



**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF MEETING ON  
02 FEBRUARY 2022**

**SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIP LOCALITY  
PLANNING WORK**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION,  
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DEVELOPMENT)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1. To invite the Board to consider how to progress community planning partnership locality planning across Moray.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1. It is recommended that the Board:

- i) note the positive work that has taken place in partnership with communities in Buckie Central East and New Elgin East; and
- ii) agree to progress locality planning for the community planning partnership by linking up with the planned work by the Council in Forres, Keith and Lossiemouth to bring in issue specific partner support or lead where a need is identified with any further involvement dependent upon resources for each partner.

**3. BACKGROUND**

**Current Position**

3.1. Locality planning with strong community involvement is currently in place in Buckie Central and East and New Elgin East. These areas were identified following review of community data zone information across Moray which identified them at the time as two of the areas in Moray (one urban, one with some rural aspects) experiencing the greatest inequalities of outcomes, based on statistical analysis.

- 3.2. The report from SCDC and various performance updates to the Board have provided information on locality planning progress and the current position, therefore, detailed information is not repeated in this paper.
- 3.3. However, in summary, there has been positive active engagement in both communities resulting in plans of action and various changes in local areas (examples include New Elgin: seagulls, Police Scotland work to tackle anti-social behaviour and drugs, 5-a-side football benches; Buckie: community lunches/carry outs; Benefits team and Health and Well-being team local work). Both areas have reported that they would prefer a locality that is understood and recognised locally rather than defined by a statistical data zone and work is progressing accepting that point with more fluid geographical boundaries to the locality work.
- 3.4. There has also been scope identified for improvement in communication and reporting and that is covered in a separate report on this agenda, which addresses the findings of the SCDC report.
- 3.5. Covid has had an impact in both localities and there is a need for some review and reset, again this is taking place in both communities with the support of partners. Both communities are proceeding to refresh their plans and ensure they have clear priorities and strong community involvement moving forward. Buckie is undertaking work on a development trust and hope to open up the opportunity to secure a dedicated development worker.

#### **Previous Board Decisions**

- 3.6. In June 2019, the Board was invited to consider Keith and Forres as the next areas for development of locality plans beginning in Autumn 2019. The Board agreed not to expand locality work and to consolidate in the two areas where work was already underway. The Board has not been invited to formally reconsider that position since then, although reservations have been expressed by some Board members around capacity for this work and the ongoing support that communities should have.
- 3.7. The CLD Plan approved by the Board on 22 September 2021 recognises the different approaches between the intense long term locality work and the anchor organisation approach in Forres, Lossiemouth and Keith. Based on this, the work plan for the partnership is status quo for the two localities for 12 months and an evolutionary approach in the other three communities with a review in year three of the CLD plan in 2024.

#### **Considerations and Issues**

- 3.8. Information Points

- 3.8.1. The CPP model of engagement is aimed at enabling the development of more resilient and self-sufficient communities who have influence over the delivery of public services to their communities and capacity for joint and community based delivery.
- 3.8.2. The temporary Community Support Worker post funded by the CPP for locality planning is no longer in place, therefore, there is currently no specific partnership resource.
- 3.8.3. There is a balance of £20K in the community planning partnership budget, which is a build-up of funding from Police and Moray Council of £9,900 per annum. Therefore, the recurring annual budget is currently £9,900.
- 3.8.4. tsiMoray had in place community development workers but this funding has come to an end.
- 3.8.5. The Council has begun single agency locality work in Forres, Lossiemouth and Keith, these being areas with statistically evidenced poorer outcomes. Consideration is being given to the involvement of Scottish Futures Trust in this work to help look at place based engagement in Forres – as the neighbourhood work that was started there is sitting alongside a myriad of other processes and the need to join things up more coherently is recognised.

### **Issues and Benefits**

- 3.9 In considering how to progress with locality planning a number of benefits and possible risks have been identified to aid consideration.
- Availability of partner resource to initiate, plan and sustain locality planning work
  - Ability of partners to respond to the outcome of planning – action should be community led but inevitably some response is required of partners
  - Service pressures from C-19 ongoing response and recovery
  - Changing and escalating issues and need in communities related to C-19 – risk of do nothing or not adapting
  - Loss of goodwill
  - + Community response, resilience and support capitalised through supported action
  - + Services influenced and informed by community better directed with improved impact
  - + No action could lead to increased demand, poor prevention and so greater later intervention
  - + Generates good will and sustainable communities
  - + More chance of reaching those who need support most

### **Suggested Approach**

- 3.10 The Community Planning Officer Group considered a number of options that might provide a way forward for locality planning across the partnership. These ranged from continuing to focus efforts on recovery for the current 2 localities, extending reach of engagement and sustainability per the planning model to identifying one or more areas for extension of intensive partnership locality planning using the New Elgin/Buckie model for action during 2022
- 3.11 The value of working with communities and of co-ordinated, needs led action on a partnership basis was recognised and all partners represented were keen to take a joined up approach. However, partners are all under pressure in responding to the environment created by covid and looking ahead to financial pressures and therefore, to varying degrees, resourcing would be a challenge.
- 3.12 Taking this into account, the recommendation from CPOG is for CPP locality planning to link up with planned Council activity in Forres, Lossie and Keith to bring in issue specific partner support/lead where a need is identified. In addition, where they are able to, partners will participate during the early engagement and information gathering stages as far as resources allow and information will be shared on planned events and activities for the council work to enable this. This provides opportunity for CPP to share data and information to inform their service delivery and response to local issues but takes account of the limitations of resources at this time and moving forward.

## **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. There are no shared partnership staff currently employed to support the development of locality work and so any additional activity needs to be absorbed within the staffing resource of individual partner organisations. Resources are currently significantly stretched, therefore, future planning needs to maximise the impact of limited resources.
- 4.2 There is a reserve of approximately £20k in the CPP budget and a recurring budget of £9.9k based on current contributions from Police and Council. It may be possible to have greater impact from this relatively small budget by considering how it could be used alongside community anchor organisations or to respond to issues that emerge from the engagement. Therefore, it is suggested that this is not committed at this point in time.
- 4.3 Work is currently underway to develop a revised Community Engagement Strategy for the CPP. This will be useful to inform how future engagement work is carried out and will support locality planning work.

## 5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. There has been a positive experience of locality planning in Moray and there is a commitment to learn from experience and continue to develop the approach. Ideally, the work would be extended to other localities in Moray but a realistic assessment of the covid environment and future pressures on resources, suggest a sharing of the work being led by the council would make best use of resources and enable a local input from communities to influence future service delivery across the community planning partnership within available resources.

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Background Papers: [2021-22 Quarter 2 \(July - September\) LOIP Performance Monitoring Reports](#)

Ref: