

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	1 May 2013
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Community Planning in Aberdeen - A Report by Audit Scotland
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/13/057

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents:-

- i. a report by Audit Scotland concerning Community Planning in Aberdeen; and
- ii. a further report by Audit Scotland "Improving Community Planning in Scotland".

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Council:-

- i. note the reports; and
- ii. note that Community Planning Aberdeen has put in place a Development Plan, to support the delivery of the new Single Outcome Agreement, which addresses the improvement items identified by Audit Scotland.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

There are no direct implications arising from this report, however, the Community Planning Partnership's, management of the Single Outcome Agreement will have considerable impact on the community.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. Community Planning in Aberdeen Audit

6.1 Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) volunteered to participate in a pilot programme of new audits of community planning in Scotland. As well as Aberdeen, pilot audits were also completed in Scottish Borders and North Ayrshire.

6.2 The findings of The Accounts Commission are in line with the partnership’s expectations at the commencement of the audit. Those findings include acknowledgement of the partnership’s self-awareness.

6.3 In summary, the report highlights:-

- the difficulties of demonstrating the impact which partnership working has had on outcomes for the city;
- the deep rooted and complex nature of the issues which all community planning partnerships are seeking to tackle;
- that Community Planning Aberdeen now has a good basis for meeting these challenges; and
- that further and sustained development work will be needed for community planning to realise its full potential.

3.4 The following table lists the improvement items identified and shows Community Planning Aberdeen’s response to these:-

Improvement Item	Community Planning Aberdeen Action
Identify a limited number of strategic priorities on which the community planning partnership can make an impact	Delivered through new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)
Ensure that CPA has a strategic oversight of all significant partnership working to help ensure that there is a match between resources and strategic priorities	Included in CPA Development Plan as review of “Governance”
Review the approach to community engagement to help avoid any duplication of effort by different organisations	Included in CPA Development Plan as review of “Communication and Engagement”
Review the level of representation of partner organisations, to help ensure that CPA Board members have sufficient seniority to contribute to decision-making.	Revised arrangements considered and agreed by CPA
Strengthen the scrutiny of performance, by regularly providing monitoring reports to Thematic Groups and to the CPA Board.	Included in CPA Development Plan as review of “Performance Management”
Hold partners to account for their	Included in CPA Development Plan as

contribution to shared objectives and use this to help drive improvements.	review of "Performance Management"
For each strategic priority, set performance targets that provide a stronger focus on outcomes and community impact.	Addressed through Single Outcome Agreement
Ensure that reliable performance data is available to match targets. Avoid setting targets that cannot be monitored.	Addressed through Single Outcome Agreement
Assess the impact made by Fairer Scotland and Challenge Funds.	This was ongoing. Further evaluation across all Community Planning Aberdeen funds is being undertaken.
Identify the total resources available to all partners and determine how resources can be targeted and aligned towards agreed priorities and outcomes.	Included in CPA Development Plan as review of "Budgeting and Pooled Resources"
Assess the impact of the Whole Systems Approach, currently being piloted in education and community safety	This was ongoing and will continue.