

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	29 June 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Community Planning Aberdeen - Development Plan
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/115
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides a six monthly update on progress by Community Planning Aberdeen against key areas of improvement.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Council is asked to note this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no immediate financial implications of this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None at present.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Community Planning

- 5.1.1 Over the past six months the focus for Community Planning Aberdeen has been on identifying a clear set of priorities that the Partnership will commit to working together in order to achieve improved outcomes for communities across Aberdeen City.

- 5.1.2 To ensure that decisions about partnership priorities are based on a robust evidence base and understanding of need, the Partnership commissioned a strategic assessment of the City to be undertaken. The strategic assessment provides a comprehensive picture of the supply, demand and need for public services in Aberdeen City. It considers past and present performance, as well as emerging trends which will likely impact on the delivery of better outcomes for the communities within Aberdeen City. To progress the strategic assessment and ensure that the evidence base is accurate, timely and robust, a Data Group with representation from across the Partnership was established.

- 5.1.3 The information provided within the Strategic Assessment has been instrumental in identifying emerging priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen. A priority setting event was held with members of Community Planning Aberdeen Board and Management Group on 16 March 2016 to consider the issues highlighted by the strategic assessment and what the Partnership can do to improve outcomes. The output from this session is informing draft proposals for priorities to be included in the Single Outcome Agreement 2016. This will include the priority outcomes that CPA is seeking to achieve together, the specific actions that the Partnership will take to achieve these outcomes and key metrics that will enable CPA to measure progress.
- 5.1.4 The Community Empowerment Act 2015 requires CPA to prepare and publish a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which sets out the priority local outcomes it proposes to improve with details of how, by when and what difference this will make to local people. The SOA provides the foundation for the new LOIP which will translate the agreed local priorities into a genuine outcome improvement plan. The LOIP will identify what specifically CPA is going to do to secure an improvement in outcomes and tackle inequalities in the short, medium and long term.

5.2 Locality Planning

- 5.2.1 Locality Planning is a requirement of the Community Empowerment Act 2015. The strategic assessment and SOA priority setting process, coupled with the publication of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) due to be published in July 2016 will be the basis for determining our priorities for locality planning to meet our new obligations. The CPA has long recognised eight neighbourhoods as 'regeneration' priorities – Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park and Northfield – and it is likely that these neighbourhoods shall again feature highest in the SIMD rankings.
- 5.2.2 During 2015, various community consultations took place in Middlefield, Torry and Tillydrone to capture community priorities. Neighbourhood profiles, setting out key statistical information for these neighbourhoods have also been produced. It is intended that local partnerships are now formed, or any existing local partnership structures used, to develop neighbourhood plans to be produced by the end of 2016. A similar approach will be required to develop neighbourhood plans for others neighbourhood we assess as experiencing poor socio-economic outcomes.

5.3 Community Engagement and Participation

- 5.3.1 The Community Empowerment Act 2013 places a duty on public authorities to put in place arrangements for managing the process of participation requests. A participation request is when a community group makes a request to a public service to participate in an outcome improvement process.
- 5.3.2 A Working Group of CPA colleagues is developing a draft strategy for community empowerment, engagement and participation. The strategy will set out the process for managing participation requests across CPA. The focus is on making the process as straightforward as possible for communities and ensuring that they know where they can access advice and support. The strategy recognises that participation requests are not a replacement for engagement and participation

processes where they already function well, but are a framework for initiating dialogue where communities find it difficult to be recognised or heard. The strategy will identify best practice in engagement and participation as well as identify improvement actions which will strengthen CPA's overall community engagement approach.

- 5.3.3 Participatory budgeting is an example of a tool which is being tested by CPA for enhanced community engagement with communities. Participatory Budgeting gives local people a direct say in how and where public funds can be used to address locally identified requirements by providing the opportunity to identify preferences and allocate spend within defined parameters. The approach has been piloted by Aberdeen City Council through the allocation of a £100,000 underspend allocated to under 12's and Youth Work in Aberdeen regeneration areas. This includes Northfield Total Place which successfully engaged 3755 young people in voting on proposals to deliver services in their area. CPA will continue to explore the opportunities to use participatory budgeting as a way of involving communities in the spending of funds such as the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and Public Health Improvement Fund. Fairer Fund Aberdeen Board has agreed, subject to match funding from the Scottish Government, to allocate £20,000 towards a PB approach.

5.4 Organised to deliver

- 5.4.1 CPA is ambitious for the future of Aberdeen City and the role that it can play in driving improvements in outcomes across communities. It recognises the need to build the capacity of the Partnership if it is to be effective in pushing the boundaries of the transformation it can achieve. Following the agreement of CPA priorities in June 2016, there are plans in place to review the delivery infrastructure of the Partnership, review membership of the CPA Board, Management Group and underpinning delivery groups; and develop a robust performance, risk and resource management framework.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

Reducing inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage will narrow the gap in terms of outcomes achieved by all of our communities.

A number of positive changes when a community becomes more empowered could follow as a result of community empowerment. Increased confidence and skills amongst local people; higher numbers of people volunteering in their communities; higher levels of satisfaction with quality of life in a local neighbourhood. All of these benefits flow from people feeling more in control of their lives.

Community empowerment can also have a less tangible, but nevertheless very powerful outcome. It can give people a long term stake in the future of their communities, and can confirm and strengthen community pride; bringing people

Improving Staff Experience –

Staff will be provided with a wider range of experiences including more inter-agency working and they should also be empowered to make decisions.

Improving our use of Resources –

The development of new priorities and the implementation of the Community Empowerment Act could be a driver for new ways of working including a focus on prevention and much greater inter-agency work.

Corporate -

The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) will be replaced by a Local Outcome Improvement Plan which will be a main focus for the Council and partners meeting local and national improvement in outcomes.

Public –

The Community Empowerment Act will have considerable interest to the community. It will provide for a greater emphasis on improving outcomes for excluded individuals and groups and whilst this might have a positive impact on those groups it may also adversely affect those who are in much less need.

There are considerable additional provisions for the community to interact with public authorities such as the Council.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 7.1 A robust Strategic Assessment has provided a robust evidence base for decision making and has been critical to the development of the new Single Outcome Agreement. As with any evidence based model, its strength lies in the breadth and depth of the supporting data, and the quality of the analysis. The establishment of the Data Group has helped to mitigate any risk, and quality assurance measures have been conducted at various stages to ensure the integrity of the information contained within the Strategic Assessment.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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