

To: NORTH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP FIRST YEAR PROGRESS REPORT	
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE			
Date: 20 Feb 2007	Ref: MD/SS		

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the partnership of the progress made in the operation of the Local Community Planning Structures.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 In June 2005 the Council's Policy & Resources Committee approved the establishment of six Local Area Partnerships with the purpose of developing local Community Planning in North Lanarkshire and the creation of a local decision making body to reflect the overall strategic objectives of the North Lanarkshire Partnership.
- 2.2 It was also agreed that a Local Area Team made up of key officers from Council departments and external partner agencies would support each Local Area Partnership and that the Local Area Team would become the delivery arm of the Local Area Partnership. In summary the Local Area Team will provide a local focus on service delivery, develop partnership working and involve local people through the Community Forum, and other community-based organisations.
- 2.3 In November 2005 the Policy & Resources Committee approved the membership of Local Area Teams which include representation from Council Departments and Partners.

## 3 Local Area Partnerships

- 3.1 The six LAPs are - the North Area (including Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and the surrounding villages); Coatbridge and district; Airdrie and district; Wishaw and district; Bellshill and district, and Motherwell and district.
- 3.2 In the first year of its operation, there have been five meetings of North Local Area Partnership.
- 3.3 The meetings of the LAP have been considering a wide range of issues affecting local communities including community safety, a programme for environmental improvements (Small Communities & Local Development Fund - see below) and progress on the redevelopment of the town centre.
- 3.4 The key partners (Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue and NHS Lanarkshire) are now providing detailed reports at each meeting. These reports cover the key issues of both a local and strategic nature impacting upon the North area.
- 3.5 Representatives of the local Community Forums are also members of the LAP, with a Senior Worker from Community Learning and Development to support the development of the individual forums.

- 3.6 The North LAP has seen a small increase in attendance by local residents. In general though attendance remains relatively low.
- 3.7 The new council which will be formed after the forthcoming election will be required to continue a commitment to Community Planning as part of the legislation. It is anticipated that the LAP model will continue and some of the key areas for further action will include:
- Further enhancement of community engagement through increased work with the Community Forum and more direct promotion and marketing of the LAP. This may also require in some cases alterations to times/venues of meetings.
  - Programme of information and induction for new elected members.
  - An interim performance review to examine key achievements and successes of the new structures and where potential changes may require to be made. This will include direct input from all LAP members.

### **Local Area Teams**

- 3.8 The Local Area Team is effectively the delivery arm of the Local Area Partnership. They are responsible for co-ordinating and delivering responses in relation to issues raised by the LAPs and ensuring dissemination the agenda of the LAPs and Area Teams within their own department or partner organisation.
- 3.9 There have been eight meetings of the North Local Area Team.
- 3.10 Effective networks have been established at both a formal and informal level. This is beginning to ensure a more co-ordinated, quicker, more effective response and a higher level of information sharing.
- 3.11 It is anticipated that the LAT model will continue and some of the key areas for further action will include:
- Review of membership to take account of the council's 'Service and People First' programme.
  - The future membership and operation of the LAT may also be influenced by other emerging agendas, such as joint health improvement.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

- 3.12 The Neighbourhood Plan will provide the framework and operational tool for the North Local Area Partnership. This has now been amended to reflect the new ward boundaries that will come into effect shortly.
- 3.13 Preparation of the plan:
- a) Initial Input – Completed**  
This included input from existing complaints/customer comments and issues highlighted to elected members. A series of ward visits with elected members and the community police were undertaken.
  - b) Local Service Input – Completed**  
Identification by council departments and partner organisations of issues/opportunities within local neighbourhoods. A template was completed by representatives from the Local Area Team.

c) **Community Engagement – March 2007**

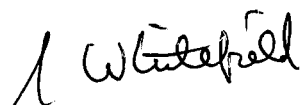
The final draft plan containing information provided by parts (a) and (b) will be reviewed by the wider local community including the local community forums.

**Local Development Programme**

- 3.14 An immediate impact of the work of the local area partnership has been the joining up of local budgets aimed at local environmental, physical and community safety development projects. This has maximised the impact and sustainability of this investment. In total over £2.3M has been allocated to 104 projects throughout North Lanarkshire. Over £300,000 of this has been spent on 21 projects in the North area.
- 3.15 The joined-up approach has also provided the opportunity for departments and partners to examine specific issues where the existing service is not having the desired impact despite often regular ongoing investment. In some cases an alternative service-approach and additional capital investment has been needed to maximise the mainline investment. An example of this is the programme of investment to the Gully in Carbrain. This area, which has been a source of long standing antisocial behaviour and has been visually unattractive and was subject to rubbish dumping and vandalism, a community consultation concluded that the original design was now no longer suitable and that substantial re-design was required. On conclusion, this will maximize the potential of the area and allow for effective grounds maintenance. Work on Phase 1 will be complete by June 2007.

**4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended that members of the partnership note the progress over the first year of the local community planning partnership structures.



**Chief Executive**  
23 February 2007