

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

2 September 2020

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Report by Depute Chief Operating Officer (Report No. 20/151)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on Community Planning since the last update to the Housing and Communities Committee on 29 January 2020.

1. LOCAL ACTION PARTNERSHIPS AND COVID RESPONSE

- 1.1 During the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown community groups mobilised quickly and effectively to mitigate the impact within their own localities. The Council was in direct contact with over 70 separate organisations, and over 1000 volunteers registered with the Council to support community efforts.
- 1.2 In March the 7 Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) accepted funding bids from local community groups who were responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date over £100,000 of funding has been awarded to groups across Perth and Kinross, to support a variety of initiatives. Examples include:
 - **FeldyRoo** received funding initially to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people who were socially isolated in the Aberfeldy area. The service grew to deliver lunches, newspapers and evening meals to isolated members of the community during lockdown. The group delivered over 40,000 meals during this period;
 - **Logos** received a small grant to fund a Zoom account so they could deliver their youth activity sessions virtually. This small grant has had a big impact on young people using the service in the Strathearn area and helped tackle social isolation during lockdown.
 - **Food Support in Perth** many organisations in Perth worked together to provide support for the most vulnerable during the lockdown period. Groups worked in partnership to set up places to access food throughout Perth city and provided a delivery and check-in service. Examples of specific activities include:
 - **Letham4All** received funding for a Community Fridge Project. The funding was used to purchase a larger refrigeration unit to store donated food from local businesses to support families in need of free or discounted food.
 - **National Christian Outreach Centre** delivered 500 hot meals to elderly and vulnerable people living in the Perth area each week for 10 weeks.
 - **Perth Welfare Society** received a grant to buy IT and telephone equipment to support people who were self-isolating or shielding. They supported people mostly from South Asian backgrounds and were able to support people using Zoom in Urdu and Punjabi to apply for financial support, such as Universal credit. The group worked with local takeaways to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people in Perth.

- 1.3 LAPs have recently extended the scope of this funding, to allow groups to bid for projects which are looking towards recovery and renewal. The main categories for funding are:
1. Continuing to support community and voluntary efforts in relation to COVID-19;
 2. Growing the capacity of groups to take on longer-term roles and service delivery in communities;
 3. Supporting groups to take on new volunteers to meet emerging needs in their community;
 4. Supporting new groups to formalise and develop plans for longer-term community development activity.

There is no maximum funding that groups can ask for, but any awards will need to be within the LAPs allocated budgets. Decisions on funding awards are being coordinated by the chairpersons and lead officers for each LAP.

2. RENEWAL AND RECOVERY

- 2.1 The Community Planning Partnership met virtually on July 7th to discuss the economic and community impact of COVID-19 across Perth and Kinross. Partners agreed that a Recovery and Renewal Plan for Perth and Kinross should take a multi-agency partnership approach, given the cross cutting themes that a successful recovery plan will need to adopt. A Short Life Working Group will meet to identify lessons learned and to inform the Recovery and Renewal Plan and the Perth and Kinross Offer. Proposals will be considered by the Community Planning Board in October.

3 ASSET TRANSFER AND PARTICIPATION REQUESTS

- 3.1 Perth and Kinross Council has published its annual report on [Participation Requests and Community Asset Transfer for 2019/20](#).
- 3.2 The Council has approved one Participation Request in 2019/20 from North Muirton Community Council. The Outcome Improvement Process is underway, although this has been delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 3.3 During the April 2019 to March 2020 reporting period the Council did not carry out any Community Asset Transfers (CATs), although the CAT dealt with 11 enquiries relating to assets during this period. A CAT Request for the Kinloch Rannoch Outdoor Centre was approved at a meeting of full Council on 30 July. Rannoch Community Trust (RCT) intend to use the property as a multi-purpose facility including: a bar/restaurant; bunkhouse accommodation; social and community spaces; and facilities for local businesses. RCT now have at least six months to make a full, final offer for the asset.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Housing and Communities Committee **notes** the progress since January on Community Planning objectives.

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Approved

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