



Report by the Performance & Strategy Manager

Management Group: Thursday 14 February 2019

**Subject: Community Planning West Dunbartonshire Update**

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to update members on progress of a range of issues and projects currently underway within, or with an effect on, the partnership.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** Members are asked to note the content of the report

## **3. Background**

- 3.1** Since 2014 we have seen significant progress and change in the development of community planning at both a local and national level. New legislation related to both Community Justice and Community Empowerment has changed the context for partnership working and places increased responsibilities on Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). There is increasing additional focus on scrutiny of performance and achievement of outcomes at a local and national level.
- 3.2** At a local level there has been an embedding of the new arrangements under Community Planning West Dunbartonshire (CPWD), with implementation of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) through the Delivery & Improvement Groups (DIGs), development of our partnership approach to community empowerment and further work to strengthen community resilience and build capacity at a local level.

## **4. Main Issues**

### Delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- 4.1** The LOIP was adopted By CPWD in October 2017, covering a 10 year period. Since adoption work has been progressing through the five DIGs to progress the outcomes, priorities and aspirations of the partnership. DIG action plans covering the period until 2022 are presented for consideration elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting.

- 4.2** The first annual report for the LOIP was considered and endorsed in August 2018, reflecting performance against the 18 nationally available indicators detailed in the Community Planning Outcomes Profiles. Attached at appendix one to this report is the supporting framework for annual performance reporting, which aligns each indicator to the priority of the LOIP.
- 4.3** Additional local measures will be developed and reported through DIGs as required to assess progress at a local level. These data will be used as management information to assess progress and inform activity, they will not be used for annual reporting on the LOIP.

#### Local Governance Review

- 4.4** The Local Governance Review was launched as a joint exercise between Scottish Government and COSLA. The review was developed from a commitment in the 2017/18 programme for government to decentralise power to a more local level.
- 4.5** Work began in May 2018 to gather the views of both local citizens and also public bodies on how decision making takes place at a local level and how this could be improved. Democracy Matters, the local community and citizen strand of the review, is focused on gathering the thoughts and views of citizens on involvement and control of decision making at a local level.
- 4.6** Alongside the community focused engagement, work has been taking place to gather the views of public bodies on how local governance can be enhanced in local areas. Early scoping work was carried out in summer 2018 by Professor James Mitchell on behalf of COSLA and Scottish Government to gather initial thoughts from Councils and other public bodies.
- 4.7** Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) have also been asked to consider local governance with a view to developing proposals for improved governance arrangements to be developed across local areas. This work will collectively inform the proposed Local Democracy Bill highlighted in the programme for government.
- 4.8** CPWD submitted a response in January 2019, attached at appendix two, outlining the key areas for focus through the next stages of the Local Governance Review. This work will be a continued focus over 2019.

#### Brexit

- 4.9** Scottish Government is working with public bodies to prepare information on Brexit readiness, based on the increasing likelihood that the UK may exit the EU in March 2019 without any transition arrangements and/or certainty about future arrangements.
- 4.10** All partners involved in CPWD will be preparing a position based on their current understanding of the potential risks and implications to their agencies, and the partnership, of such a scenario.

- 4.11** While the facts and mechanism for Brexit remain unclear and the implications vary depending on the severity of exit/details of any deal/length of any transition period etc. there are no scenarios that do not have adverse implications for service delivery and therefore outcomes in West Dunbartonshire and wider.
- 4.12** The key areas identified to date as potential areas of immediate concern are:
- Workforce issues (Including the ability of current employees who are EU nationals to work in the UK after March 2019)
  - EU funded programme sustainability
  - Disruption to supply train
  - Uncertainty on direction of public procurement
- 4.13** At this stage, it is unclear what exact impacts might arise from different forms of Brexit and what, if anything, CPWD might reasonably be expected to do in mitigation. The greatest long term risk to West Dunbartonshire comes from the long term economic impact. There is little that CPWD can do to mitigate that as national policy for dealing with Brexit will also be the main determinant of what we can do (or are possibly directed to do) in the short to medium term.

#### National reports & publications

- 4.14** Both What Works Scotland (WWS) and Audit Scotland have an interest, at a national level, on how community planning is performing. This has led to the publication of a range of reports by both organisations. The most recent Audit Scotland report, [Community planning: an update Impact report](#), published in 2018, provides a summary of progress made nationally against previous Audit Scotland recommendations. The report highlights good progress made in a number of areas, however flags some areas of concern where progress has not been of the pace expected.
- 4.15** Good progress is summarised in relation to the embedding of a framework for community planning, with a focus on improvement and the sharing of best practice as well as the embedding of community views in setting long term aspirations. However the report also flags challenges being faced in relation to assessing impact and evaluation of programmes as well as the shift away from small tests of change to assess investment in prevention activity.
- 4.16** The report also highlights the complexity of accountability and governance frameworks for the range of partners involved in community planning and the challenge of shifting resources to focus on a prevention agenda. Finally the report notes the need for significantly greater alignment of community planning and wider public sector reform at both a local and national level. This is a point reflected in the CPWD response to Local Governance Review as detailed in 4.8 above.
- 4.17** In November 2018 WWS published their second survey report on [Community Planning after the Community Empowerment Act](#). The report summarises an analysis of views gathered through two surveys of community planning

officials in Scotland. These surveys investigated the key dynamics in CPPs, particularly how they function as a vehicle to deliver on the public service reform agenda.

- 4.18** WWS concluded from these surveys that while partnership working does occur, particularly around sharing of evidence, that partnership meetings are not the main venue for decision making. From responses WWS have summarised that partnership board meetings are often seen as secondary arenas for policy and decision making with core strategic business decisions taken elsewhere.
- 4.19** The report summarise that CPPs function more as spaces for sharing information, planning and coordinating initiatives than as a mechanism for sharing resources, budgets and decision-making. WWS have also summarised that the deliberative quality of meetings could be improved, with challenge, disagreement, scrutiny and improvement focused initiatives not clearly evident. The surveys also reported that CPP partners' influence and involvement is limited, with reports that board are still 'council heavy' and therefore wider partners may not be sharing ownership of CPP priorities as intended.
- 4.20** The report indicates that there is still some way to go in order to meet the objective embodied in the Community Empowerment Act that all partners, not just the council, take more proactive roles in driving the work of CPPs. Again this is reflective of the CPWD response to the Local Governance Review referenced in 4.8 above.
- 4.21** The Community Empowerment Act supporting guidance for CPPs lays out specific expectations for all public bodies involved in community planning, with a focus on leadership, governance and accountability. This includes a focus on collective ownership and leadership as well as aligned and/or joint resourcing. This is not evident in all CPPs and there is a need to explore options for increasing collective ownership and leadership.

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** None, all activity is delivered through existing team capacity.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** There are no direct financial or procurement implications from the updates detailed in this report.
- 6.2** Financial implications from implementation of the Community Empowerment Act require to be further scoped and monitored, particularly in relation to the potential financial implications of asset transfer and participation requests.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

**7.1** As outlined above there is an increasing drive nationally for community planning partners to work at an increased pace to deliver outcomes for communities. Failure to engage in this work and to respond to the new challenges being set for community planning in Scotland would not reflect well on CPWD and would risk delivery against the national policy priorities set by the Scottish Government.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**8.1** An EIA is not required as this is a progress update on a range of activities.

## **9 Consultation**

**9.1** This is an update on areas of work. Consultation is carried out relevant to each project and initiative, involving all appropriate partners.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

**10.1** Progressing work as outlined in this report ensures CPWD can deliver on the outcomes set in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

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<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – LOIP performance framework Appendix 2 – CPWD response - LGR
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<a href="#">Scottish Government Guidance – Community Empowerment Act Part 2</a>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All