

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2005

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

24. **C** With reference to paragraph 40 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 September 2005, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 November 2005 by the Chief Executive (1) outlining the key objectives of the Local Area Partnerships; (2) setting out revised Terms of Reference for Area Committees and Local Area Partnerships, as detailed in, respectively, Appendices One and Two to the report, which would provide the framework within which the Local Area Partnerships would operate; (3) detailing the Partnerships main areas of responsibility; (4) giving details of the membership of the Partnerships, as detailed in Appendix Three to the report, and operation of the Partnerships, which would be supported by Local Area Teams, the membership of which was also detailed within Appendix Three to the report, and (5) advising of proposals for the enhancement of the local Community Forums to ensure effective procedures to increase the participation of local communities.

Thereafter, the Chair advised that the Chief Executive's Department would provide the administrative support to the Area Teams and not the Department of Administration, as detailed in the report.

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved

- (1) that the establishment of Local Area Partnerships, as proposed in the report, be approved;
- (2) that the revised Terms of Reference for Area Committees and Local Area Partnerships, as detailed in, respectively, Appendices One and Two to the report, be approved;
- (3) that the membership of Local Area Partnerships and Local Area Teams, as detailed in Appendix Three to the report, be approved;
- (4) that administrative support to the Area Teams be provided by the Chief Executive's Department;
- (5) that it be recommended to the Council, that these proposals and the consequential amendments to the Council's Scheme of Administration be approved;
- (6) that the review of the Community Forums, as detailed in paragraph 7.3 of the report, be noted, and
- (7) that the report be otherwise noted.

Councillor Homer, seconded by Councillor Johnston, moved, as an amendment, that the North Local Area Partnership be divided into three separate Partnership areas covering respectively Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and the Northern Corridor.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 14 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the establishment of Local Area Partnerships, as proposed in the report, be approved;
- (2) that the revised Terms of Reference for Area Committees and Local Area Partnerships, as detailed in, respectively, Appendices One and Two to the report, be approved;
- (3) that the membership of Local Area Partnerships and Local Area Teams, as detailed in Appendix Three to the report, be approved;

- (4) that administrative support to the Area Teams be provided by the Chief Executive's Department;
- (5) that it be recommended to the Council, that these proposals and the consequential amendments to the Council's Scheme of Administration be approved;
- (6) that the review of the Community Forums, as detailed in paragraph 7.3 of the report, be noted, and
- (7) that the report be otherwise noted.

To: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Date: 15 Nov 2005	Ref: JL/JEM	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee for a range of actions to support the development of six Local Area Partnerships in North Lanarkshire.

2. Background

- 2.1 A key feature of the development of the Community Planning agenda in North Lanarkshire has been the desire to create a decision-making and local service delivery environment that reflects the greater strategic objectives of the North Lanarkshire Partnership. In addition the opportunity must be provided for local communities and service recipients to have a greater influence on the design and delivery of services.
- 2.2 This Committee agreed at its meeting of 14 June 2005 to establish six Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) within North Lanarkshire. Six Local Regeneration Managers were appointed to oversee the further development of the LAPs and the process and tools by which they will assist in the improvement of local services and the regeneration of our most deprived communities.

3. Key objectives of Local Area Partnerships

- 3.1 From their inception the Local Area Partnerships must primarily act as conduits for joint action and resource targeted at a local level. They must concentrate upon building understanding between public services that results in establishing a consensus focused on shared action.
- 3.2 The key objectives of the LAPs will be:
- To provide the formal network for local partners and other public agencies to examine and discuss the implementation of the strategic priorities and regeneration targets of the Community Plan at a local level.
 - To identify neighbourhood priorities and opportunities and stimulate local partnership investment that would enhance services and provide positive impact upon communities (including geographical areas and themed groups e.g. young people).
 - To advise and comment upon the subsequent opportunity for re-alignment, rationalisation and co-ordination of partner resources.
 - To act as a main consultative source for partners to consider local individual partner and joint service proposals.
 - To scrutinise subsequent impact upon local communities. Both directly, through the monitoring of the impact upon individuals through the use of base-line data, perceptions and in-directly, through noted alterations to service systems and procedures.
 - To provide a vehicle for greater community engagement through a co-ordinated programme of local activity.

4. Partnership Agreement - Revised Terms of Reference

- 4.1 The widened membership of Local Area Partnerships will develop a partnership agreement at a local level, mirroring that of the NLP at a strategic level. This will have implications for Area Committees, each of which will retain the current responsibilities for discharge of Council functions but in discharging

those responsibilities will be informed by the advice of the Local Area Partnerships. The current advisory role of the Area Committees will be undertaken by the Local Area Partnerships.

4.2 This is reflected in the proposed revised draft Terms of Reference for Area Committees (Appendix 1) and for Local Area Partnerships (Appendix 2). Together these can provide the framework within which the Local Area Partnerships will operate.

5. Key features of Local Area Partnerships

5.1 It is important that effective governance arrangements are created that are fit for the purpose. To this end the following are considered as the relative features of the LAP's:

5.2 Networking, Advisory & Influencing

The Local Area Partnership is a new and stronger co-ordinating mechanism that will enable services to work together more effectively at local level. They will provide a formal structured environment within which elected members can engage in a proactive manner with partners. They will have an advisory and influencing role in the development and delivery of local programmes and strategies. They should also make recommendations and advise of issues/opportunities for local services. Finally the LAPs will ensure linkages with the strategies of the Council and other partners with that of the Community Plan.

5.3 Consultative

The LAPs must be recognised as a key route through which consultation of local service provision is sought. This should be recognised as a legitimate feature of the delivery of the Community Plan. The LAPs should where possible, seek to establish a consensus on:

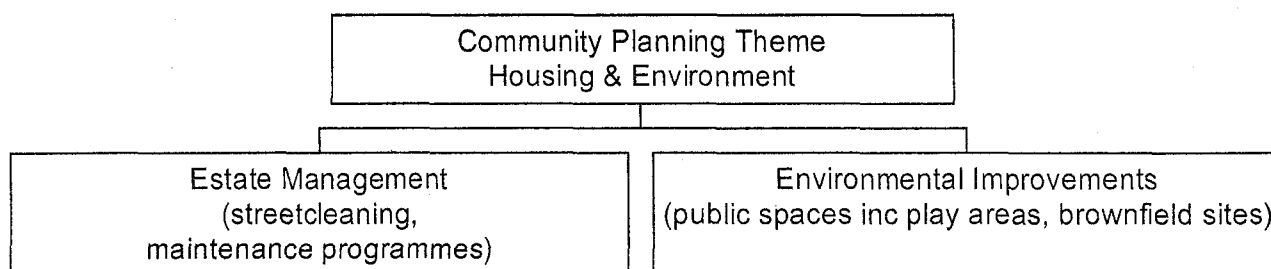
- Their views and comments upon documents and proposals;
- identifying best practise and preferred options; and
- directing and prioritising planning and programme delivery.

5.4 Evaluative

The Local Area Partnership will oversee a performance-monitoring framework that evaluates progress against key local targets and milestones within the framework of the Community Planning Priority Themes:

- Housing and Environment
- Community Safety
- Health Wellbeing and Care
- Learning Through life
- Jobs, Business and the Economy

5.5 Within these themes specific key issues will be identified where the opportunity to improve or implement 'best practice' within a service is identified. For example:



6. Membership and Operation of Local Area Partnerships

6.1 Appendix Three details the membership of the Local Area Partnerships.

6.2 Convenorship of Meetings

Recognising the key role of the Council the formal meetings of the LAPs will be chaired by the existing Area Committee Chair.

6.3 Frequency of meetings

In the first instance the timing of the formal LAPs meetings will follow the current eight-weekly cycle.

6.4 It is anticipated however that the expanded nature of the LAPs may necessitate the need to instigate additional meetings to reflect the particular issues that require to be considered.

6.5 The administrative function and support to the LAPs and the area teams will continue to be provided by the Council's Administration Department.

7. **Community Empowerment**

7.1 The Local Area Partnership have the responsibility for ensuring effective engagement procedures are delivered that maximise the interest of local communities. The key element of this, although not exclusively, will be the enhanced development of the local Community Forums.

7.2 To achieve this, specific resources have been identified from within Community Learning & Development Division, Community Services Department. This has resulted in the allocation of six Senior Community Learning & Development Workers (CLAD) to oversee the allocation of 14 hours per week of staff resources to relevant tasks.

7.3 The CLAD staff will concentrate upon the effective implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy at an area level. To do this it is necessary to undertake a review of the community forums remit, roles and responsibilities. This will ensure that they are fit for purpose and able to deliver the local implementation arrangements. The review will be undertaken with the existing forums and the wider voluntary sector and the outcomes will be reported to a future committee meeting.

8. **Support Mechanism – Local Area Team**

8.1 Council Departments and Partners will support the establishment of the Area Teams whose brief will be to develop an approach to partnership working that will deliver quality services for and in consultation with all local communities. There will be a robust mechanism in place for Officers who participate in the Area Team to feed back information to Council Departments and partner agencies respectively.

8.2 Appendix Three details the membership of the Local Area Teams.

9. **Accountability**

9.1 The Council has a statutory duty to lead on Community Planning under the Local Government (Scotland) Act (2003). As such elected members have a unique role in that they hold responsibility for the effective governance and delivery of the partnership and the delivery of successful local community planning across North Lanarkshire.

10. **Recommendations**

10.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the establishment of Local Area Partnerships as proposed in this report;
- (ii) approve the revised Terms of Reference for Area Committees and the Terms of Reference for Local Area Partnerships as detailed in, respectively, Appendices 1 and 2 to this report;
- (iii) approve the membership of Local Area Partnerships and Local Area Teams as detailed in Appendix 3 of this report;
- (iv) recommend to the Council, approval of those proposals and the consequential revisions to the Council's Scheme of Administration;
- (v) approve the proposals for review of the Community Forums as detailed in paragraph 7.3 of the report; and
- (vi) otherwise note the report.

J. Whitehead

AREA COMMITTEES: REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To consider recommendations made by the Local Area Partnership with regard to any matter contained within their Terms of Reference.

2. (a) to develop and implement, with the assistance of such monies as may from time to time be allocated under the Council's Small Communities Programme, project proposals to address local needs;

(b) to develop and implement, with the assistance of such monies as may from time to time be allocated from the Housing Revenue Account budget, project proposals to address estate based initiatives;

(c) to make decisions in respect of requests for financial assistance under such other scheme of grant as may be remitted to the Area Committees by the Council and to administer area development budgets.

In each case having regard to any recommendation made by the Local Area Partnership.

3. To carry out further functions as determined by the Policy & Resources Committee.

LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To identify and discuss local issues and opportunities relative to the Council's and partner organisations' services, activities and functions;
2. To consider and discuss the policy and operational arrangements affecting Council and partner organisations' services and activities undertaken within the local area;
3. To monitor and comment on service performance on an annual basis comparing the local service delivery against Council, partner organisations and Community Plan targets and performance;
4. To consider issues remitted to them by the Council, partner organisation and North Lanarkshire Partnership as a matter of particular consultation where there is specific wish to ascertain the wishes of the community e.g. Planning and Environment - Local Plan preparation;
5. To consider and advise as to the needs of the area concerning services which are the responsibility of the Council and partner organisations;
6. To develop and monitor Neighbourhood Improvement Plans and update the area profile including local needs, opportunities, issues and resources;
7. To provide a local network to examine and discuss the delivery of Community Planning objectives;
8. To support the establishment and operation of representative community forums as one mechanism for consultation and community involvement and to develop effective working relationships with them;
9. To provide a focus through which local community groups and voluntary organisations, the local community, the private and other public sector bodies can engage with the Community Planning Partnership at a local service and function level.;
10. With regard to specific programmes for regeneration including Town Centre regeneration:
 - (a) to review and comment on improvement programmes supported by the annual Capital Investment Plan and other capital programmes including the annual capital investment plan for Town Centre regeneration;
 - (b) to agree consultation arrangements with the public and other interested parties on improvement programmes, and
 - (c) to receive and scrutinise regular progress reports on programme implementation;
11. To advise and make recommendations on project proposals to address local needs *inter alia* under the Council's Small Communities Programme;
12. To advise on the development and implementation, with the assistance of such monies as may from time to time be allocated from the Housing Revenue Account budget, of project proposals to address estate based initiatives.

13. To advise in respect of requests for financial assistance under such other scheme of grant as may be remitted to the Area Committees by the Council and as to area development budgets and such other scheme of grant as may be remitted to the Local Area Partnership by partner organisations or North Lanarkshire Partnership.

14. To carry out further functions as determined by the Council, partner organisations or North Lanarkshire Partnership.

NOVEMBER 2005

Local Area Partnership Membership

It is proposed that LAPs comprise of the following members:

Permanent Members

North Lanarkshire Council

Elected members for all relevant wards:

Airdrie	12 Councillors
Bellshill	10 Councillors
Coatbridge	10 Councillors
Motherwell	8 Councillors
North	18 Councillors
Wishaw	12 Councillors

All LAPs

Strathclyde Police

NHS Lanarkshire – Lanarkshire Community Health Partnership

Voluntary Sector

Issue Members

Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

Jobcentre Plus

Communities Scotland

It should be noted that the nature and focus of the work of the LAPs and the Area Teams will require additional input and subsequent attendance at meetings of other service providers on an issue basis, for example Strathclyde Passenger Transport; Executive.

(*Process of representation to be agreed in conjunction with existing Voluntary Sector structures)

Area Team Membership

The Local Area Teams will include representation from the following Departments and Partners:

Chief Executive's

Community Services

Education

Housing

Finance

Planning and Environment

Social Work

Administration

Strathclyde Police

NHS Lanarkshire – Lanarkshire Community Health Partnership

Voluntary Services

Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

Jobcentre Plus

Communities Scotland