

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
11 November 2020

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Report by Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (Report No. 20/213)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on progress with Community Planning priorities since the last update to the Housing and Communities Committee on 2 September 2020.

1. LOCAL ACTION PARTNERSHIPS AND COVID RESPONSE

- 1.1 All Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) will start meeting remotely in the next few weeks and we will provide some technical guidance and support. During the coronavirus outbreak LAPs gave over £150,000 in grants to community groups responding to the hardships people faced.
- 1.2 Local Action Partnerships were established in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to deliver local action which improves equalities and outcomes across Perth and Kinross. A Locality Action Plan is one of the statutory requirements and LAPs have been asked to review their Plans in light of Covid and update accordingly. The timescale for this work is to have an updated Locality Action Plan produced before the end of the financial year.

2. LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND THE PERTH AND KINROSS OFFER

- 2.1 In July 2020, the Community Planning Partnership Board agreed to form a shortlife working group to consider: the impact of COVID-19 on communities and service delivery; emerging priorities for recovery and renewal; and how these should be reflected in a revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The LOIP will be part of the wider Perth and Kinross Offer and will focus on tackling inequality as the CPP's key statutory role. The working group identified a number of priorities where the CPP can make a unique and specific contribution alongside the core functions of public bodies, the private and third sector. These are:

- Digital participation to address social isolation
- Poverty, including food poverty
- Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing
- Employability

- 2.2 At the CPP Board on 13 October 2020 members agreed to adopt these priorities. A revised LOIP will therefore be considered at a meeting of the CPP Board in spring 2021.

3. VOLUNTEERING

- 3.1 During the period of lockdown over 1000 people registered as volunteers with Perth and Kinross Council. During the summer months volunteers were updated on developments via email through social media. As restrictions have eased, every volunteer has been contacted again to check their current availability and ability to support key services should the need arise in future. 347 registered volunteers remain willing and able to support people in their communities and the Council is currently reviewing its own approach to supporting and coordinating volunteering in support of service provision.

4. DIGITAL PARTICIPATION

- 4.1 Lockdown restrictions have added pace to the shift towards online and digital and this is a key priority for the CPP and the Council. There are three main aspects to digital participation:
1. **Connectivity** – having a reasonable connection with suitable speeds;
 2. **Technology** – having a suitable smartphone, tablet or laptop; and
 3. **Capacity** – having the skills and confidence to use online services.

- 4.2 Perth and Kinross Council and key partners currently offer services to help people improve their digital skills, and are supporting infrastructure improvements through investment in fibre connectivity. The Connecting Scotland project, led by Scottish Council for Voluntary Services (SCVO) and funded by Scottish Government provides tablets to individuals and households who are currently digitally excluded and on a low income. The first round of Connecting Scotland saw over 200 tablets distributed across Perth and Kinross, with a second round currently underway.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

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

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