

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee

approval noting

Ref LP/LMCM

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North Lanarkshire Partnership Board – Supporting Delivery of the Ambition

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Executive Summary

This report aims to provide an overview of progress to date in agreeing the partnership approach to delivering the North Lanarkshire Plan within the context of Community Planning.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee:-

- (i) Note the progress made in reaching agreement with Community Planning Partners to adopt the North Lanarkshire Plan to serve the purpose of the previously agreed Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP);
- (ii) Agree to further regular updates on progress with the development and implementation of approaches to ensure partnership delivery of the plan in line with the partnerships statutory obligations in delivering Community Planning; and
- (iii) Endorse a timeline of key actions to support alignment of partnership processes to deliver of the Plan.

Supporting Documents

Council plan to 2020 Improve relationships with communities and the third sector
Improve the councils resource base

Appendix 1 Timeline of key actions to support alignment of partnership processes to deliver the North Lanarkshire Plan

1. Background

The North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) Board Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) was approved in September and published in October 2017 in line with guidance from the Scottish Government in accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Whilst progress has been made in delivering key elements of the LOIP in the initial period since its adoption, the changing policy landscape and strategic moves to streamline delivery to support key priorities for North Lanarkshire has presented an opportunity to strengthen commitment to the delivery of the LOIP. At the North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) Board meeting in November 2018 community planning partners agreed to support the work that the Council has been leading in developing the Ambition for North Lanarkshire by adopting 'One Plan' for North Lanarkshire to replace the LOIP.

In addition to contributing to the work of the Fairness Commission around key priority areas and considering delivery requirements for a number of these areas throughout 2018, the partnership has been engaged in self-assessment activity highlighting the need for improvement in areas such as community engagement, coordination and alignment of partnership delivery, shared resourcing, community focussed outcomes and a more integrated employability approach.

2. Report

2.1 Partnership Self-Assessment

Since the adoption of the LOIP in 2017, community planning partnerships have been under scrutiny to ensure that LOIP approaches respond to policy and guidance at a national level such as:-

- Participatory Budgeting;
- Fairer Scotland Duty; and
- Wider implementation of the Community Empowerment Act (Participation Requests, Community Asset Transfer).

Locally, the partnership has been conscious of significant public sector transformation at a local level and has undertaken self-assessment considering implications of:-

- the work of the Fairness Commission;
- wider policy context;
- transformation and change across the public sector nationally and locally;
- the work to date led by the Council to develop the Ambition; and
- Preparation for Best Value Audit.

Self-assessment activity has highlighted the following key improvement areas for the NLP Board itself:-

- Exploring innovative new ways to engage with communities particularly those who are 'hard to reach'

- Review Locality structures to ensure that they are streamlined and tailored to supporting delivery of priorities
- Improve use of shared resource for partnership priorities
- Develop more meaningful priorities with communities
- Support review approaches to employability across key partner agencies

2.2 The North Lanarkshire Plan

At the NLP Board meeting on 21st November 2018, the Chief Executive presented We Aspire and his vision for North Lanarkshire. Following detailed discussion the NLP Board members agreed to adopt the North Lanarkshire Plan as their shared strategic delivery mechanism replacing the existing LOIP. Following high level feedback from senior partners on the draft ambition statements a key actions timeline was produced (appendix 1) to support alignment of partnership and organisational delivery to agreed priorities and ambition statements.

It is anticipated that the adoption of the North Lanarkshire Plan will enable

- a more streamlined approach to resourcing and delivering shared priorities
- More effective shared leadership for delivery of Community Planning in North Lanarkshire
- Greater impact on reducing inequalities
- Opportunities to simplify and align community engagement and participation approaches to meet local need

2.3 Community Empowerment Act 2015

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 reinforces the statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP's) and also broadens responsibility to all statutory partners which is underpinned by a set of guiding principles as follows:-

- strong, shared leadership;
- governance and accountability;
- community participation and co-production;
- understanding of local community needs, circumstances and opportunities;
- focus on key priorities;
- tackling inequalities; and
- Resourcing improvement.

In line with the guidance associated with the legislation all Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland were required to produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan by October 2017 articulating their shared priorities and a commitment to reducing inequalities. Additionally CPP's are required to develop Locality Plans targeting resource to small numbers of residents experiencing highest levels of inequality.

Community Planning partnerships have the autonomy to develop plans and approaches that best fit the area and benefit their communities. The benefit of adopting one plan is accepted in North Lanarkshire. It is essential that the plan meets legislative requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 regarding delivery of Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIP's) including

- Clear set of shared priorities
 - Clear partnership governance and accountability
 - Clear focus on reducing inequalities
 - Targeted locality planning priorities
 - Annual progress reporting to the CPP and Communities
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3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland

Work is underway to consider the Fairer Scotland duty under delivery of the LOIP

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

No equality impact assessment is required at this stage

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

No direct financial implications on the Council.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

No direct HR or policy implications. The content of this report directly supports the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

4.3 Environmental Impact

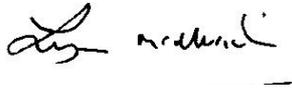
No direct environmental impact.

4.4 Risk Impact

No direct risks. However the delivery of the LOIP and Community Planning Is being considered as part of the corporate risk management approach linked to the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 Increased Community Participation in local and partnership decision making.
 - 5.2 More targeted approaches and interventions across partnership priorities to reduce inequalities within communities.
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Timeline of Actions

Aligning partnership mechanisms to delivering The North Lanarkshire Plan

November – February 2018	Initial feedback from partners on high level ambitions
March 2019	Final high level ambition statements to NLP Board for endorsement following initial discussion
March - May 2019	Identification and development of partnership actions to deliver and align resource to plan
February – June 2019	of actions to support delivery of plan Review of partnership delivery and engagement mechanisms to align to delivery of plan
June 2019 onwards	NLP Board endorsement of final plan and development of Partnership governance and resource plan to support delivery of the North Lanarkshire Plan