

North Lanarkshire Council

Report

Community Empowerment Committee

approval noting

Ref LMcM/MC

Date 31/01/22

Community Boards – Cycle 6

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Executive Summary

As previously agreed by Committee, reports on the work of the nine Community boards are provided to the Community Empowerment Committee during each committee cycle. Progress is also reported to the North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Strategic Leadership Board to reflect the statutory nature of the Boards in Community Planning terms in providing local governance for the Local Outcome Improvement Plans. This report covers Cycle six of the Community Board meetings.

The process and focus of reporting on the work of the Community Boards will be reviewed and element included within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan monitoring and reporting framework from 2022/23 onwards.

Recommendations

The Community Empowerment Committee is recommended to:

- (1) recognise the ways in which communities have influenced the development of the Community Boards and their associated Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIP's) as reflected in section 2 of this report; and
- (2) endorse the establishment of an evaluation framework for Community Boards as referred to in section 2.2.5 of this report.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Enhance participation, capacity, and empowerment across our communities

Ambition statement (20) Improve the involvement of communities in the decisions, and development of services and supports, that affect them

1. Background

1.1 Community Matters – A Framework for Working with Communities

- 1.1.1 *Community Matters - A Framework for Working with Communities* set out the Community Planning Partnership’s commitment to engaging with communities underpinned by a set of principles and approaches designed to deliver on a number of key priorities associated with working with communities which included the creation of Community Boards. The framework was approved by the Policy & Strategy Committee at its meeting on 19th March 2020.
- 1.1.2 The intent behind this report is to ensure that that the Community Empowerment Committee is kept informed regarding the work of the Boards.
- 1.1.3 As members are aware, the 9 Community Boards are integral to *Delivering for Communities*, supporting community participation and providing a single coordinated approach to governance for local communities reflecting statutory and regulatory requirements. The Boards continue to develop in a manner consistent with influencing and delivering the Plan for North Lanarkshire outcomes at local level. This is being driven through the Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIP’s) for each of the 9 areas thereby ensuring a partnership focus on supporting service design, delivery and community action reflecting both the ambitions within The Plan for North Lanarkshire and the priorities and circumstances of individual areas. The 9 Local Outcome Improvement Plans are now published on the North Lanarkshire Council website and have been circulated to all Community Boards. Arrangements will be made to publish the LOIP’s or links to the LOIP’s on other Community Planning Partner’s websites.
- 1.1.4 The sixth cycle of Board meetings has now taken place; an example of an agenda is included in Appendix 1.

Table 1 – Cycle 6 Community Board Meetings

Area	Meeting Date & Time	Location
Coatbridge	22/11/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Cumbernauld	23/11/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Northern Corridor	24/11/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Shotts	25/11/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Airdrie	29/11/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Wishaw	30/11/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Kilsyth	1/12/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Motherwell	2/12/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx
Bellshill	06/12/2021 at 6.30pm	WebEx

2. Report

2.1 Community Boards – Cycle 6

2.1.1 Representation at Community Board Meetings

- 2.1.1.1 At the sixth cycle of Community Board meetings, attendance reflected a good mix of partners, elected members and community groups and local people at all the 9 Board meetings. Approximately **208** people attended the sixth cycle of meetings with **73** community organisations represented.
- 2.1.1.2 A broader range of community representation is generally in evidence at Community Board meetings.

2.1.1.3 For example, NL Disability Access Forum and Voice of Experience Forum and Lanarkshire Muslim and Family Alliance were represented at Community Board Meetings during Cycle 6. As previously reported, efforts will continue to further extend the reach of community involvement in the work of the Community Boards. As stated within previous reports to committee, not all community organisations' identity is place base. There is therefore a need to ensure that people who come together because they share particular characteristics and identity, also have a platform where they are heard and can influence both decision making and the realisation of the Plan for North Lanarkshire. The publication of the LOIP's, and the work progressing on further developing the action plans, will provide an opportunity to broaden the focus of the Community Boards.

2.1.1.4 The categories of participants in Cycle 6 Community Boards are as set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2 - Participants (Cycle 6)

Participants at Community Boards (Cycle 5)	
Community Councils	Tenants and Residents Associations
Historical/Cultural Groups	Community Forums
MSYP/Youth Fora	Police Scotland
Scottish Fire & Rescue	NHS Lanarkshire
Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	NL Disability Access Panel
Elected Members	Council Officers
Faith Groups	Parent Councils
Local people/residents	Voice of Experience Forum

2.1.2 Participation in Meetings

2.1.2.1 The meetings were live streamed on the Council's YouTube Channel and received over 1030 views across all Board areas ranging from 64 in Motherwell to 199 in Shotts.

2.1.3 Agenda Items

2.1.4.1 During Cycle 6, 7 out of 9 Community Boards had agenda items put forward by Community Groups and Organisations in advance of Board meetings which was the same as at the previous round of Boards. Agenda items ranged from Interlinked alarms and Road safety issues to Presentations and up-dates from community groups and organisations

2.1.3.2 Council Officers were also asked to attend or provide up-dates to Board meetings in response to agenda items and issues raised by community representatives. Council and Community Planning Partnership Officers will continue to be invited to attend in relation to specific agenda items. Examples of this included, Newmains Community Hub up-date, Bellziehill Junction, Bellshill.

2.1.3.3 External organisations are also invited to attend Board meetings in response to agenda items raised by communities although there were no requests in relation to this at Cycle 6 Boards meetings.

2.1.4 Opportunities to Provide Up-dates and Share Views

2.1.4.1 The 9 Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) have now been published and can be accessed via this [link](#). All 9 Community Boards endorsed Local Outcome Improvement Plans prior to Cycle 5 Board meetings. As agreed at previous Board meetings the LOIP report was circulated in advance of cycle 6 meetings with a brief up-date on progress provided to all Community Boards during this cycle. Progress has been made with subgroups in some areas already working to progress agreed actions to address local priorities.

2.1.5 Special Board Meetings

2.1.5.1 No special Board meetings were requested in advance of Cycle 6 Board Meetings.

2.1.6 Community Board Local Development Programme (DP) Projects

2.1.6.1 Community organisations previously requested a positional statement regarding outstanding Local Development Programme projects. The LDP report, split by Community Board area, and detailing the status of projects, was circulated in advance of Cycle 6 Board Meetings. The new project proposal form identified in the previous report is now being utilised to record all LDP project ideas and suggestions. LDP continues to be a set item on the agenda at all Community Board meetings.

2.1.7 Community Board Development Sessions

2.1.7.1 An up-date on the Community Board Development Programme sessions were provided to all Boards during Cycle 6. A copy of the slide pack has been included in Appendix 2 of this report.

2.1.8 Involving Communities

2.1.8.1 Cycle 6 meetings saw continued involvement of seldom heard voices in Community Board meetings including, Who Cares? Scotland supporting Care Experienced Young People, the Voice of Experience Forum that enables older people to put forward opinions on local services and NL Disability Access Forum and Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Families Alliance continue to be represented at Community Boards. The Communities team will continue as a priority to proactively work with local community groups and people with lived experience to support this objective.

2.1.8.2 During Cycle 6, an increase in the level of youth representation was noted at some Community Board meetings. Ten young people were supported by the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth work team to attend Airdrie, Kilsyth, and Northern Corridor Board meetings. CLD colleagues are working to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and listened to through the 9 Youth Voice groups across North Lanarkshire and that there are effective two-way involvement and communication links in place between the Community Boards and the Youth Voice Groups.

2.1.8.3 The ongoing research into the lived experiences of North Lanarkshire's Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people is now entering Phase 2 with further focussed research being carried out by the University of the West of Scotland. This next phase will provide opportunities to promote the work of the Boards to the different communities as well as have the potential to influence the work of the Boards. In addition, the Council's Black Lives Matter Working Group is hosting a community conference in late February / early March with one its key purposes being to engage with the diverse communities of North Lanarkshire on Black Lives Matter issues. This conference will have a breakout session with 4 different workshops / discussion groups. one of which is dedicated to community engagement. This can be used to develop the work of the Community Boards in this important area of work.

2.1.8.4 A meeting of Lanarkshire British Sign Language (BSL) Steering Group took place in November (with representation from the three main BSL representative organisations operating in North Lanarkshire). The subject of the Community Boards was raised, and information shared on how the Deaf and Deafblind BSL communities can get involved in the work of the Boards.

2.2 Moving Forward

2.2.1 Community Board Chair

2.2.1.1 Significant progress has been made from the second cycle of meetings where one Community Board meeting (Airdrie) was chaired by a community representative to a position, as at Cycle 5, where 8 of the 9 Community Boards were chaired by community representatives. It had been expected that all 9 Boards in Cycle 6 would be chaired by a Community representative but unfortunately due to different reasons only 6 out of 9 were able to chair the meetings. The Northern Corridor Community representative stepped down from the role of Chair prior to Cycle 5, however the vice chair with the agreement of the Board took over this role in Cycle 6 with an expression of interest raised at the meeting from a further Community representative to take on the role of Vice Chair.

2.2.2 Community Board Development Programme

2.2.2. A progress update was provided at Cycle 6 meetings in response to feedback from Community Board members to the development/training needs assessment, the Community Partnership Team in conjunction with the Talent and Organisational Development team are working to finalise the programme of key training opportunities that will be available to Board members from early 2022 onwards.

2.2.3 The Role of Heads of Service as Community Champions

2.2.3.1 A Community Champion is now in place for each Community Board area. All Community Boards received a brief input from the relevant Head of Service at the Cycle 6 meetings during which they outlined the role they will undertake in line with the implementation of the actions set out in the Council's *Delivering for Communities* report.

2.2.4 Future Board Meetings

2.2.4.1 The next cycle of Community Board meetings will be held in February/March 2022. These meetings will continue to be held online and be live streamed to enable members of the community to observe the proceedings. When possible, meetings will take place in local communities with the intention of having a live-streaming facility in place to extend the reach of the Community Boards and encourage increased participation. The Cycle 7 meeting dates are set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Community Board Meeting Dates (Cycle 7)

Community Board	Day	Date	Time
Shotts	Monday	21/2/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Northern Corridor	Tuesday	22/2/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Cumbernauld	Wednesday	23/2/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Coatbridge	Thursday	24/2/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Wishaw	Monday	28/2/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Kilsyth	Tuesday	1/3/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Motherwell	Wednesday	2/3/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Airdrie	Thursday	3/3/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm
Bellshill	Tuesday	8/3/2022	6.30 – 8.30pm

2.2.5 Evaluation Framework

2.2.5.1 The establishment of an evaluation framework for Community Boards will be progressed with input from the Community Champions. Reports will be provided, on a quarterly basis to the Community Empowerment Committee, on progress in terms of key deliverables identified via the framework which will also encompass wider locality planning outcomes. The evaluation framework for Community Boards will sit within the overall tracking progress approach for the *Framework for Working with Communities*.

3. Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty

3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty

3.1.1 An integrated Fairer Scotland Duty/ Equality Impact assessment on the establishment of Community Boards.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

3.2.1 An assessment has been completed. [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIAs\) | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

4. Impact

4.1 Financial Impact

4.1.1 The Community Boards and locality planning processes will continue to be delivered within the available resources of the Council and Community Planning Partners.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

4.2.1 The Community Board governance model has been established and operates in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and related Scottish Government Guidance.

4.3 Technology / Digital impact

4.3.1 Work is ongoing to determine the best on-line system to support Community Board meetings linked to the system to be used for North Lanarkshire Council meetings in future where a hybrid model of online, face to face and live streaming may be required.

4.4 Environmental Impact

4.4.1 None identified at present.

4.5 Communications impact

4.5.1 Live streaming of Meetings was advertised via @MyTown twitter pages. Live streaming of Board Meetings received approximately 900 views via the Council's YouTube Channel. No objections were received regarding live streaming and future meetings will continue to be live streamed to encourage a wider reach.

4.6 Risk Impact

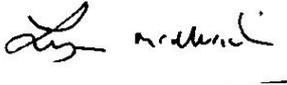
4.6.1 None identified at present.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 Increased levels of engagement with local communities and partners resulting in generally positive impacts on communities across a variety of priorities and key issues identified through effective locality planning and the implementation of the Community Boards, particularly in areas where further consultation has been required.

6. Supporting documents

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Example of Community Board Agenda.
6.2 Appendix 2 – Community Board Development Programme - Update



Lizanne McMurrich
Head of Communities

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction (Chair)
2. Apologies
3. Minute of previous meeting and matters arising
4. Chair of Community Board Arrangements

General Community Board Business and Updates

5. Head of Service – Community Champion Update
6. Individual Board Agenda Items (Act Now, Housing Strategy etc)
7. Community Partnership Up-dates
 - i. Board Development Sessions
 - ii. Local Development Programme (LDP)
 - iii. Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)
 - iv. Participatory Budgeting
8. Petitions

Community Matters

9. Input/Agenda items from Local Community groups (Changed to point 6 on Northern Corridor and Airdrie Community Boards agendas)
10. Input from Community Planning Partners linked to LOIPs
11. AOCB
12. Date and time of next meeting

Community Board Development Programme

Update – November 2021

Current Approach

- Development phase of the board member development hub on LearnNL is underway.
- The development hub will bring together all the resources for addressing the outcomes of the training needs analysis.
- Resources will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, accessible from any device and will be delivered in a blended format.
- If members don't already have login credentials for LearnNL, these will be provided.
- Virtual introductory sessions to the development hub will be offered to help members navigate the hub.



Welcome to the...

Community Board Member Development Hub



- ✓ Engaging
- ✓ Easy to navigate
- ✓ Always available
- ✓ One stop for all L&D

Role of Board Members

Click or tap the tiles below to access the resources within each topic.



Accessible,
flexible and
tailored resources

Finance



What's Next?

- Continued development of the hub on LearnNL.
- Testing of the development hub. Members will be given the opportunity to volunteer for this.
- Feedback will be taken from testers and any amendments will then be made.
- Development hub scheduled to launch in April 2022