

MINUTE

of

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minute of Meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock on 13 March 2017.

Present:

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Chair)
Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Alan Lafferty
Dr. Linda de Caestecker (NHSGGC)
Stephen Frew (SE)
Anne Marie Kennedy (VAER)

Danny Logue (SDS)
Brian McNulty (Police Scotland)
Cat McMeechan (SG)
Lorraine McMillan (ERC)
David Proctor (SFRS)
Wendy Wilkinson (SG)

Councillor Fletcher in the Chair

Attending:

Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Jamie Reid, Community Resources Manager; Tracy Butler, Community Planning Team Leader; and Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillor Stewart Miller; Robert Calderwood (NHSGGC); and Michael Cannon (SE).

INTRODUCTION

1. Councillor Fletcher welcomed those present and explained that representatives from Audit Scotland would be observing the meeting as part of the Audit of Best Value currently being carried out across the Council.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Board considered and approved the Minute of the meeting of 30 June 2016.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND LOCALITY PLANS

3. Councillor Fletcher invited the Deputy Chief Executive to make a brief presentation on the development of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.

Not yet adopted as a true record

The Deputy Chief Executive briefly outlined the background to the development of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Locality Plans highlighting the requirement for the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board to reaffirm a strong commitment to the concept of community planning. She explained that the original Community Plan (CP) had set out the CPP's vision for East Renfrewshire and that the successor document, the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) had, over time, been amalgamated with the CP to form a single document describing what would be achieved by the CPP. As a result, the SOA had become a very complex document with a significant element of data analysis about the local area along with a very broad range of measures reflecting the wide range of services provided by the public and third sectors and this complexity had made it difficult to identify areas of joint resourcing and focus.

The Council had tackled the difficulties with this complexity by identifying 5 strategic outcomes as the basis of its strategy and these provided a "golden thread" between the Community Plan and the Council's plans. Within each outcome, the CPP had identified stretch targets for particular parts of the outcome where partners wanted to focus on making a difference. These stretch targets related in the main to areas of inequality.

The Deputy Chief Executive went on to explain that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (CEA) required CPPs to prepare Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and Locality Plans by 1 October 2017. The LOIP is required to be a plan for the whole of East Renfrewshire replacing the current SOA but having a narrower focus, addressing issues around inequality and disadvantage and must evidence how priorities are to be resourced. Locality Plans must focus on a specific geographic area and are not required for every locality but must include those areas that experience poorer outcomes compared to the rest of the authority or the rest of Scotland. They must also be based on socio-economic data as well as an understanding of local needs. Based on data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), the areas of Auchenback and Arthurlie, Dunterlie and Dovecothall had been identified as the initial two areas of focus in terms of Locality Plans.

She concluded by explaining that a Locality Planning Working Group had been set up with representatives from the named statutory partners and key community planning partners including Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire. The purpose of this group was to lead on the development of some parts of CEA including the development of the LOIP and Locality Plans.

Jamie Reid, Community Resources Manager, continued the presentation by explaining that the CEA required CPPs to go beyond using consultation as a traditional method of engagement and be able to demonstrate a more meaningful engagement with the community and how they had influenced decisions, including resource allocation, and expressed the view that East Renfrewshire CPP was well placed to meet this requirement. The Act introduced many new terms, many of which were not particularly meaningful to communities. In order to try to convey to communities a clear message about the aim to promote fairness and support the most vulnerable in the community, the title Fairer East Ren would in future be used in place of Local Outcomes Improvement Plan or LOIP.

A wide-ranging discussion followed during which a number of members sought clarification on a range of issues including the consideration given to the position of children in care within the proposed plans. The Chief Executive, supported by the Community Resources Manager, explained that children in care had a high priority across the CPP and that a care-experienced young person acted as Joint Chair with her on the Champion's Board. The Deputy Chief Executive explained, in response to a comment relating to Neilston, that the CPP worked very closely with the existing Neilston Town Team which had taken "ownership" of a range of community resources within the town and worked together with the CPP and the Council to provide a range of services and facilities for local residents.

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Councillors Buchanan and Fletcher both welcomed the report and commended the achievements to date as well as the realisation that “one size does not fit all” and that it was vitally important to continue a meaningful dialogue with those people who need local services in order to ensure that the right services were provided at the right time. Councillor Fletcher highlighted the need for the Scottish Government to provide the necessary financial resources citing the case of Thorntree Hall where a recent bid for funds supported by the local community had had not been successful.

Thereafter, the Board:-

- (a) agreed to the retention of an overarching Community Plan;
- (b) agreed the approach for the development of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (Fairer East Ren) and noted the progress to date;
- (c) agreed to a phased development of Locality Plans with the communities of (i) Auchenback and (ii) Arthurlie, Dunterlie and Dovecothall identified as priority areas; and
- (d) noted the opportunities that are in place for the community to influence the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (Fairer East Ren) and Locality Plans.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EAST RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

4. Councillor Fletcher invited the Chief Executive to make a brief presentation on the Future Governance Arrangements for the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The Chief Executive explained that under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 30 June 2016 (Item 8 refers), the Board had agreed that in light of the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (CEA), the time was appropriate for a light touch review of the CPP’s governance arrangements. The purpose of the report was to allow discussion on some initial recommendations and to gather feedback to allow further research to be carried out with a view to presenting final options to the Board at its meeting in June. She went on to briefly outline the current arrangements including an annual meeting of the Board to provide strategic direction and oversight of community planning activity and set priorities for the year ahead and a Performance and Accountability Review (PAR) which meets twice per year to scrutinise performance and drive operational activity in areas where performance may be slowing or declining. The role of the PAR had recently been extended beyond just scrutiny of performance and it was suggested that in light of this consideration should be given to reviewing the PAR’s terms of reference.

Referring to the existing Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) the Chief Executive went on to explain that the model for improvement methodology was now firmly embedded in the work being done around planning for early-years and older people and that the PAR had been overseeing the use of the model in respect of the remaining outcomes. The development of the Fairer East Ren plan would require the development of new workstreams similar to those for the stretch aims so the opportunity would be taken to refresh the workstreams from October onwards. She concluded by explaining that the Information and Consultation Sessions (ICS) with Elected Members remained well attended with almost all members attending at least 1 session per year and many attending all of the sessions. Topics for 2016

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had included Welfare Reform, City Deal, the Local Development Plan and an update on the Community and Leisure Trust. The next ICS was due to take place in March on the topic of the Fairer East Ren plan when engagement feedback would be provided and members' input into future priorities would be sought. CPP partners were encouraged to attend to ensure that the potential from the session was recognised and was a valuable contribution from Elected Members and partners alike. A chart providing a visual representation of the current governance arrangements was shown and this reflected the range of outcome-based partnerships operating locally including the Employability Partnership and the Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Partnership which were driving much of the strategic and operational delivery of the CPP.

The Head of Democratic and Partnership Services continued the presentation by highlighting the key principles of effective community planning as set out in the guidance associated with CEA and explaining that any refinements to the Board's governance arrangements should strengthen the delivery of these requirements. Prior to CEA, community planning leadership had been the responsibility of the Council. Under CEA, there were now 5 statutory partners i.e. the Council, IJB, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Enterprise all now equally responsible for community planning. As outlined earlier in the meeting by the Deputy Chief Executive, East Renfrewshire CPP was well placed to enable community participation and communities were at the heart of community planning activity. The CPP had disaggregated socio-economic and demographic data and analysis of the local communities in order to better understand their needs and priorities. The CPP was also aware of which community groups operated in East Renfrewshire and, for groups linked to key outcomes, what their capacity, priorities and needs were. There was strong sense of the groups which were active around key issues such as additional support needs, youth issues and community sport and the CPP would be looking at avenues to work productively and in partnership with these and other groups in future.

He went on to explain that joint resourcing was a complex issue that had been highlighted in an Audit Scotland report on community planning in 2016 as being an issue for all CPPs across Scotland. Audit Scotland had recommended further joint resourcing and funding for priority areas. This recommendation had been reflected in the CEA which contained a requirement that priorities identified in the LOIP and Locality Plans should be given adequate joint resourcing. East Renfrewshire is considered to be further along this road than many other authorities given that the HSCP, and its predecessor the CHCP, had a well-established system of aligned budgets, transparency and joint resourcing between the Council and NHSGGC and the weekly Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP) meetings between Police Scotland, SFRS and a variety of Council services to jointly prioritise the use of shared resources. This co-operation had also resulted in a police officer being appointed to the post of Local Authority Liaison Officer based 2 days per week co-located with the Community Planning team.

The Head of Democratic and Partnership Services went on to highlight the results of the Improvement Service Self-Assessment Checklist completed by the CPP in 2015/16 which had demonstrated that East Renfrewshire was viewed as a high performing CPP with few strategic targets missed and with actions in place to address those targets which were at risk; high levels of community engagement; good use of evidence to inform decision making; a clear focus on outcomes; strong leadership; and effective performance management and reporting of impact. In terms of a comparison with other CPPs across Scotland, the key difference was in terms of the frequency of meetings with most Boards meeting at least twice per year and PARs, or their equivalent, meeting on a quarterly basis. Some CPPs had community representation at Board level which East Renfrewshire currently did not have. Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire (VAER) was initially invited to act as a community representative but expressed the view that they viewed their role as that of a community planning delivery partner i.e. the third sector interface. The role of VAER within the CPP had

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evolved since the establishment of the CPP and this was an area which could be considered within the scope of the current review.

He concluded by examining the current focus of the PAR which had originally been set up to scrutinise the CPP's performance at mid and year-end and explained that the remit of the PAR had evolved since its inception. The core aspect of meetings of the PAR remained to review performance over the previous 6 months and to identify any areas that were of concern or which warranted further investigation. This approach had worked well in practice with the CPP performing well with few indicators that did not meet target or which were at risk of not reaching target. However, due to the Board only meeting annually, some matters requiring decisions including the approval of partnership strategies, plans and policies and those that could not wait until the annual meeting of the Board, were presented to the PAR instead. A proposal had been put forward for the terms of reference of the PAR to be developed in conjunction with the review of the terms of reference of the Board to ensure that both remained effective and efficient including the introduction of a more formal approval role for the PAR.

The Chief Executive invited comments from members on the initial recommendations outlined in the presentation.

Chief Superintendent McNulty, referring to the level of representation on the Board and PAR, outlined the divisional structure within Police Scotland and expressed the view that it was appropriate for him to represent Police Scotland on the Board and for the local Area Commander, currently Chief Inspector Angela Carty, to be the representative on the PAR. A number of other members expressed similar views in relation to the level of representation on the Board and PAR by their organisations and Councillor Lafferty highlighted the strategic importance of transport planning and suggested that the Board could benefit from representation from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). He also suggested that the chief officer of the IJB would be a useful addition to the board. Councillor Fletcher, whilst welcoming the views expressed, cautioned against increasing representation, on the Board in particular, to the extent that it became unmanageable.

The Chief Executive thanked everyone for their contributions and suggested that any further ideas be submitted following the meeting of the PAR in May with a view to these informing the final recommendations to be submitted to the Board for approval in June.

Thereafter, the Board agreed:-

- (a) the initial recommendations for the CPP's future governance arrangements;
- (b) that these are discussed at the Performance and Accountability Review in May for further partner input; and
- (c) that final recommendations are presented to the Board in June.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5. The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 22 June 2017 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock.