



**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD 19 JUNE 2019**

**SUBJECT: BUCKIE CENTRAL EAST AND NEW ELGIN EAST  
LOCALITY PLANS - DRAFT ACTIONS**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1. To ask the Board to endorse the draft action plans designed by the local working groups for the two pilot areas of Buckie Central East and New Elgin East, which will form part of locality plans proposed in the Moray 10 Year Plan (LOIP) in order to allow implementation and progression to the next stage.
- 1.2. To request the Board acknowledges the work of local residents, community group members and organisations who have worked collectively over the past twelve months, often to challenging deadlines, to produce the two locality plans draft actions.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1. It is recommended that the Board:**

- i) endorses the content of the two draft locality plans actions for the pilot areas of Buckie Central East and New Elgin East (Appendix 2 and Appendix 3);**
- ii) considers and notes that local working group members along with community planning partners, will now progress the actions contained within the plans over the next 1, 3, 5 years of the 10 year plan; and**
- iii) acknowledges the work of all concerned, in particular, local residents, community group members and partner organisation staff for working collectively to reach this point in the pilot locality plan journey.**

**2.2. It is also recommended that the Board considers and notes that strategic work will be required to link community planning**

**partners' individual and partnership service plans and priorities, to the two locality plans. This work will include Key Performance Indicators and aligning measurement of impact across plans and this will be progressed as the plans are finalised.**

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places specific duties on Community Planning Partnerships around locality planning to improve outcomes to reduce inequalities in areas showing greatest inequality of outcomes. Based on assessment of the data about the communities in Moray and the consultation and engagement work done by the Partnership, two areas were identified for specific locality-based work as part of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- 3.2. At the meeting on the 26 September 2017, the Board agreed for the need to develop locality plans as part of the LOIP.
- 3.3. At the meeting of 13 February 2018, the Board agreed to endorse a 10 Step Engagement Plan produced by the Community Support Unit (CSU) to progress with the development of two pilot Locality Plans as identified in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP): Moray 10 Year Plan. The process agreed is attached as **APPENDIX 1** for ease of reference.
- 3.4. Interim reports from each working group were presented to the Board on November 2018.
- 3.5. Since June 2018, a small group of partnership staff and local residents in each of the two areas, facilitated by the CSU, formed local working groups to deliver a wide range of engagement / consultation initiatives as highlighted in the 10 Step Engagement Plan.
- 3.6. From an early stage in the development, all members of the local working groups agreed on the importance of establishing working relationships based on trust.
- 3.7. The diverse membership of the groups (agency staff and local volunteers) meant that targeting those seldom heard residents within the community was a lot easier to achieve.
- 3.8. Those actively involved in the planning and delivery of the engagement and consultation from both communities included local elected members, community councillors, Men's Shed members, council tenants, local business people, those new to community involvement e.g. young mums, people with disabilities, unemployed / low income, those identified low in confidence.

- 3.9. On the practitioner's side, agency staff from many organisations such as Moray College UHI, Police Scotland, Moray Foodbank, medical centres, Moray Health & Social Care Partnership, Schools and other Moray Council departments all played a part in ensuring the voice of the community was heard and recorded.
- 3.10 To ensure that there is no duplication of priorities, members of the local working groups held focus groups in March 2019 in Buckie and Elgin with a wide range of community planning partners to identify what was already happening or planned under each priority. The groups sought to identify where there were gaps and then how to fill those gaps, taking into account ideas from the communities themselves. In addition, members of the working groups met a wide range of CP Partners and stakeholders to ensure the priority actions contained in the draft Locality Action Plans were not being addressed elsewhere and that partners were happy to be named against these actions. The locality plans actions aim to add value to the current work of community planning partners, not replicate or replace existing work. *'By agreeing the locality plan, statutory partners are jointly responsible for ensuring the CPP delivers on commitments in the plan. They are also individually responsible for how they act as partners to help ensure that these commitments are fulfilled'* – Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Part 2, Community Planning Guidance 162.
- 3.11 As noted in previous updates to the Board, the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) have played an active role in advising and ensuring that the key community engagement element of both pilots adhered to the National Standards on Community Engagement. A range of place based methodology was used to engage in the two areas; these approaches were supported by SCDC.
- 3.12 Over the past twelve months, both SCDC and CSU staff have regularly kept the Board, CP Partners, Community Planning Officers Group, Community Engagement Group, Community Learning and Development Strategic Group and local residents informed and updated on progress.
- 3.13 The work set out above has resulted in action plans being developed by the community groups and partners to address the gaps that were identified. At this stage these are draft as further work is required on the development of performance indicators and wider consultation with more members of the community as described below. The draft plans are contained in **APPENDIX 2** (Buckie Central East) and **APPENDIX 3** (New Elgin East).
- 3.14 Performance Indicators (PIs) are currently being developed with the Community Working Groups, since there are no appropriate national indicators, or PIs in the Moray Local Outcomes Improvement Plan that are suitable. A Research and Information officer from Moray Council is

supporting the development of PIs, identifying the information required and who will be responsible for its collection, as well as assisting with setting any targets that may be required to align impact measuring.

- 3.15 Both local working groups in Buckie and New Elgin have set August 2019 as official launch dates. In the meantime, should the Board endorse the content of the actions in the plans, the local working group will spend a period over the summer circulating and publicising the contents of the plans widely in both communities for comment and to ensure there is support to progress to the 'Implementing Action' stage of the Locality Plans. It should also be noted that the action plans set out in **APPENDICES 2 and 3** will change and update as work begins and outputs and outcomes are monitored; e.g. partners and timescales will change over time and be dependent on local circumstances. These are pilot plans and time for delivery and evaluation requires to be understood by strategic partners, particularly with regard to building capacity, knowledge and skills with local community stakeholder partners.

#### **4. REVIEW OF PROCESS TO DATE**

- 4.1. In May 2019, SCDC submitted an interim report on the development of the locality plans in Moray so far. The report was positive overall and three key learning themes from the report are highlighted below:

- the continuity of involvement of participants in the process is important as this drives ownership at a community level. Therefore buy-in and on-going resourcing from CP partners is required;
- there must be sufficient time and resources to support inclusion and to conduct robust engagement. It is important to recognise that robust engagement processes cannot be rushed and are highly dependent on relationship building;
- flexibility of approach is fundamental to supporting an inclusive engagement process. It is important to be able to adapt methods, change venues, and adjust meeting times to suit participants and local circumstances.

- 4.2. For some local residents participating and taking part in the pilots, this may have been the first time they have become actively involved in their community, whilst for others they may have experience of involvement in other community groups and initiatives. What they have in common, is the need for sustained commitment and support over a period of time to ensure they will be able to progress the locality plans to the next level e.g. deliver on the actions as contained in the two Locality Plans.

- 4.3. In order to ensure sustained support is available, Community Support Officers within the Community Support Unit have identified staff time to ensure those local people involved in the initiative, will be able to

progress and build their organisational capacity to confidently take the Locality Plans forward to improve local outcomes in the areas over the next few years. However, it should be noted that this is being reduced in accordance with the decision of the CPB on 18 April 2019.

- 4.4 The feedback report from SCDC was considered and endorsed by the Community Engagement Group at its meeting on 21 May 2019.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1. The creation of two Locality Plans for Buckie Central East and New Elgin East has been a steep learning curve for a broad swathe of people including strategic managers, service managers and agency partnership staff working in partnership with local residents in both areas.
- 5.2. Professionals speak of the challenges of good partnership working, but until it's tried and tested, particularly with regards to something 'new on the block', it can be both an exhilarating and challenging experience.
- 5.3. There were anticipated issues e.g. lack of awareness around the Community Empowerment Scotland Act and its community planning guidance around locality plans, lack of resources preventing more involvement, who decides who should be involved and at what level, future resourcing, monitoring and evaluation etc. However, on the whole, where there were issues this was mainly down to communication and pressure on resources and any issues / problems tended to be sorted out fairly quickly or set aside and addressed over a more planned period.
- 5.4. The direct involvement of the Scottish Community Development Centre monitoring methodology of engagement was an excellent support as was the facilitation of the Community Support Officers along with the skills of the Public Health Co-ordinators and Locality Engagement Team, who were the main agency drivers throughout the past 12 months.

Author of Report:	Ian Todd
Background Papers:	Previous reports to the Community planning Board: 26 September 2017 13 February 2018 November 2018 18 April 2019

Ref: reports/cpb/locality plan draft