

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

21 AUGUST 2019

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Report by Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (Report No. 19/224)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on progress with Community Planning priorities since the last update to the Housing and Communities Committee on 15 May 2019.

1. LOCAL ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

- 1.1 The Almond & Earn and Kinross-shire Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) provided an update to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board meeting held in Kinross on June 14. The LAPs reported their progress so far in delivering the Local Action Plan and other local community initiatives, highlighting the positive use of Participatory Budgeting and Community Investment Funding to allow them to deliver local projects and initiatives. The September meeting of the CPP will take place in Crieff, at which the Strathearn & Strathallan LAP will provide an update on their activities.
- 1.2 CPP Board received an update on the implementation of the Improvement Plan for Local Decision Making. Key achievements so far include:
 - Ongoing delivery of a Communications Plan for community empowerment, covering the key aspects of the legislation, including Community Planning, Community Asset Transfer and Participatory Budgeting. Most recently, this has involved the development of animated videos, which will be used to help community groups and individuals better understand how the legislation works and the opportunities available to them. These will be made available on-line and circulated as widely as possible in August and September.
 - Development of a Compact between the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and Local Action Partnerships (LAPs). This sets out a series of shared principles and commitments between the CPP and LAPs to better support local community planning in Perth and Kinross. A finalised Compact will be considered by CPP Board in September.

2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- 2.1 In May the Council received a Community Asset Transfer request from Dunning Community Association (DCA), for the Newton of Pitcairn Halls. Support was provided to DCA from the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Team in terms of: capacity building support for the Committee to get them from the Expression of Interest to full request stage; provision of relevant information and surveys of the buildings; and securing support from other external agencies. The Council has until November 2019 to decide whether or not to approve this request. The

Council has also received four expressions of interest on other properties, with applicants currently being supported to consider a full request at a future date. The properties concerned are the Kinloch Rannoch Outdoor Centre, 46 Leslie Street in Blairgowrie and Stormontfield Community Centre. Other Expressions of Interest have also been received, but these are not being actively pursued by the community group at this time.

2.2 Also in May, the Council accepted its first valid Participation Request from North Inch and Muirton Community Council. The request from North Inch and Muirton CC is focused on improving road safety outcomes within the local area and the Community Council is engaging with the Roads Team to take this forward.

2.3 The Communities Service is starting an engagement process with community groups and the general public to identify how sustainable management of community halls across Perth and Kinross might work in the future. Community Asset Transfer may be an option for community groups wishing to play an active role in the management of these local assets. The engagement process will take place from August 2019 onwards, with an initial focus on Coupar Angus Town Hall. Members received a general briefing on the overall process in July and officers plan to complete the engagement processes for each Hall by the end of March 2020. The process itself will involve:

- The production of a “key facts” sheet for each hall and its community;
- Initial conversations with elected members from the relevant ward, to discuss their views and share facts about the building;
- Meeting with key established community organisations to discuss their views on the building and how best to organise a broader community conversation;
- Broader community engagement through geographically targeted social media and hyper-local print; and
- A drop-in event in the community, to give community members the opportunity to find out more and offer their own views.

3. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

3.1 The first round of the Community Investment Fund (CIF) for community groups seeking funding between £3,000 and £50,000 closes today (21 August). The second round closes on 12 December. The same assessment process used for Year 1 will be used, with Ward Panels assessing applications, making recommendations to the relevant Local Action Partnership and final decisions to be taken by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 27 November and in February 2020.

3.2 The onus is upon the applicant to ensure that funding is used for the purpose approved by Committee. Successful applicants are required to submit an End of Grant Monitoring Form within 6 months of the date of award detailing the items and activities funded by the grant and the benefits of the grant funding to the community. If necessary, there may be further follow up 12 months following the original receipt of the award. There is flexibility in the funding awarded and timescales for reporting can be varied on a case-by-case basis.

4. CPP GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 CPP Board met on 14 June and approved a governance review to ensure the CPP is meeting its duties under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and meeting the '[Principles of effective community planning](#)' set out in the Act. The review will be carried out by a Task Group drawn from the CPP Executive Officer Group and will include a variety of engagement methods. Initial findings will be presented to the CPP Board in September, with final recommendations will be presented in December 2019.

5. FAIRER FUTURES

- 5.1 The first Perth & Kinross Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) has been developed by the Council and NHS Tayside. The LCPAR is a new requirement under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and will be considered at the meeting of Council on 25 September. The LCPAR sets out how agencies will work together to seek to reduce levels of child poverty in Perth and Kinross and will complement the CPP's Fairer Futures agenda. The Report was submitted to Scottish Government in June and the Local Child Poverty Action Group (LCPAG) are now looking to bring in some external expertise to undertake a more detailed analysis of child poverty in Perth and Kinross, and the impact of existing interventions and initiatives. The Fairer Futures actions are being revised and will be included in a revitalised Action Plan which will be considered by the Council and the CPP Board in September 2019.
- 5.2 The Council has received funding from Scottish Government to make sanitary products freely available to those who need them. Working with key colleagues and partners, these products should be made available through a contract with Tayside Contracts from August 2019. A number of third sector groups already offer free products, which are provided through fareshare. For this initial roll out over 40 additional premises have been identified across Perth and Kinross, including public buildings, leisure facilities, libraries and a variety of third sector groups.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Housing and Communities Committee **notes** the progress since May 2019 on Community Planning objectives.

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