



Your Moray

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD 18 APRIL 2019

SUBJECT: LOCALITY PLANNING UPDATE

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES) (MORAY COUNCIL)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. To advise the Board of progress of work on the locality plans proposed within the Moray 10 Year Plan (Loip) and seek agreement to extend the resources in place to support this work.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that the Board:-

- i) notes the progress and endorses the planned next steps for work with communities to develop locality plans (as set out in APPENDIX A);
- ii) approves the extension of the post of Community Support Officer on 24 hours per week for an initial 6 months pending 2.13 below; and
- iii) requests a proposal comes forward to a future meeting on ongoing support and resourcing of the implementation and further development of community plans as part of the Loip.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment Act 2015 places specific duties on Community Planning Partnerships around locality planning. Based on assessment of the data about the communities in Moray and the consultation and engagement work done by the Partnership, two areas have been identified for specific locality based work as part of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

- 3.2 A locality plan under the Act is a plan to improve the outcomes in that area and it must clearly take account of the perspectives and ambitions of the local community.
- 3.3 As advised to the Board in November 2018, work has been taking place with local communities to advance locality planning in the two areas identified of New Elgin East and Buckie Central and East. Work has developed well with active engagement from individuals, groups and practitioners in both local areas. Both areas have progressed to identify a range of issues and are now working to develop draft actions plans. **Appendix A** provides an update on the actions that have taken place, outcomes to date and next steps.
- 3.4 The update shows that in Buckie Central East the outcomes of the community engagement work have been grouped into 4 themes: Connectivity, Educational Choices, Community Voice and Young People.
- 3.5 In New Elgin East the themes that are emerging are: Education and Employment, Community Involvement and Community Safety.
- 3.6 Practitioners from partner agencies have been involved throughout and moving forward will be involved in verification and prioritisation work including identifying where issues are already included in existing plans in order to avoid duplication and make connections across plans. The engagement oversight group that brings together engagement leads for children's services, adult services and Loip work has scheduled regular meetings in order to ensure this connection across the relevant plans and to prepare for moving to the implementation phase and linking governance arrangements.
- 3.7 As noted previously, support continues to be provided by the Scottish Centre for Community Development (SCDC) which will allow the learning from the two pilots to inform work in other localities in Moray and to feed into other national developments around place-based working. The Voice (Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement) tool continues to be used to plan and monitor progress and will assist in the evaluation of the pilots.
- 3.8 Consideration now needs to turn to preparations for moving to an implementation phase and how the Partnership would wish to continue the development of community based Loip work. This raises the question of resourcing which is set out in section 4 below.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The allocation of specific resource to support the community engagement work required to develop locality plans has been crucial to enabling progress to be made. A full-time Community Support Officer was employed for 12 months and this expires in June 2018. The funding application to the Scottish Government Making Places Initiative was not successful in securing external funding.

- 4.2 Discussion at CPOG identified the need to consider the options for supporting implementation of locality plans and the development of further community based plans in more detail given the limited financial resources available to the Partnership. There is insufficient budget available to the partnership to fund a further 12 months of the CSO post (Cost of £48,150 against whole partnership budget of £31,850, which includes carry over and so is non-recurring).
- 4.3 In light of this, CPOG's view was that current arrangements should be extended for a period of up to 6 months to enable further consideration.
- 4.4 On review following the CPOG meeting, such an extension would substantially erode available budget and limit options beyond the initial 6 months. Therefore, to extend the time over which the budget can be spread and options that could be considered should no additional funding be possible, it has been proposed to put in place an extension of the temporary post of Community Support Officer with slightly reduced hours (24 per week). This would give the option of further part-time extension beyond the initial 6 months should that be deemed appropriate following further consideration. The budget implications of some illustrative options using the whole budget are noted below, although these are not exhaustive:

	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months	Total
Option 1	Full time 24075	Full time – 8 weeks only 7410	31,485
Option 2	Full time 24075	11 hours 7300	31,375
Option 3	24 hours 15940	24 hours 15940	31,880
Option 4	30 hours 20,000	18 hours 11,950	31,950

The current postholder is employed on full-time hours but has indicated that he would be prepared to continue in employment on the reduced hours proposed, although his preference would be for a longer period than 6 months. There is a risk that a short contract is not appealing and may lead to the need to recruit a new employee which would impact on the pace of progress until the new employee was in place and fully inducted.

- 4.5 As has previously been noted, while partners have a great deal of experience in community engagement and development, this is the first attempt to co-produce local area plans aimed at improving outcomes. As such it is a learning process and is not without risk. To manage this, partners are working jointly to share experience and skills and maximise the use of resources and are receiving support from SCDC.

- 4.6 As noted above, once plans are developed, it will be important to ensure that implementation and monitoring of progress is effective. Proposals require to be developed to put new arrangements in place for this purpose.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. The approach to locality planning continues to be developed working closely with communities to ensure that their perspective informs the understanding of the issues to be addressed and the development of a locality plan for each area. So far, good progress is being made and the next stages are to finalise the draft plans and consider how to move to implementation and development of further community plans. This leads to consideration of resources and it is proposed to continue the employment of a temporary community support officer for 6 months while options are considered for the longer term.

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Background Papers: Previous report to the Board 5 February 2018

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