

Review of City localities – what you said and our response

More than half of you said that moving to three localities is desirable.

56% of you said that this would be a good idea, (of the remainder, approximately half said they didn't think it was desirable and half said they weren't sure). However, 79% of people agree with the rationale for moving to three localities. The reasons for this difference may be about people needing more information before taking a view of whether this is a good idea in practice. The numbers are different when people are aware of the reasons, so we would conclude that people need to be made clear about the rationale for moving to a three-locality model. We will ensure that our rationale is as clear as possible in our Revised Strategic Plan.

There was a recurring theme around efficiencies and inefficiencies.

Some of you feel that working in localities which are aligned with those of our partners – including children's services, housing and community planning – would help to create a more efficient and joined-up system. There were concerns expressed about the amount of work that has already gone into developing locality profiles based on four localities and that this effort could have been wasted. These four profiles were built up from smaller areas within each locality called Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data zones and neighbourhoods, so it is relatively easy to restructure this information to reflect the profiles of the proposed three localities.

Action plans have been drawn up for our existing four localities using this data, and the actions in these plans can relatively easily be mapped against the proposed three localities. The priority will be on maintaining our collective focus on ensuring that the action plans are delivered.

There were questions raised about whether a three-locality model would require fewer staff to deliver services.

Care will still have to be provided across the whole city and so there is no intention to reduce the number of HSCP posts as a result of the proposed move to three localities. It may be appropriate to redesign services, and staff involved will be fully consulted. Our resources in terms of both finance and staff are limited, and the needs of our aging population are increasing – so we do need to implement solutions that ensure that are as efficient as possible and that our available staff have as much capacity as possible to provide the

required health and social care services in line with the aims and priorities of our Strategic Plan.

There were concerns raised about potential damage to the reputation of the partnership as a result of moving from four to three localities.

It is important that the partnership stays agile, recognising the ever-changing environment in which we operate. Our consultation has shown that the majority of respondents say that they want to, and can see advantages in, changing our locality model and we are responding to that. Our ambition remains to improve outcomes for people in Aberdeen. In line with our draft strategic plan, close partnership working is identified as essential to achieve this.

There were comments that a move to three localities would mean larger localities, each containing communities with many differences (for example levels of poverty/affluence).

We know that our current and proposed localities are of a significant size and diversity. Our collective opportunity is to work in partnership to develop and implement plans to improve outcomes for people living in the city. This will be an ongoing process and will require good engagement with our communities. Delivery and ongoing review of our evidenced-based action plans, which include prioritised geographical areas, will be key to this. The proposed change to three localities is not about going back to the drawing board, but about realigning our work to date in the new locality areas and creating an environment which will allow the pace of change to increase.

You said that while you recognise that there is already good community engagement in place, you felt that this could also be improved.

We also recognise this and this is an area that we want to improve on. We will work collaboratively with partners and Aberdeen citizens to help to achieve this.

You raised queries about how Locality Leadership Groups would work with three localities and some people raised concerns that the membership of the LLGs may become too big to be effective.

The existing Terms of Reference for LLGs, which were recently reviewed, set out a clear purpose and decision-making remit. There will be a further engagement exercise in due course to ensure that LLGs are supported in the best possible way to be as effective as possible in delivering their purpose.

Next Steps

The feedback from this locality specific consultation has and will continue to influence our draft strategic plan, which will commence its formal consultation process shortly. During the consultation period for the strategic plan, there will be further opportunity to hear from a wide range of stakeholders.

Feedback will inform reports on the Strategic Plan and Locality Working which will be considered by the Integration Joint Board in March 2019.