



## Your Moray

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**SUBJECT: LOCALITY PLANS - BUCKIE & NEW ELGIN**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT), MORAY COUNCIL**

### **1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1. To provide the CPP Board with a presentation and update on Locality Planning in Buckie and New Elgin and to ask that the Board consider the three requests for support and action

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

#### **2.1. It is recommended that:**

- i. the CPP Board continue to promote partnership working at all levels to address the priorities in the New Elgin and Buckie locality plans;**
- ii. partners continue to support activities and events in both areas and note that the possible use of common good funds will be explored to contribute to the cost of using the warm hub in Buckie; and**
- iii. the Board support action to drive forward work collaboratively to progress establishing sustainable hub models in both Buckie and New Elgin where CPP partners can work together as outlined in 3.9**

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The CPP identified two SIMD areas within Buckie and New Elgin for locality plans where they wished to see collaborative work to address inequalities. This was and is a long term commitment to address structural issues and the Board have previously had feedback on progress from the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC). Their report "*Supporting place-*

*based approaches in Moray*” was presented to the Community Planning Board on 2 February 2022 (item 4 of minute refers) . It was also agreed at this meeting that reporting on Localities work would be done through the CLD Strategic Group with an annual presentation on progress made in the New Elgin and Buckie localities being presented to the CPP Board identifying three priorities for future development and requests for additional input/support from the CPP.

- 3.2. Our presentation on progress in the two localities was presented at the CLD Strategic Group with further inputs to the Community Engagement Group, CPOG and now the CPP Board.
- 3.3. In Buckie, the review of the plan post COVID, led by the Monitoring Group with support from a Community Support Officer has been completed (**Appendix 1**) The plan has three themes.
  1. **Welfare and Wellbeing** (improving the wellbeing of our community)
  2. **Place** (the community of Buckie will be resilient and inclusive where people have access to the facilities and services they need) and
  3. **Economy** (the community of Buckie will have improved access to employment opportunities)
- 3.4. A Community Planning Partners’ Event was held in November 2022 to identify leads and other partners who would work together to address the priorities within the three themes
- 3.5. Key achievements include:-
  - 3.5.1. The establishment of a Development Trust (Findochty and Buckie Development Trust. This group has recently achieved their SCIO status.
  - 3.5.2. The setting up of a temporary Warm Hub in November 2022 as a response to the cost of living crisis. This was led by Buckie Area Forum who took on an annual lease for the building and applied for various sources of funding to cover core costs.
  - 3.5.3. Funding secured for an external consultant to produce a report on evidence of need for a more permanent hub (**Appendix 2**). An Expression of Interest has been submitted to Moray Council by the FAB Development Trust for Buckie Access Point in Cluny Square.
  - 3.5.4. Numbers attending the monthly community lunches continue to grow month on month. Pupils from Millbank Primary and Buckie High School have also supported the regular volunteers.
- 3.6. In New Elgin the plan now covers both East and West areas of New Elgin. There are four themes –

1. **Better Off** (seeking to improve income maximisation, aspirations through quality accessible learning and training)
2. **Better Community** (seeking to improve community networks via more groups and community resources)
3. **Better Place** (seeking to improve the physical environment and spaces)
4. **Better Health** (seeking to improve mental and physical health)

3.7. Key achievements include:-

- 3.7.1. Strong support from partners in the Better Offgroup who have worked together to host two targeted family events one with a building theme (17 families attended) and the other with a food theme (12 families attended)
- 3.7.2. A Community Soup initiative was organised which offered seed funding of £500to encourage new groups to form. From this two new community focused groups have been established. A larger public event was held in June 2023 when 20 groups came together to an event in New Elgin and Ashgrove Halls to showcase their groups and activities.
- 3.7.3. With a notable lack of physical spaces in New Elgin where officers can engage with the community, sessions with the Mobile Information Bus and mobile arena have been delivered throughout the area. To some extent these have initiated conversations with the wider community and residents have been signposted to sources of support/information.

3.8. The three 'asks' to the Community Planning Partnership which are

- 3.8.1. There has been some good partnership working in both areas - in New Elgin with the work of the Better off group and in Buckie with partners recognising the value of being based in the community led Warm Hub. The ask would be that the CPP Board continue to prioritise and promote partnership working at all levels in their organisations to address the priorities in the New Elgin and Buckie locality plans. This is supported by the Community Planning Officer Group.
- 3.8.2. Covering core costs for the warm hub in Buckie and finding resources to cover general activities and events is a challenge. We ask that consideration is given in future to provide a budget for resources to support activities and events in both areas and that partners consider contributing a cost to use the warm hub in Buckie. It has been identified that there may be an opportunity to access financial support through the local Common Good funds and this will be explored. While the CPB can offer support from current resources (e.g. officer time) there is currently no specific budget at the disposal of the CPP

3.9. That the Board support and direct action to drive forward work collaboratively to progress establishing sustainable hub spaces in both Buckie and New Elgin where CPP partners can work together to address issues of poverty and inequality in both areas. **Partners are requested to actively participate in**

**any working groups that develop to ensure the best collective outcome and use of CPP resources.**

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

The Localities work sits under the auspices of the Community Planning Partnership and is central to the CPP Community Engagement Strategy. The three 'asks' in this paper relate to the shared commitment of the CPP to respond collectively to the issues that have been identified.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

The CPP Board is asked to consider recommendations 2.1, I, ii and iii and reiterate their ongoing support for the Localities work in Buckie and New Elgin.

Author of Report: Dawn Brodie, Community Learning & Engagement Manager  
Background Papers:  
Ref: