



REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2022

SUBJECT: LOCALITIES – SUPPORTING PLACE BASED APPROACHES IN MORAY

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Board with the report undertaken by the Scottish for Community Development Centre (SCDC) ‘Supporting place-based approaches in Moray which provides a review of locality planning in Moray.
- 1.2 To as the Board to consider the response to the recommendations of the SCDC report as set out in this paper.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Note the the report undertaken by the Scottish for Community Development Centre (SCDC) ‘Supporting place-based approaches in Moray which provides a review of locality planning in Moray (Appendix 1);**
- ii) Agree that the CLD Strategic Partnership continue to report back regularly to the CPP Board on the delivery of the CLD Plan and on progress on the Locality Plans in Buckie and New Elgin;**
- iii) That the reporting and performance indicators used will be simplified and refreshed in line with the current reviews of the existing Buckie and New Elgin Localities Plans;**

- iv) **That an annual report on progress made in each Locality will be presented to the CPP Board identifying three high level priorities for future development and requests for additional input / support from the CPP;**
- v) **That reporting on the Localities Plans should also be considered by the Community Engagement Group – and that community representatives should be encouraged to participate in that setting; and**
- vi) **Agree to widen membership of the CLD Strategic Group to ensure reciprocal involvement across LOIP lead groups.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following a presentation by SCDC to the Community Planning Officer Group (CPOG) on 4th Nov 2021 on the findings of their report on place based regeneration in Buckie and New Elgin which has been supported as part of SCDC's [Supporting Communities Programme](#), the CLD Strategic Group were remitted to consider the recommendations and recommend a response to for consideration by the CP Board.
- 3.2 The CLD Strategic Group is a sub-group of the CPP and has lead responsibility for the delivery of the Partnership CLD Plan. A special meeting of that group took place on 1st Dec 2021 to allow SCDC to present their findings again and for the strategic group to consider how to respond to the recommendations.
- 3.3 The session was built around an input from SCDC followed by updates from the respective Community Support Officers who are the lead facilitators working with the local communities and partners on the Locality Plans.
- 3.4 At present summary reports go to CPOG and the CPP Board as part of the LOIP delivery framework under the Empowering and Connecting Communities strand. A short narrative update report is also included, however, more extensive detailed information is also gathered and moving forward this will be streamlined within the reporting process to make it more manageable and useful for communities and partners and so that space created for meaningful dialogue around the progress being made in each locality.
- 3.5 The CLD Strategy Group heard about the current review processes that are underway in New Elgin and Buckie – both of which are positively impacted by the widening of geographic areas in both localities to better reflect natural community boundaries rather than artificial ones linked to data zones. It is anticipated that this process will allow for a refreshment of the respective Locality Plans and create an opportunity to revisit the performance indicators and measures to ensure that the LOIP reporting is relevant and proportionate. It also

reinforces the fact that the CPP is committed to long term engagement in the two localities, working to grow social capital and connections which have wide reach into communities and from this, developing and sustaining local community anchor organisations.

- 3.6 There was a wide ranging discussion on both localities, and both partners and the Community Support Officers felt that this level of strategic discussion and engagement would improve the sense of connection between those involved in Localities work with the CLD Strategic Partnership as the key CPP group for the localities work. Localities updates will become a standing agenda item reflecting their priority within the Community Voice and Active Citizen's strands in the new Partnership CLD Plan and an annual report on each Locality will be produced by the CLD Strategic Group.
- 3.7 It was acknowledged that there may be some issues that the CLD Strategic Group does not have the ability to directly respond to and that such cases should be reported upwards to CPOG and if necessary the CPP Board. For example, the community in Buckie have long identified a need for a physical community hub as a meeting space and focal point for community engagement. In New Elgin there has also been a recognition that there is not adequate community meeting spaces and that this is a factor in the lower level of active community groups compared to other areas. In both cases strategic identification of suitable spaces that can become community hubs is the type of 'ask' which should be referred upwards from the CLD Strategic Group.
- 3.8 It was also recognised that the Community Engagement Group (CEG) as a sub-group of the Community Planning Partnership also has the potential to be a group which actively considers the engagement elements of locality work, particularly as this group could and should include direct representation from community members involved in localities groups. As a sub group of the CPP, the CEG also has the ability to refer onwards to the Board as required. This is captured in the structure diagram (**Appendix 2**) from the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 3.9 There are a range of other LOIP Strategic Lead Partnerships where there are cross overs with the Localities agenda. One of the most obvious is the GIRFEC Leadership Group (**Appendix 3**) who are the lead for the Children's Services Plan and the LOIP priority of 'Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray. One of the ways this priority has been delivered is through the creation of two Locality Network Groups (East and West).
- 3.10 The concept of community engagement and involving people in decision making is now uncontested and has been strongly endorsed by the CPP. However, one of the challenges of this is that there are a wide range of engagement processes which share a common language

but mean slightly different things and sit in discrete policy areas. Locality Plans are different from Locality Networks (the Locality Network Groups mentioned in 3.9 actually link to GIRFEC and are reported on elsewhere than the Buckie and New Elgin Localities). NHS Localities are different from those used by Moray Council. There will soon be new Place Plans which will co-exist with other space based masterplans.

- 3.11 The challenge is to ensure that work with communities is on what is of most importance to them and in the geographies and neighbourhoods that make sense to them. The current reviews being carried out in New Elgin and Buckie creates a positive opportunity to re-emphasise the CPP commitment to genuine community engagement around these community led Locality Plans and to build on the excellent work done over the past two years.
- 3.12 As the SCDC report notes there has been sustained involvement in spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic. The review process allows a space for community representatives and the Community Support Unit staff to refresh the Locality Plans and agree meaningful reporting performance indicators. This will be influenced by a strategic intent to widen the reach of the work to engage with more people, especially those who have been most affected by the impacts of the pandemic on top of the longer term structural socio-economic factors which prompted the Localities approach in the first place.
- 3.13 It is acknowledged that it is incredibly difficult to connect all of the initiatives that are happening across Moray, but this report suggests that there can be some progress made by clarifying the structure of CPP Locality Planning reporting coming through the CLD Strategic Group. **Appendix 4** shows how the CLD Strategic Group currently links to the other LOIP lead groups and shows two way links to CPOG, GIRFEC/Wellbeing and The Employability strands and one way connection with the ADP. Consideration should be given to secure involvement in the CLD Strategic Group from the ADP to improve strategic co-ordination and understanding of shared agendas across these groupings (which is happening again in New Elgin in response to the priorities identified by that community in relation to drug use).

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There would require to be space allocated at CPOG and CCP Board for regular consideration / updates from the CLD Strategic Partnership. This will be the main reporting mechanism on Localities Work (New Elgin and Buckie) as well as updating on the rest of the Partnership CLD Plan and work in other communities where engagement is happening through community anchor organisations.

- 4.2 The Community Engagement Group is also an arena where Localities work is relevant and is a space where community representatives may want to be involved.

CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The CPP are asked to consider the recommendations in this report and agree that there will be a mechanism for the CLD Strategic group to report to the board on refreshed performance indicators and to escalate upwards any emerging issues from the place based Localities work and other strategic priority areas. Widening the membership of the CLD Strategic Group to include representation from all four LOIP lead groups will enhance communication and understanding.**

Author of Report: Kevin McDermott, Communities Service Manager

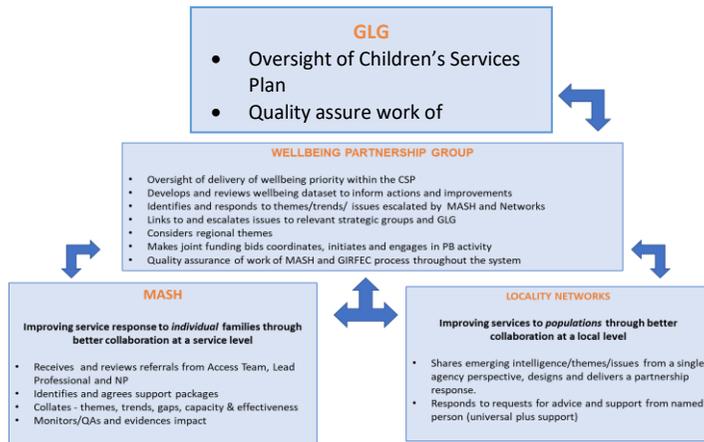
Background Papers:

Ref:

Appendix One



Appendix Two - GIRFEC – Wellbeing Partnership Group



Appendix Three – Current Links to LOIP Lead Groups

