
| Staff induction  |
| Engagement review and assessment x5  |
| Individual workplans x5 agreed locally to cover each community area (17)   |
| Social Media for project established   |
| Individual evaluation framework based on workplace agreed  |
| <b><u>Quarter 2 (April – June)</u></b>   |
| When Engagement events: to compliment attendance at community event and to target specific groups who are under represented (minimum of one per community, 17)   |
| Resilience and capacity building events: training, awareness, networking etc. a specific activity which will build the capacity and strengthen the resilience of community members (minimum of one per community, 17)  |
| Collaboration project proposals to CP: Highlighting opportunities for developing ideas and initiatives which have come from the engagement activities.   |
| <b><u>Quarter 3 (July – September)</u></b>   |
| When Regional Learning Event (Communities/CP members) looking at interarea collaboration and exchange  |
| Legacy project development: developing evidence and design on a legacy project for each CP area which a) builds confidence in the CP approach, b) capacity for the community to continue engaging and/or c) change in the life outcomes for the most disadvantaged x5 (this may include supporting funding applications) |
| Engagement review interviews and focus groups x5   |
| <b><u>Quarter 4 (October – December)</u></b>   |
| Introductions and handover to appointed individual within the CP area: Key contacts will remain linked into CP activity after the CEO has completed project  |
| CP Debrief Meetings: preparing for ongoing engagement post project end   |
| Engagement/Project local evaluation report x5  |
| Project Report with recommendations for legacy   |