

Feedback from 'Developing the Community Alliance' KETSO Session on Wednesday 18 September

Who Should be Involved?

What's Working	What needs to improve	What needs to change (barriers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of groups is already involved • Councillors are present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting arrangements should accommodate people who work • Help with administration • Representation needs to be widened or strengthened in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Police and Fire Service ○ young people/ Youth Alliance/Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament ○ equality groups - Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT), Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), Travellers ○ All active community groups should be considered ○ all the Community Councils ○ of Tenants and Residents Groups • Better Ratio of Community Groups to Councillors • Access to Council spokespersons/officers responsible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness of groups to attend • Apathy • Timing of meetings • The way meetings are facilitated • Accessibility in general • Communication has to be more accessible • Need a good spread of people across the community • Have a more flexible approach • Improve awareness • Single interest organisations • Atmosphere of hostility and suspicion

	<p>for service delivery for specific topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially representation from Neighbourhood Management Groups if these are established • Social Enterprises representation 	
<p>Additional Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agendas should not be restricted • Representatives sometimes have to present views from their groups which aren't their own personal views (conflict) • Membership should be clear (e.g. members and substitutes, who can speak and when) and kept up to date • This process was not accessible to everyone and was driven by perceptions • Fewer elected members should be involved 		
<p>Priority: Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community representatives have to communicate with their groups and provide a balanced account of their views at meetings • Officials and elected members have to provide information which is clear and accurate 		

What should the agenda be?

What's Working	What needs to improve	What needs to change (barriers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agenda covers items that affect local communities including local concerns and Council business • The opportunity exists to raise new topics • There is effective sharing of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have to be clear outcomes and SMART actions • Agenda setting should be flexible and inclusive and focussed on current matters • There should be enough time for proper discussion • Agenda should be responsive to community interest and include a wide range: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welfare Reforms ○ Employability ○ Community transport ○ Wider Community Planning agenda (not just Council) ○ Discussion and input on strategic plans e.g. scrutiny of the Single Outcome Agreement ○ Major Council consultations ○ Community area improvements ○ Activities for young people ○ Anti-Social Behaviour ○ Health and Social Care ○ Housing Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of participation • Hearing items requested by community in good time • Appropriate information/clear/accessable • Issues linked to Council business • Action (not just talk) • Focussed agenda (not too wide)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Campaigns ○ Feedback from Neighbourhood Groups (if established) 	
<p>Additional comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local issues should be dealt with elsewhere • Questions from public gallery • Need an agreed vision – effective and change addressing need <p>Note: some conflict between wide agenda and need for a more focussed agenda</p>		
<p>Priority:</p> <p>Flexible agenda addressing current concerns</p>		

What support is needed for community members?

What's Working	What needs to improve	What needs to change (barriers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of relevant information/ seminars, presentations and understanding • Help with transport • Training (inc attending meetings) • Agendas in advance • Accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effective/targeted training which addresses needs (including public speaking) • Don't use formal committee structure – need less formal mechanism • Gear code of conduct • Fully accessible meetings • Community Support workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are too formal and bureaucratic x3 • Support and resources for community members (inc. finance/resources for training) – needs increased - there is a lack of support x 3 • Lack of ownership/responsibility for outcomes • Indiscipline at meetings • Who to contact and where • Poor Communication X4 • Getting new community representatives • Council Charges (for lets?) • Feeling of not being listened to x2 • Tension or mistrust between Council/Community Council perceptions. • Availability (people's time)
<p>Additional comments: Need greater representation from young people (see 'Who Should be Involved?')</p>		
<p>Priorities:</p>		

- Support and resources for community capacity building
- Ensuring all agencies support processes
- Getting new community representatives/ improving ratio of community members to Councillors