

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2017

Report by Deputy Chief Executive

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN
AND LOCALITY PLANS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the process for the development of East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Locality Plans as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked:
- (a) To agree the approach for East Renfrewshire Council to the development of the LOIP;
 - (b) To agree to a phased development of Locality Plans with the initial communities to have locality plans being (i) Auchenback and (ii) Arthurlie, Dunterlie and Dovecothall; and
 - (c) To agree to change the timing of the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

3. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was given Royal Assent in July 2015. The Act contains a number of provisions aimed at empowering communities and involving them in setting the priorities and steering the delivery of services by the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP). There are many technical terms and jargon included in the Act and guidance, and we will be making efforts to address this and to make the Act more accessible to the community. The LOIP may be renamed with community input to make it more meaningful and relevant to East Renfrewshire.

4. Until now, ERC has been the statutory lead on community planning activity, however under the new Act partners including the Council, Health Board, Scottish Enterprise, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have a statutory duty of shared leadership and governance of community planning activity. Additional partner organisations are subject to community planning duties including contributing to the LOIP and Locality Plans.¹

5. Part 2 of the Act covers the various duties for community planning. The Draft guidance and regulations relating to the LOIP and Locality Plans were published for consultation in March 2016. East Renfrewshire's CPP response to the consultation asked for Scottish Government to improve clarity within the guidance. The Scottish Government agreed the revised guidance and regulation in December 2016.

¹ A full list of CPP partners is included in Schedule 1 of the Act:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/schedule/1/enacted>

LOIP AND LOCALITY PLANS

6. At the core of the Act is community engagement and community participation, to allow the CPP to fully understand the needs, aspirations and priorities of the community. The legislation is clear that CPPs must act to reduce inequality of outcomes among our communities. This focus on closing the gap and the understanding of the needs of the community will shape the new LOIP and the way in which services are prioritised and delivered. The LOIP is similar to and replaces the current Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) but the LOIP must have a narrower focus than the SOA and must evidence how priorities are being resourced.

7. In addition to the LOIP, the Act requires that locality plans are developed for those communities experiencing poorer outcomes when compared to the rest of the authority or compared to the rest of Scotland. There is no requirement in the Act that every neighbourhood in the local authority area has a locality plan. Locality plans have similar requirements to the LOIP and require community participation, a focus on improving socio economic outcomes and should reflect the perspectives and ambitions of the local community. The CPP must determine which neighbourhoods require a plan based upon 'an understanding of local needs, circumstances and opportunities' combined with socio economic data, including the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation².

8. The statutory guidance requires both the LOIP and locality plans to identify outcomes and targets for 1, 3 and 10 year periods, reflecting the need for a long term commitment and allocation of the necessary resources by the CPP at East Renfrewshire level and within localities.

9. In terms of the requirements of the Act and based on the analysis of national data, including the results from the SIMD and local intelligence the two localities of (i) Auchenback, and (ii) Arthurlie, Dunterlie and Dovecothall should be the priority areas for locality plans (see Annex 1 for maps of these two areas). These two neighbourhoods are datazones that are within in the 20% most deprived datazones in Scotland. The data analysis has also identified neighbourhoods that fall within the 20-40% range of the SIMD which could be considered for the next phase of locality planning development.

10. Both the LOIP and initial phase of locality plans must be in place by 1 October 2017.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

11. Engagement with the community is an essential part of the development of the LOIP and locality plans. There is a strong history of effective community engagement across East Renfrewshire by the Council and CPP partners and there is a rich and varied evidence base of community views. In order to avoid engagement fatigue among our residents, this existing knowledge will be built upon. Analysis of the data currently held by the CPP will allow any gaps in engagement to be identified, particularly among equalities groups and groups representing those who are more vulnerable or harder to reach.

² The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying those places in Scotland suffering from deprivation.

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

12. A range of engagement events including an open survey on Citizen Space and meetings with communities and key stakeholders will be used to further inform the LOIP and locality plans. There will be an ongoing dialogue with communities to give opportunities to shape the themes and priorities identified.

13. Locality Plans require intensive work to support the community to be fully involved in the development of the plan. Engagement plans are being developed for the two locality plans as each community requires a different approach. There has been substantial engagement work already undertaken in the Auchenback area through the Early Years Collaborative, Auchenback Community Street Action Plan and other local projects. In Arthurlie, Dunterlie and Dovecothall there has not been the same level of targeted engagement to date. The engagement method for this locality will very much be a grass-roots approach and designed to facilitate ongoing dialogue and community ownership of the locality plan.

14. It should be noted that there is a specific statutory requirement for CPPs to consult on the draft plans. As there will be continuous dialogue with the community up until that point, we would propose to hold a consultation period of around 4-6 weeks to allow us to have final plans in place by the required date of 1 October 2017.

15. Partners will be encouraged to fully participate in the engagement process, commensurate with their statutory roles. In particular, we are working closely with Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire to build on their work over the past year engaging with local people across East Renfrewshire over the past year about their priorities. A wide range of residents have been identified who would like to be more involved in improving their community, who we will continue to work with. In addition there is an Information and Consultation session on this subject planned for Spring 2017 where all elected members and Community Planning partners will be invited to attend.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

16. The Act requires priorities set out in the LOIP and locality plans to be funded and partners have responsibility for joint resourcing. There is provision within the Act that partners should contribute resources proportionally to the extent they are responsible for improving each outcome. It is not yet clear what this means in practice but the approach to community empowerment, including resourcing, will be developed by the CPP as the Act is implemented.

17. The Council has begun working with Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland who are keen to help the CPP secure access to alternative sources of funding for those communities most in need. This has the potential to bring additional resources to bear in key areas. The details of this project are currently being developed but it will form an important part of the development of the first phase of locality plans.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

18. There is a clear requirement for all CPP partners to have shared leadership and governance of community planning activity and to commit to the development and resourcing of the LOIP and locality plans. A Locality Planning Working Group has been set up comprising the statutory partners and Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire. This group will oversee the implementation of the Act including the LOIP, locality plans and other aspects of the Act as required.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

19. There is clearly a significant agenda ahead for the Council and our partners in implementing the requirements of the Act, resourcing the engagement with communities, and the development and delivery of plans. Locality plans offer an opportunity for communities where the need is greatest to be involved in improving outcomes relevant to them and they are likely to require a significant level of support and capacity building.

20. At present, all ERC plans and strategies, including the Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP), are linked to the SOA. The move from the SOA which is a broad plan, to the more focussed outcomes and targets in the LOIP may have implications for future Council plans and strategies.

21. Given the timeline for the LOIP and locality plans, the planned June meeting of the CPP Board may not be ideal as these plans will have progressed too far without timeous input from Board Members. To secure meaningful buy-in from Partners in line with the legislation it is proposed that an earlier CPP Board meeting is held in February/March to agree the strategic direction of the LOIP and the approach to locality planning.

CONCLUSIONS

22. East Renfrewshire CPP is well placed to fulfil the statutory requirements around the development of the LOIP and locality plans. There is strong partnership involvement and commitment to enacting the requirements of the Act and there is a wealth of community engagement and involvement to build upon as the LOIP and locality plans are developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The Cabinet is asked:

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- (c) To agree to change the timing of the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting.

REPORT AUTHOR

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- Convenor: Cllr Fletcher
- Report Date: 26 January 2017

BACKGROUND PAPERS & RELEVANT LINKS:

- Council paper on the consultation response to the Act:
<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17017&p=0>
- Link to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents>
- Guidance for Part 2: Community Planning Guidance:
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/12/8801>



