

Agenda Item	10.
Report No	CPB/10/22



Highland Community Planning Board

Scottish Government Inquiry into Community Planning

9 December 2022

Report by: Partnership Senior Officers Group

Recommendations:

The CPP Board is asked to:

- Note the background and context to the Scottish Government's Inquiry into Community Planning;
- Consider and discuss the areas noted in the paper with a view to formulating a response to the Inquiry from the Highland Partnership;
- Note that based upon the Board discussions, a draft response will be prepared and circulated for comment;
- Agree that a final response be agreed in conjunction with the Chair of the CPP Board.

1. Background

1.1 The Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee is currently undertaking a review of the Community Empowerment Act 2015. The current focus of the inquiry is on Part 2 of the Act which relates to Community Planning. The Committee is seeking the view from individual organisations involved in Community Planning Partnerships as well as communities and individuals about the impact Partnerships have had.

The initial call for views closes on 30 December 2022.

1.2 This paper outlines the background along with a summary of the Committee's initial areas of inquiry. The full list of questions can be found at section 3. The paper proposes areas for discussion based upon past reviews and Board feedback.

2. Background

- 2.1 The purpose for Community Planning is set out in the Community Empowerment Act:
“...community planning is about how public bodies work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide...services which improve local outcomes...with a view to reducing inequalities.”
- 2.2 The Community Empowerment Act introduced a new approach to Community Planning. A shared responsibility for leading on Community planning was introduced for 5 lead partners along with a new approach to strategic (HOIP) and local (locality) plans for each partnership to deliver. There was also a renewed focus on addressing inequality and prevention and to involve communities in identifying priorities.
- 2.3 To support the new approach, the Act set out 9 core principles of Community Planning:
- Shared leadership
 - Tackling inequality
 - Focus on key priorities
 - Understanding of local community needs, circumstances and opportunities
 - Governance and accountability
 - Effective performance management
 - Resourcing improvement
 - Community participation and co-production
 - Focus on prevention

3. Call for Views

- 3.1 The Committee's call for views sets out a series of 10 questions of the operation of CPPs for which it is seeking the views specifically of Community Planning Partners. The 10 questions are set out below and are accompanied by potential areas for Board discussion. These are based on previous reviews and feedback from partners.

The Board is asked to consider and discuss the questions with a view to a response on behalf of the partnership being developed.

- 3.2 1. What action has been taken at a local level to improve community participation and collaboration between partners since the requirements of the 2015 Act came into force? Can you provide examples of success?

New approach to shared leadership approach, an improved vision, direction and governance for the Partnership and new local structures to support delivery of partnership working locally.

What challenges may the Board wish to highlight? Previously noted challenges of embedding approach throughout an organisation and of increasing participation amongst groups that don't traditionally engage.

2. What progress has your CPP made in tackling inequalities since the 2015 Act? To what extent has your CPP adopted a preventative approach in seeking to tackle inequalities? Can you provide examples of success? How are you responding to the current cost-of-living crisis?

Focus of the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan.

Examples of approaches and success to be provided

What have been the challenges?

3. How have Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and locality plans reduced inequalities? Can you provide examples?

Examples of work to be provided including through local Community Partnerships

4. What are the challenges faced by CPPs to the effective planning and delivery of their outcomes? How has the Act changed how community planning partners deliver their services?

Previous challenges highlighted include:

- *Making Partnership working the 'day job'*
- *Getting buy in from the whole community when plans are targeted on inequality*
- *Delivering against actions – need focus on delivery rather than development of plans*
- *Evidencing and measuring what has been achieved*
- *Proportionate approaches to plans and planning*

5. What role did your CPP have in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic? What has the legacy of the pandemic been to approaches to community planning?

Examples of partnership work during pandemic to be provided

Learning from covid and adjusting the priorities and approach of partnerships

- *Area/thematic approach to priorities and actions leading to greater collaboration*
- *Greater focus on inequality and need*
- *Greater level of participation and involvement from communities*

6. Does the existing guidance for Community Planning Partnerships need to be updated?

Should guidance be updated to take cognisance of place planning?

Where else is guidance required

7. How does community planning align with other strategies and planning requirements?

Positive shift in directing Integrated Children's Services and CLD planning through CPPs

Challenge of different partners having different accountabilities with national targets and standards creating tensions with local outcomes

Alignment between community planning and place planning?

What could help support – local or national – greater alignment with strategies?

8. Do partners in your CPP contribute resources to enable the delivery of outcomes?

Resourcing commitments but broader challenges

Challenge of aligning budgets to deliver shared priorities and shift to prevention at a time of reducing resources.

What could support greater alignment and sharing of budgets?

9. Whether inclusion as a planning partner has changed the way your organisation works, spends its budget and makes decisions?

To be considered by individual organisations

10. Does the statutory membership of Community Planning Partnerships need revisiting?

Currently 5 partners responsible for leading.

What is the role of business?