

ANGUS COUNCIL**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 18 AUGUST 2015****COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015****BACKGROUND**

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on the 17 June 2015. The Bill must now receive Royal Assent from HM The Queen to become law, the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The purpose of this report is to inform councillors of the main impacts and differences in the Act for in its role as a local authority and a community planning partner.

MAIN CONTENT OF BILL

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to:

- make provision about national outcomes;
- confer functions on certain persons in relation to services provided by, and assets of, certain public bodies;
- amend Parts 2 and 3 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003; to enable certain bodies to buy abandoned, neglected or detrimental land;
- amend section 7C of the Forestry Act 1967;
- enable the Scottish Ministers to make provision about supporters' involvement in and ownership of football clubs;
- make provision for registers of common good property and about disposal and use of such property;
- restate and amend the law on allotments;
- enable participation in decision-making by specified persons having public functions;
- enable local authorities to reduce or remit non-domestic rates; and for connected purposes.

NATIONAL OUTCOMES

Scottish Ministers must now consult with communities when determining outcomes for Scotland and in doing so must have regard to the reduction of inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. They must be reviewed every 5 years and publish reports about the extent to which the national outcomes have been achieved.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

The purpose of community planning is improvement in the achievement of outcomes resulting from, or contributed to by, the provision of services delivered by or on behalf of the local authority or others (listed in Appendix 1). In carrying out these functions the community planning partnership must act with a view to reducing inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.

Community Planning Partners must participate with each other and participate with any community body in such a way as to enable that community body to participate in community planning.

The Community Planning Partnership must consider which community bodies are likely to be able to contribute to community planning having regard in particular to those who represent the interests of persons who experience inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.

Each community planning partnership must, through consultation with community bodies, prepare, publish and revise as necessary a local outcomes improvement plan detailing priority of outcome,

description of improvement, timescales and a description of the needs and circumstances of persons residing in the locality.

A progress report must be published for each reporting year that includes an assessment of whether there has been any improvement in the achievement of each local outcomes as well as the extent to which the community planning partners has participated with community bodies and the effectiveness of that participation in enabling community bodies to contribute to community planning.

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