

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Corporate & Community Planning Manager

West Dunbartonshire Community Participation Committee 19th March 2014

Subject: Community Empowerment Consultation

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update committee members on the response submitted to the Scottish Government consultation on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the committee note the response submitted based on the input of all CPP members.

3. Background

- 3.1** Scottish Government launched its consultation on the revised Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill in November 2013. Significant work had already been undertaken with COSLA ahead of the launch of the consultation given the specific implications for Local Authorities.
- 3.2** The consultation was split into discrete areas based on how comprehensive the proposals were; some already have draft legislation (such as community right to property and to participation), others are detailed policy proposals (such as community right to buy, strengthening community planning). We were also asked to comment on the overall impact that these proposals may have on equalities.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The consultation was discussed at the November 2013 meeting of the CPP management group and it was agreed that the community planning team would coordinate a response on behalf of the partnership. Partners reviewed the consultation and passed comments to the team for inclusion in the final submission. The consultation was also discussed with the chair of the Community Council Forum and it was agreed responses would be developed separately.
- 4.2** The final response, attached as appendix 1, details a comprehensive response to the consultation. It highlights some concerns from the CPP about clarity and the need for tight and consistent definitions when referring to

community groups. There were also some learning points raised in the response around community right to buy in relation to the transfer of assets to community groups – often this has been heavily subsidised in order to be delivered successfully.

- 4.3** In relation to strengthening community planning the response supports the focus on CPPs as the key vehicle for the focus on delivery of local outcomes. The intention to build on core duties in relation to CPP for all partners is fully supported and is something already being progressed through new local arrangements for community planning in West Dunbartonshire.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues in relation to consultation but there may be implications resulting from any resultant legislation.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** There are no financial issues in relation to consultation but there may be implications resulting from any resultant legislation.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There will be significant actions required as the legislation is being implemented and it is critical that the partnership has the time and resource to fully scope and plan for this.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** There is no requirement to carry out an EIA on the consultation however any actions required as a result of the legislation will require to be assessed.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** The consultation response was based on feedback from partners.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** This report details the West Dunbartonshire CPP response to the Scottish Government consultation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill.

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Appendices: **App 1 – Youth Alliance briefing**
App 2 – Adult Learning Partnership briefing

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All