

ANGUS COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 17 MARCH 2015****PLANNING FOR PLACE PROPOSALS****REPORT BY THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE****ABSTRACT**

This report advises the Committee of the proposed arrangements for planning for place at a locality level.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) Approve the proposed arrangements for locality planning; and
- ii) Note the proposed improvements to community engagement procedure including the implementation of charrettes.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to all of the outcomes within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Reference is made to Reports: no 155/14 Angus Council Plan 2014-2017, Information Report 3013/14 Schedule 11 Planning for Place Consultation, Health & Social Care Integration, ACCP Improvement Plan, no14/133 Community Engagement, 87/13 Review of Angus Community Planning Partnership Effectiveness-Structure, and the Scottish Government Community Empowerment Bill, Angus Community Plan & Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016.
- 3.2 National and local government have ambitious and challenging visions to deliver. In 2011 the Christie Commission highlighted the need for reform in order to improve the quality of public services to better meet the needs of people and the communities they support. Key points included the need to empower individuals and communities by involving them in the design and delivery of services and the need for public services to work more closely together to integrate service provision. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill which was officially published in June 2014, also highlights the importance that national government is placing on the role that exists to support communities in doing things for themselves and for people having their voices heard in the planning and delivery of services.
- 3.3 The Angus Community Planning Partnership (ACPP) is focussed on getting it right with communities, with an emphasis on planning for place, involving communities in finding local solutions to local issues in an attempt to reduce negative outcomes. As part of the ongoing commitment to improvement, the ACPP is seeking to redesign community planning at a local level to take full account of social, economic and physical factors. Similarly, as outlined in the Angus Council Plan 2014-17, and the Communities Directorate Improvement plan, the Council is committed to the development of a new area based approach to the planning and delivery of services, offering communities a better way of working with the council and our partners to develop plans that focus on the economic, social and physical aspects of their area. Specific priorities over the period of the plan are: the continued development of area based service delivery in the four identified areas of Arbroath, Brechin/Montrose, Carnoustie/Monifieth and Forfar/Kirriemuir, changes to operational services associated with

the integration of health and social care and development of an area based approach to some services for children, housing, planning and community planning.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The redesigned Community Planning Service was implemented on the 1st of April 2014. The Communities team was established as part of the redesign and is now organised on a locality basis with teams based in the four identified areas as detailed above. Across the teams there are 5 members of staff with a specific remit to support and focus on planning for place activities.
- 4.2 Members of the Communities team facilitated a public consultation in April and May 2014 in order to gather the views of a range of stakeholders on arrangements for planning for place within localities. The consultation utilised a number of methods including an online survey and 6 public events. Local community organisations, including Community Councils and Area Partnerships participated in the consultation as well as members of the public partners and elected members. The feedback from the consultation has been used to inform the proposals contained within this paper. A summary of findings is contained in the Information report no 303/14 Schedule 11.
- 4.3 The Angus Community Planning Partnership has a core set of values that underpin its work. Over time, the Partnership has developed an approach to strategic assessment at an Angus wide level based on a robust evidence base. This now needs to be pushed down to a locality level in order to enhance the understanding of place and inform decisions about priorities and service planning.
- 4.4 A wide range of community led organisations already exist in communities and contribute significantly to service design and delivery. These include Community Councils and Local Area Partnerships, in addition to other structures that have evolved to represent local views and respond to local circumstances. It is important, therefore, to recognise that any new planning for place proposal builds on what is already working well at a local level.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 **Partnership Locality Events:** Building on feedback from the consultation, input from the Angus Community Planning Partnership and an understanding of the current context with its commitment to locality working, it is proposed that community events are held in each of the four locality areas as defined by the Council and partners as the increasing focus for planning and delivery. The emphasis will be on partnership rather than on partnerships i.e. it is not intended for individual entities to be created.
- 5.3 The intention is to identify 3-5 strategic priorities for each of the localities in Angus and thereafter to develop driver diagrams which clearly identify action to be taken and performance measures that will demonstrate impact. These priorities will be firmly located in the evidence base developed through extended Strategic Assessment and community engagement activity. These will be linked to the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 5.4 Taking a locality planning approach will also support the preparation of many other partnerships and agency plans for example corporate plans, the Local Development Plan Process etc.
- 5.5 These partnership events will be inclusive of elected members, partners, community organisations and practitioners. The timeline for these events has been shortened to take account of views expressed by the ACPP but also to set a realistic timeline for support and activity going on locally such as Charrettes. Therefore, it is necessary to plan and dovetail this work. It is proposed that they are held as follows:
 - Arbroath – May 2015
 - Brechin/Montrose – June 2015
 - Carnoustie/Monifieth/Sidlaw – September 2015
 - Forfar/Kirriemuir – October 2015
- 5.6 It is envisaged that these events will then be held on an annual basis in each of the four localities in order to review progress, and update any priority or action to be taken. In addition

to these partnership events, regular opportunities will be created for practitioners operating in localities to meet and network and develop collaborative practices which contribute to the achievement of locality priorities.

6. Leadership for Arrangements:-

- 6.1 For planning for place to be successful, buy in from the council, its partners and the community is essential. This proposed approach will therefore require strong leadership and direction. Consultation with the community and partners has confirmed that leadership needs to be collaborative to be effective. The expectation is that all partners will contribute to leadership and will commit to action in respect of planning for place. The responsibility for leadership will, therefore, need to be shared.
- 6.2 In order to drive action in terms of planning events and responding to emerging priorities there is a need for a lead officer to be identified for each of the localities, supported by the communities' team as follows:

Locality	Lead Officer	Communities Manager	Communities Officer
Arbroath	TBC	Jennifer Miller	Liz Begg
Brechin/Montrose	TBC	Sarah Kettles	Mhairi Dickson
Carnoustie/Monifieth /Sidlaw	TBC	Bev Gibb	Elaine McLeod/ Sylvia Breen
Forfar/Kirriemuir	TBC	Maggie Sherrit	Gordon Grever

It is proposed to identify the lead officer for each areas at the first event held in each locality. Lead officers can be drawn from the community, business, third sector, partner organisations or Angus Council.

7 Community Engagement/Empowerment:-

- 7.1 The key building block for effective place planning at locality level will be a sound understanding of people and place. Effective community engagement will be central to developing and maintaining this understanding.
- 7.2 Angus Council has an agreed Consultation and Engagement Strategy that encompasses a range of methods that the Council will use to engage with Angus communities. The strategy endorses the principles of the National Standards of Community Engagement (NSCE) and encourages the use of Voice (Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement) as a tool to support effective engagement. The Voice framework has been developed by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) with the support of the Scottish Government and the free online toolkit provides a resource to assist with the planning and evaluation of community engagement activity.
- 7.2 Currently, the majority of consultations undertaken by the Council are publicised on the 'Have Your Say' link on the Council's Website, and the Angus Citizen's Panel. However, feedback from the planning for place consultation clearly indicates that much more needs to be done to improve the quality and effectiveness of community engagement activity undertaken by the Council and its partners. It needs to be more fundamental to the way in which services are planned to reflect community needs and wishes.
- 7.3 The Council and its partners need to be more creative in their approach to community involvement and engagement, utilising a greater variety of approaches which maximise opportunities for local people to participate, be heard and have influence. A ladder of community participation/engagement should form the framework for engaging with communities whereby a range of strategies are utilised, to reflect both the purpose of the engagement and the type of engagement required. Within this framework, there will be a range of community engagement activity extending from informing communities on matters that affect them to empowering community organisations to deliver services and initiatives, through opportunities such as community asset transfer and new and emerging models of service delivery.

- 7.4 The guiding principle should be to use approaches appropriate to communities and the focus of the engagement. These might include: listening surveys, world café events, social media, 'pop up' events, drop in sessions focus groups, walkabouts, internet polls, capturing views whilst going about every day business. Engagement activity needs to be characterised by on-going dialogue rather than solely being focussed on specific issues.
- 7.5 A specific addition to the range of engagement activity in Angus will be using 'charrettes' or similar large scale stakeholder engagement events. A charrette is an interactive design process that normally runs over a few days, in which stakeholders work directly with a specialised design team to create a specific community vision. Charrettes are normally linked to Development Planning, but can be adapted to suit community needs and circumstances.

This proposal is implement a programme of charrette community engagement events- or a variation of the model -in each of the localities on a rolling programme over the next three years to generate outputs that will inform all aspects of planning, but with a particular focus on physical and land use planning. They will also inform the next iteration of the Angus Local Development Plan. Resources are available in the current financial year to run charrettes in Brechin and Carnoustie. A further three Charrettes will take place in the financial year 2015/16. It is proposed that these should be held in Forfar (June 2015), Arbroath (January to March 2016) and Montrose (October to December 2015).

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. All financial and in-kind support from Angus Council is met from existing budget resources. A carry forward resource has been identified to extend the programme of Charrettes in 2015/16.

9. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance, Head of Property and Technical Services and Head of Legal & Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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