

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

To: BELLSHILL & DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject:  JOINT COMMUNITY PLANNING EVENT INTERIM REPORT
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Date: 19 February 2009	Ref: SMcK/PN/SS	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Local Area Partnership on the outcomes of the Joint Community Planning event which was held in January 2009.

**2. Background**

2.1 The North Lanarkshire Partnership Board, at its meeting on 9 July 2008, received the report on the Council's Audit of Best Value and Community Planning. The report outlined the main findings of the Audit and details the improvement plan actions which will be undertaken before the end of June 2009. At this meeting, the Board agreed that a number of these actions should be driven forward across the partnership. A number of these Improvement Actions include the need to:

- Improve the reporting of the impact of community planning by developing more effective outcomes measures.
- Develop the role and contribution made by Local Area Partnerships and community forums in Community Planning and improve community engagement by fully implementing the Community Engagement Strategy.
- Improve communications across the key community planning structures.

2.2 In addition some of the Community Fora had also indicated that communication could be improved across the partnership and that there should be more opportunities for partners at both a local and strategic level to meet to discuss key community planning issues.

2.3 To this end, a joint Community Planning event was organised for all community planning partners including: NLP Board members, Local Area Partnerships, Local Area Teams and the Community Fora.

2.4 The event 'Community Planning in North Lanarkshire' took place on Friday 16 January 2009 in Gartlea Community Centre and provided partners from all levels of the community planning structures the opportunity to discuss a number of key issues i.e. Our Single Outcome Agreement, Improving Communication and Developing Partnership Agreements.

2.5 A total of 127 delegates from across the partnership participated in the event including members from the Board, Community Fora, LAPs, LATs and Chairs of the Themed Working Groups.

2.6 An evaluation form was provided to all delegates and a total of 55 were returned. The findings demonstrate that:

- 100% of respondents found the event useful
- 100% stated they had an opportunity to give their views
- 89% rated the venue excellent or good
- 94.5% stated we should have similar events on an annual basis

2.7 Other comments on the overall day were very positive. Samples of these are detailed below:

- A very valuable event which allowed good partnership mix
- Discussion brought out a lot of good information and agreed processes
- Great venue and atmosphere with plenty opportunity to talk
- Overall a very well run event
- A lot of great ideas, hope they also get taken forward by partners at local level
- Excellent opportunity to meet with people who are committed to improving the life of NLC residents, some valuable relationships made.

2.8 A number of staff across the partnership facilitated the group work discussions, below are a number of the key points raised during these sessions:

#### Partnership Agreement with the LAPs

- General agreement to develop a Partnership Agreement with LAPs
- Need to negotiate agreement with partners locally
- Need for flexibility within any agreement
- Any local agreement should reflect the National Standards for Community Engagement
- Need to ensure there is a more 'user friendly' local version
- Document should be in plain English
- Should be an appendice to the NLP Board agreement

#### How Best We Improve Communication and Our SOA:

- More annual events
- Need for similar localised events
- Share good news stories with NLP Board and across partners
- Localised Citizens Panels
- Increase the local decision-making powers to LAPs
- Board minutes to all LAPs
- Reports from LAPs to Board
- Improve links between themed working groups and LAPs / LATs
- Need for clear communication strategy across all partners
- Localised SOA stakeholder events
- Review local priorities on six monthly basis - linked to SO

### **3.0 Next Steps**

3.1 The NLP Board at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 considered some of the key proposals arising from the event and agreed that an interim report should be submitted to each of the Local Area Partnerships to provide an update on the event. Proposals from the event include:

- Development of a Partnership Agreement with the Local Area Partnership
- Raising awareness / training session organised for LAP members on the National Standards for Community Engagement

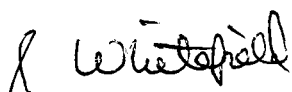
- Local events
- Local joint Community Planning Events to be organised in each of the LAP areas
- Reports from LAPs to be provided to North Lanarkshire Partnership Board
- Board minutes to be provided to LAPs
- Review of local priorities on six monthly basis linked to the SOA

3.2 A full report detailing the key findings from the event will be submitted to the NLP Board for their consideration at their meeting in March 2009 and a full report will be submitted to Local Area Partnership in the next cycle.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) agree that a full report be submitted to the May 2009 Local Area Partnership
- (ii) and otherwise note the content of this report



**Chief Executive**  
**19 February 2009**