

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 26 APRIL 2016**

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**AUDIT SCOTLAND (COMMUNITY PLANNING - AN UPDATE)**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report summarises the key messages and recommendations from the Audit Scotland Report “Community Planning – An Update” which was published in March 2016. It provides an update on progress in relation to the report published in March 2013 “Improving Community Planning in Scotland” and the follow-up report published in November 2014 “Community Planning – Turning Ambition into Action”.

**1. BACKGROUND**

This is Audit Scotland’s third report to be published on community planning and gives an update of progress made from the last report in November 2014 “Community Planning – Turning Ambition into Action”.

The report states that progress on community planning has not yet achieved the major change needed to fulfil its potential to reduce inequalities and put communities at the heart of delivering public services. More effort is needed to shift resources on a larger scale towards long-term goals and to involve communities fully in making decisions that affect their lives, so Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) can improve outcomes and address inequalities, particularly in more disadvantaged areas.

However, the report recognises that CPPs have improved leadership and scrutiny, and the way they use data to set clearer priorities.

**2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS SINCE THE 2014 REPORT**

The Scottish Parliament passed the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act on 17 June 2015. The Act provides a legal framework that will promote and encourage community empowerment and participation, by creating new rights for community bodies and placing new duties on public authorities.

The provisions include an array of new duties in Part 2 of the Act to strengthen community planning. CPPs and partner bodies need to be clear about what these duties mean for them. The Act also includes new duties and regulations for Local Authorities.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND COSLA**

#### **The Scottish Government and COSLA should:**

- Set out a clear route map for improving community planning with short-, medium- and long-term steps that will be taken locally and nationally to implement the Statement of Ambition and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 including how the impact of these changes will be assessed.
- Work with the Improvement Service and others to establish a locally tailored national programme of improvement support for CPPs.
- Establish arrangements through which good practice within individual CPPs can be identified and shared.
- Establish a national forum which has the credibility and authority to address any national and local barriers to effective community planning.
- Put in place a 'test of change' within a CPP to assess the impact of greater local autonomy on improving outcomes and identify any barriers to effective locally focused partnership working.
- Evaluate the 'test of change' and implement the lessons learnt.

#### **The Scottish Government should:**

- Clarify its specific performance expectations for CPPs and partners through its statutory guidance on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Streamline national performance management frameworks and create a better balance between short-term measures of individual service performance and the delivery of longer-term local outcomes through effective partnership working
- Place the views of local communities at the heart of measuring success in public service delivery
- Work with others to create a climate and culture where local public service leaders feel confident that they have autonomy and authorisation to decide how to respond to the specific needs of their communities.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **Community Planning Partnerships should:**

- Target their resources on a larger scale towards their priorities and shift them towards preventative activity.
- Ensure local communities have a strong voice in planning, delivering and assessing local public services.
- Promote and lead local public service reform.

## 5. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP POSITION STATEMENT

| Audit Scotland Recommendations                                                                                  | Current Position                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Target resources on a larger scale towards priorities and shift them towards preventative activity</p>       | <p>A framework for early intervention and prevention has been developed.</p> <p>The ACPP Resources Group, with support from the Improvement Service, will work alongside and complement the implementation of Planning for Place in Angus to develop an outcomes budgeting approach within a locality – initially Arbroath.</p> <p>Existing strengths, assets and capabilities of partner agencies will be used to promote effective collaborative resourcing of identified strategic priorities. Initial work will focus on mapping customer experiences of employability services.</p> <p>The learning from this work will inform the wider development of collaborative resourcing across the partnership with a focus on prevention.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Ensure local communities have a strong voice in planning, delivering and assessing local public services</p> | <p>Locality events have now taken place in all four localities. These events were co-designed with Voluntary Action Angus and focussed on the question “What do we need to do together to improve outcomes for the people living in the locality?”</p> <p>Four Charrette exercises have already been undertaken (Brechtin, Carnoustie, Forfar and Arbroath) and a further has been organised (Montrose) for later this month.</p> <p>Three further charrettes are to be procured for 2016/17, including one with a rural focus.</p> <p>A bid for an EU Interreg project on ‘Building a Local Digital Innovation Culture’ is being developed, to include learning opportunities around enhancing engagement utilising digital technologies.</p> <p>A Participatory Budgeting pilot exercise has been carried out in an area with deprivation, supported by Angus Council, Health &amp; Social Care Integration and Voluntary Action Angus.</p> |

| Audit Scotland Recommendations                      | Current Position                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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|                                                     | <p>This has been successful at a small scale, and has led to funding for further learning and development to take place, in order to identify options for longer term sustainable roll out.</p> <p>Closer links are being developed between community planning and health and social care integration at a locality level.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Promote and lead local public service reform</p> | <p>The community planning structure was recently reviewed and a revised structure was agreed and implemented from April 2015.</p> <p>Governance arrangements, in light of the Community Empowerment Act 2015 and Health and Social Care Integration, have also been reviewed.</p> <p>We are currently building an evidence profile to inform a new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan which will focus on long term aspirations to address inequality gaps across Angus communities.</p> <p>The CPP planning event held on 4 March will help articulate partners' aspirations and identify the key priorities for collaborative working in the future. Wider engagement activities to 'sense check' these aspirations will be undertaken over the coming year.</p> |

## 6. REPORT AUTHOR

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