

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director Corporate Services

West Dunbartonshire Community Participation Committee 19 March 2014

Subject: Update from National Community Planning Group

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the committee of recent correspondence from the National Community Planning Group on joint resourcing.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to
- Note and consider the contents of this report
 - Note the contents of the letter from the National Community Planning Group as discussed by the CPP Management Group in February 2014.

3. Background

- 3.1** In December 2012, the Scottish Government provided updated guidance on developing Single Outcome Agreements (SOA). This guidance stated that CPPs must place significant focus on developing a new approach to joint resourcing.
- 3.2** The guidance was reinforced through the SOA assurance process, including feedback from the Minister for Local Government and Planning highlighting the importance of a comprehensive CPP wide approach to joint resourcing and planning.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Following the sign off of SOAs in April 2012, the National Community Planning Group asked each CPP to detail their plans on implementing joint resourcing in 2014/15, and what specific actions would be progressed. The West Dunbartonshire response outlined plans for a comprehensive mapping of activity and resources through the Delivery & Improvement Groups.
- 4.2** However this is a complex agenda, influenced by a range of challenges set for local and regional bodies by different Scottish Government divisions. Therefore the opportunity was also taken to seek more specific guidance and direction from the National Group. A national steer on taking joint resourcing would be helpful for those regional bodies that participate in a number of local CPPs.

4.3 The National Group considered CPP submissions at its meeting on December 2013. It indicated that the key elements and expectations of an agreement on joint resourcing are:

- The CPP is the only strategic forum in which partners can engage in meaningful joint planning on how to deploy their collective resource to achieve the agreed priorities set out in the SOA
- The CPP does not replace or override the formal governance and accountability arrangements of partner bodies
- CPPs should adopt a practical and proportionate approach to fulfilling the expectations of the Agreement
- The scope of the Agreement includes all resources – workforce and property as well as budgets
- The Third Sector should be engaged in discussions.

4.4 Following this meeting the Chair of the National Group, Pat Waters, wrote to each CPP outlining expectations in relation to an agreement on joint resourcing. This letter makes clear the desire of the group to see significant progress made in budget alignment over the next year, and is attached as an appendix to this paper.

4.5 The letter also details the next steps required in each area:

- Officials should examine the barriers to progress highlighted by some CPPs
- A small number of senior officials from across partners/CPPs should help define some key practical milestones for implementation of the Agreement by CPPs in 2014-15 and future years.

4.6 As outlined in paragraph 4.1 above, further guidance from the National Community Planning Group would assist in providing a degree of consistency across CPPs for those partners who work in more than one CPP area. However, it is suggested that in the meantime each West Dunbartonshire DIG carries out a mapping exercise to identify the scale of activity and resources that inform their relevant thematic area. This information could be coordinated through the office of the Council's Executive Director of Corporate Resources, and then submitted to the CPP Management Group for further analysis and direction.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no personnel issues.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The new approach being requested in relation to joint resourcing may require changes to financial planning and processes for all partners.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There are risks associated with failing to progress joint budgeting and resourcing actions as directed by the National Community Planning Group. At the same time, developing joint CPP approaches to budgeting and resource management also poses financial and operational risks.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out on key action areas as required.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** Comprehensive engagement with partners will take place at both Management Group and DIG level as this work progresses.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The contents of this report could impact on all community planning strategic priority areas.

Angela Wilson
Executive Director
Corporate Services

Person to Contact: Amanda Coulthard
Corporate Services
Council Buildings
Garshake Road
Dumbarton G82 3PU
01389 737271
Amanda.coulthard@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Letter from National Community Planning Group
Background Papers: None
Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1

Contact: David Milne
Email: David.milne2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Direct Dial: 0131 244 5028

National Community Planning Group
Secretariat
c/o Scottish Government
Area 3-J (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

To: Chairs of Community Planning Partnerships

Copy: Members of the National Community Planning Group
Local authority and NHS Chief Executives
CPP Leads

Dear Colleagues

As we enter 2014 I thought it would be helpful to take stock of our collective progress on community planning over the last year and to update you on the most recent meeting of the National Community Planning Group.

I am sure you will agree that 2013 was an extremely busy and productive year on the community planning front. I know that all CPPs and their partner organisations have put considerable time and effort into making progress on the Statement of Ambition and would like to thank you for that work. I believe it is beginning to pay dividends in terms of partners' commitment to joint working; the development and delivery of new Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) and associated Development Plans; lessons from the Accounts Commission's audit of CPPs; and progress on the Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing.

At our meeting on 11 December 2013 the National Group discussed joint resourcing and the 3rd sector's role in community planning. The papers for that meeting can be found [here](#) and a note of the meeting will be put on the website over the next few weeks.

The Group was grateful for the updates on joint resourcing provided by each CPP and encouraged by the examples of progress they provided. Nonetheless, the Group expects CPPs to make substantial further progress for 2015-16 and emphasised that even once budgets for 2014-15 have been set there is further work that CPPs and their partners should do in-year to align resources towards SOA priorities. In terms of action, the Group therefore agreed that:

- Officials should examine the barriers to progress highlighted by some CPPs; and that

- A small number of senior officials from across partners/CPPs should help define some key practical milestones for implementation of the Agreement by CPPs in 2014-15 and future years.

The Group also discussed the challenge, highlighted by some CPPs, of disaggregating partner resources against particular outcomes, priorities and/or areas. It agreed that this kind of detailed technical work can add value but did not want CPPs to get tied up or slowed down in an overly technical approach which seeks to identify and attribute every pound, shilling and pence.

On the role of the third sector, the Group agreed that there were three broad areas where Government, CPPs, individual partners and the Third Sector should focus national and local improvement efforts:

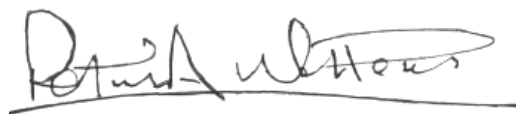
- enhancing the role of the Third Sector in helping to shape and influence community planning priorities and actions;
- enabling small community and voluntary groups to thrive and contribute – and connecting people and services with those groups; and
- improving approaches to commissioning and procurement.

I encourage you to consider these issues from your own CPP's perspective. For its part, the National Group has asked officials to look in detail at the current state of play across those three areas and the key characteristics of good practice with a view to identifying how the Group, Government, CPPs and individual partners can help maximise the potential of the third sector to improve people's lives.

I trust this update is useful and look forward to working with you over the coming year.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter to members of your CPP.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pat Watters', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Pat Watters, CBE
Chair, National Community Planning Group