

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Community Participation Committee : 17 August 2011

Subject: Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Decision-Making

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report responds to a request to provide clarification on CPP decision-making processes and statutory partners.

2. Background

- 2.1** At the meeting of the CPC on Wednesday 18 May, it was agreed to provide a report on the statutory partners in Community Planning and on the decision-making processes in the CPP.
- 2.2** The governance arrangements for the CPP are set out in the Partnership Agreement. The Partnership Agreement was developed by all CPP stakeholders during 2010. This work was overseen by a working group of two community residents and two public sector officials. The Agreement was approved by the CPP Strategic Group at its meeting in May 2010, and was specifically signed by the representatives of all three community forums.

3. Main Issues

Statutory Partners

- 3.1** The Community Planning Statutory Guidance identifies the partners who have a statutory duty to participate as follows:
“The duty under section 16 of the Act requires NHS Boards, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Joint Police Boards and Chief Constables, Joint Fire Boards, the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority (SPTA)* and the local authority to participate in the Community Planning process.”

*now Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

Engaging Community Bodies

- 3.2** The Statutory Guidance also says:
“The effective and genuine engagement of communities is at the heart of Community Planning. There are a wide range of 'communities', some defined by geography (such as a neighbourhood or town), some by common or shared interests (such as young people or carers). The definition of 'community body' in the Act, section 15(4), is therefore deliberately broad in order to avoid excluding any particular communities.”

This does not imply specific roles for community residents in CPP structures. Instead it is a general duty to ensure full and effective community engagement. This duty is comprehensively achieved through a range of engagement and involvement processes. This means that community residents representing Community Forums are not statutory partners in Community Planning.

- 3.3** There are two main decision-making structures for community planning in West Dunbartonshire:
- Executive Group
 - Strategic Board

Role and functions of CPP Executive Group

- 3.4** The Executive Group is effectively the lead group for Community Planning in West Dunbartonshire. The members are:
- Chair of WDCPP (Leader of the Council)
 - Director of Community Health and Care Partnership
 - Divisional Commander of Strathclyde Police
 - Area Commander of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and
 - Chief Executive of West Dunbartonshire Council

These are the senior *local* statutory partners in community planning in West Dunbartonshire and public accountability for the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) lies with these public sector partners.

In May 2008, the CPP Board approved three main strands of responsibility for the Executive Group, in essence:

- Assessment of overall impact and budget setting through managing the development and implementation of multi-agency programmes of work delivering on the SOA;
- compliance with the principles and values of the Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan and
- collaborative gain that promotes more efficient use of available resources including earlier and better neighbourhood interventions, ensuring meaningful community engagement, improved communication and mutual understanding.

The Executive Group's role is to take overall responsibility to ensure effective performance management by CPP partners towards the delivery of SOA outcomes.

The Executive Group has the main decision making and scrutiny role in the financial matters of the CPP. It will:

- Monitor and evaluate detailed inputs and expenditure in relation to the performance monitoring of agreed outcomes in the SOA
- Consider regular detailed financial monitoring reports and take necessary actions to address any areas of concern.
- Reserve the right to withhold, reduce, or terminate any grant.

- Consider future proposals from thematic groups and approve the future use of CPP funds.

Additionally, the Executive Group can deal with urgent business that cannot await the next scheduled meeting of the Strategic Board.

Membership of the CPP Strategic Board

3.5 The Strategic Board currently has 14 members as follows:

- The Chair of the CPP (Leader of the Council initially on an interim basis)
- Two further elected members (one from the Administration, one from the Opposition)
- West Dunbartonshire Council (one place)
- Community Health Partnership (one place)
- Strathclyde Police (one place)
- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (one place)
- Skills Development Scotland (one place)
- Scottish Enterprise (one place)
- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (one place)
- West Dunbartonshire CVS (one place)
- Three Community Forum representatives (one from each of three Community Forums, Clydebank, Dumbarton and Vale of Leven)

Role of the Strategic Board

3.6 The role of the Strategic Board is to:

- Act as the public meeting for community planning in West Dunbartonshire
- Support the Executive Group in administering its role as the lead group in the overall structure
- Play a scrutiny role in terms of papers or decisions generated by the Executive Group
- Provide the Executive Group with all necessary information and monitoring reports, considering detailed reports from thematic groups including performance monitoring
- The Strategic Board has a role to critique and analyse performance linked to the SOA, supported by detailed performance monitoring by thematic groups
- Ensure the CPP has the widest possible impact on and involvement of the public sector, private sector, third sector and communities
- Oversee community engagement processes
- Promote and publicise the work of the CPP

3.7 There should be a clear link between the Strategic Board and the thematic groups. This is considered appropriate given the vital role of thematic groups in delivering agreed models for Community Planning in West Dunbartonshire.

3.8 The Strategic Board can co-opt new members up to a maximum of three, as it deems appropriate. Co-opted appointments should be reviewed on a two yearly basis. The overall membership of the Strategic Board should not exceed 18, at any one time.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no people implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no additional financial implications

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There is a risk that lack of clarity about the roles and relationships of the community planning structures described above will have a detrimental effect on partnership working and community engagement.

7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 Effective and clear decision making in community planning matters will contribute to all strategic objectives.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

9.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: West Dunbartonshire CPP, Partnership Agreement

Wards Affected: All wards