

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

**HOUSING & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**Report by Head of Culture and Community Services**

(Report No. 21/154)

This report updates Committee on Community Planning activity since the previous report in May 2021. This report also seeks approval of the Community Empowerment Annual Report for 2020/21, which reports on Community Asset Transfers and Participation Requests in the past 12 months.

**1. LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

1.1 The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board has been working on revising the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), via a CPP conference in April and a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) chaired by the Depute Director (Communities). This is to prepare draft priorities and performance measures, aligned with the Offer, for consideration/approval by the CPP and the Council later this year.

1.2 At the CPP Board meeting on 2 July Board, members agreed three actions for the SLWG to take forward:

**Action 1** – The working group convene workshops during August and early September with appropriate officers and partners from existing workstreams to identify the additional partnership actions that are necessary to impact on each of the five strategic priorities.

**Action 2** – The working group reviews governance and communications between individual CP partners and the Board to strengthen effectiveness and productivity of Board meetings. Board business should be focused on decisions or actions required, or otherwise add value; and

**Action 3** – The working group and CPP Executive Officer Group identify priority area(s) in Perth and Kinross where the CPP can focus on accelerated delivery of one or more of the five strategic priorities, including a focus on communities of interest. CPP Board will agree the recommended priority areas at the Board meeting of 20 August.

## 2. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-24

2.1 The Council is working with partners, communities and individual service users to develop the new statutory Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan. CLD is a statutory function of the Council to support people and communities to engage in learning, personal development, and active citizenship through effective partnership delivery. The new Plan will address key inequality issues as part of the wider LOIP framework over the next the 3 years, with a particular focus on key recovery and renewal actions up to September 2022 including –

- supporting the mental wellbeing of children and young people
- supporting people into employment, education and training
- supporting young people to achieve positive destinations
- building the capacity of community organisations and upskilling volunteers
- addressing child and food poverty
- providing a range of adult and family learning opportunities.

2.2 The Plan will also incorporate the key improvement actions identified by Education Scotland following their inspection of Perth city in October 2018. It will align with both the refreshed LOIP and the Perth and Kinross Offer. This will be presented to Council for approval on later this year, with progress reported thereafter via the Communities Directorate BMIP.

## 3. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets out rights and responsibilities for communities to have more significant influence or control over decisions and services which are most important to them. The Council has a statutory duty to report on the number of both Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Requests and Participation Requests it receives every year along with the Council's activity to promote these rights. These are summarised as:

- Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, gives community groups the right to request ownership, lease, or have access to assets owned by the Council and other public bodies.
- Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, enables communities to request to participate in processes to improve outcomes in their local community.

3.2 The Annual Report in **Appendix 1** outlines the number of Community Asset Transfers Requests, Participation Requests, and enquires the Council has received from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

## **Community Asset Transfer**

- 3.3 In 2020/21, one Community Asset Transfer (CAT) request was approved by the Council with Rannoch Outdoor Centre transferring to the ownership of Rannoch Community Trust on 2 July 2021. Several other enquiries and Expressions of Interest were received and supported during the year by the Council's CAT Team, and it is anticipated that a small number of these will develop into full CAT Requests in 2021/22. There has been positive feedback on the initial Expression of Interest stage of the process, which helps community groups to summarise their interest in an asset and identifies the best potential way forward. The EOI stage can avoid communities doing abortive work on a full CAT request which may not be the right solution. It also allows the CAT Team to support groups to explore alternatives such as a standard purchase or lease; a lease or disposal through the Disposal of Land (Scotland) Regulations; or some other form of management agreement. All information on the CAT process in Perth and Kinross is available online at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/19819/Community-Asset-Transfer>

## **Participation Requests**

- 3.4 Participation Requests are an opportunity for community groups to request to get involved in discussions to improve the services and outcomes that their community experiences. A recent Scottish Government review highlighted that uptake in Participation Requests has been low across the country, which is reflected in Perth & Kinross. The Council has received one valid request in 2020/21, which was refused due to the project nearing completion of the tendering phase, meaning that further community participation was not feasible. Alternative future options for ongoing community participation in the delivery of improved outcomes, as identified by the applicant were outlined in the response. It is recognised that Participation Requests are one of many options open to communities to participate in the Council's decision-making process. Due to the Council's response to the pandemic over the last year, no active work was carried out to promote Participation Requests in PKC, over and above what is already available online at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/19968/Participation-Requests>
- 3.5 Opportunities for Community Asset Transfers and Participation Requests will continue to be promoted via PKC's social media accounts. Officers will also ensure that CAT form a central part of the P&K Offer under the Equalities, Empowerment and Fairness Workstream.

## **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It recommended Committee:

- I) notes the CPP activity since May 2021 and
- II) approves the Annual Report on community asset transfers and Participation Requests provided in Appendix 1

**Author(s)**

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**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Fiona Robertson	Head of Culture and Community Services	10 August 2021

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION, AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>None</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>None</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>None</b>
External	<b>None</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places several additional duties on local authorities and other public agencies. Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and Participation Requests give community groups greater rights and opportunities to influence or greater control over decisions that affect them. The Improvement Actions identified in the report may impact all of the strategic objectives but are likely to be most relevant to:

- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable economy
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

## Corporate Plan

1.2 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places several additional duties on local authorities and other public agencies. Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and Participation Requests give community groups greater rights and opportunities to influence or control decisions that affect them. The Improvement Actions identified in the report may impact all of the strategic objectives but are likely to be most relevant to:

- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable economy
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

2.1 Not applicable.

### Workforce

2.2 Not applicable.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 Not applicable.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Proposals that have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) are assessed as **not relevant** for EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 Proposals have been considered under the Act, and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

3.3 Not applicable.

### Legal and Governance

3.4 Not applicable.

## Risk

3.5 Not applicable.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

4.1 Staff in Communities Service have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

### External

4.2 Not applicable.

## **5. Communication**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No additional documents have been relied on in preparing the report, other than those committee reports already referenced within the main body of the report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 - The Community Asset Transfer and Participation Requests Annual Report 2019/20.