

Brechin & Montrose

Locality Plan 2017



Sept
2017

Economy
People
Place



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Introduction

The way in which we plan for our communities and people in Angus is changing. Traditionally, local planning has involved organisations, services and partners thinking about their own areas of knowledge and expertise and not about the whole place for which they were planning. That will be different in the future.

This first locality plan for Brechin and Montrose has been prepared on behalf of the Angus Community Planning Partnership and was developed through a co-operative process involving local residents, community organisations, and partner agencies in the voluntary, private and public sectors.

In that process, we have been thinking about what we can all do together to improve the quality of life for people who live in the area.

Our first locality plan for Brechin and Montrose will:

- explain why we want to work better together locally
- set out a range of areas for action to bring about positive change, and provide some information on how we have arrived at these areas for action
- describe some of the ways in which we are going to work differently in the future



Why Locality?

We all know that the Brechin and Montrose area is a place where most people enjoy a good quality of life. However, that isn't the case for all members of the community and our commitment is to change that. We want everyone to live in a community which is safe, secure and vibrant and in which they can achieve success and enjoy good physical, mental and emotional health and well being.

Our best chance of achieving this goal is to put people and communities at the centre of our planning and delivery. This means working with people to tackle the things that matter most to them and to make a positive difference to their lives and communities. It also means recognising that communities can and do achieve things for themselves. We need to build on this and increase the level of influence and control that local people have over the decisions and services that have an impact on their lives and communities.

We think that we can achieve more and make a bigger difference if we work better together at a local level.





Because of all this, the Angus Community Planning Partnership has changed its structure and has now identified four localities which will be the building block for its planning from now on. Brechin & Montrose is one of those localities. If we put localities at the heart of our planning processes, we will be able to develop new ways of working which focus less on who we work for and more on how our collective efforts can make our communities stronger. By doing this we will help to achieve the wider ambitions which the Angus Community Planning Partnership has set for itself in the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. This is a plan which the partnership has created through a development process involving communities and all of the partners. It sets out a number of ambitions for reducing inequalities in Angus and building services around people and communities.

We recognise that the localities we have identified are made up of a number of communities and that each of these communities is unique. We also understand that they do not operate in isolation from each other and that economies of scale can be achieved by working in bigger units. Our challenge is to honour the uniqueness of each community while taking the advantage that can be gained by linking communities together for some things.

If we are to meet our commitment to achieve the highest quality of life for all of the people of Brechin and Montrose, then we need to combat the effects of poverty and inequality. This means targeting our efforts and resources to those who will benefit most in a way that we haven't done before. We are determined to do this.

We believe that the locality approach we are taking in Angus is the right one for us. It is also consistent with wider research and social and economic policies.

This first locality plan for Brechin and Montrose identifies the areas in which we will take action to bring about positive change in the area, based on our understanding of the communities that make up the locality and what matters to the people who live and work there. It is a plan for the whole community and for all aspects of its development – economic, social and physical.



The Story So Far...

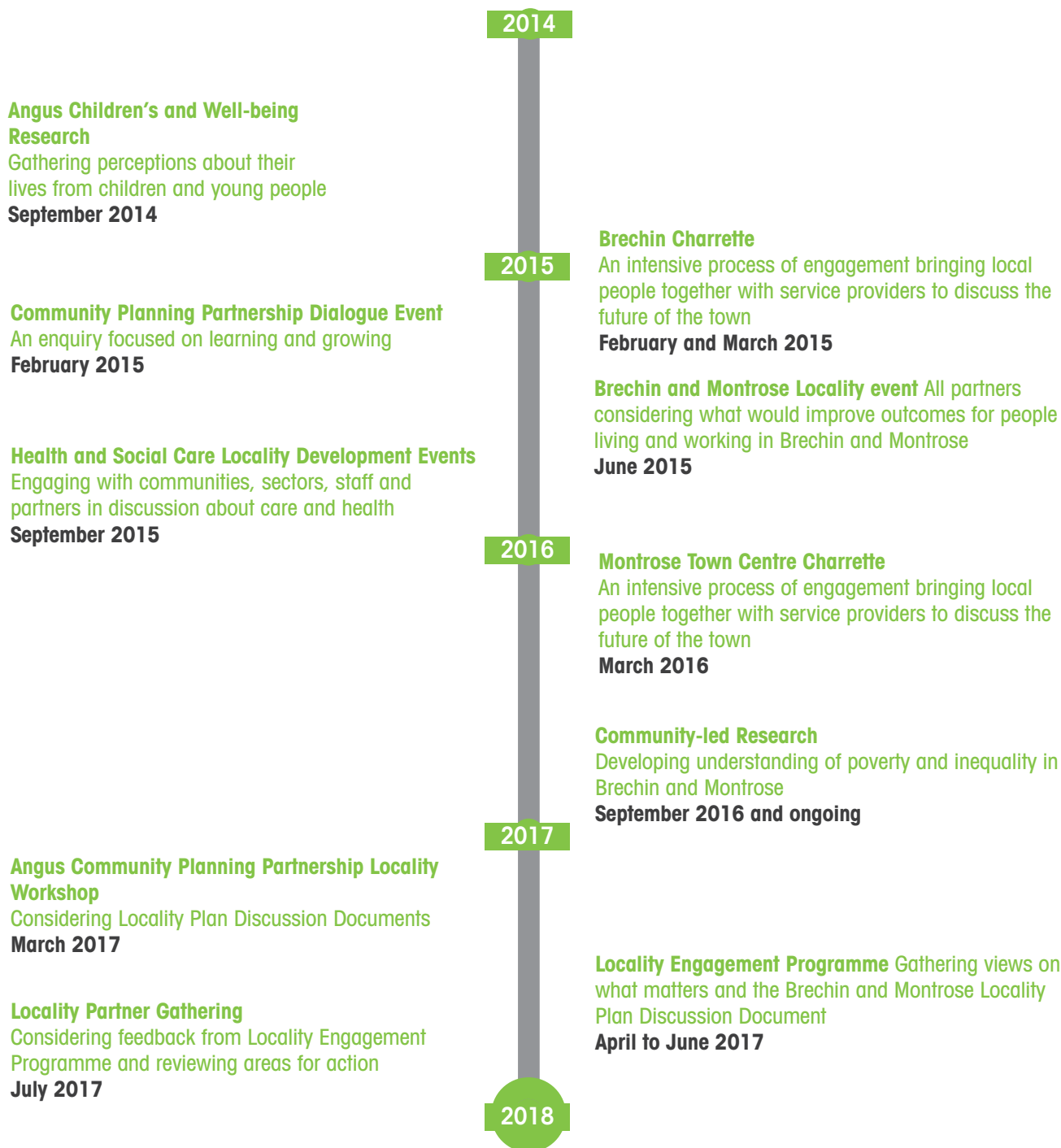
We have been working towards the publication of the Brechin and Montrose Locality Plan for some time.

The areas for action that are included in the plan have emerged from a wide range of consultation and engagement activity over the past three years. Some of this activity has taken place across Angus to help us prepare plans and provide services in important areas such as health and social care, housing, services for children and young people, community safety and community learning.

Existing Angus Strategies



Most of the activity however, has been local and designed to provide people who live and work in localities with opportunities to tell us what they know about the place, say what matters most to them and come up with ideas and proposals for making the locality a better place for everyone.



Our Vision For Angus

The Angus Community Planning Partnership has a vision for Angus.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| National Objectives | Wealthier & Fairer | Smarter | Healthier | Safer & Stronger | Greener |
| Our Vision | <i>Angus is a great place to live, work and visit</i> | | | | |
| Our Priorities | Tackling inequalities Building services around people and communities Focusing on prevention Working together effectively | | | | |
| Our Cross-Cutting Themes | Economy | People | | Place | |
| Our Local Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an inclusive and sustainable economy a reduced carbon footprint attractive employment opportunities the best start in life for children More opportunities for people to achieve success an enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities a skilled and adaptable workforce improved physical, mental and emotional health and well being | | | | |

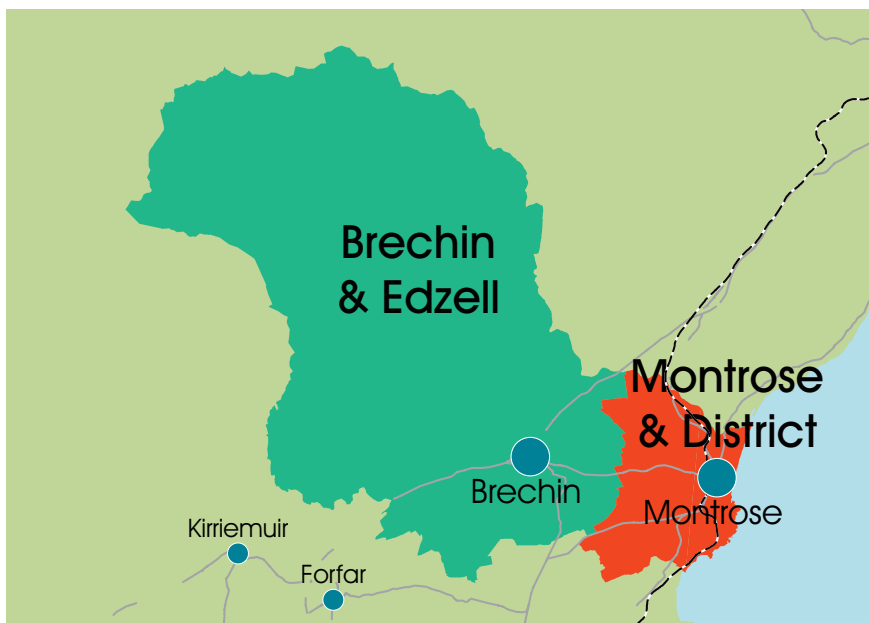
Our Vision For Brechin And Montrose

We See A Future For Brechin And Montrose In Which:

- it is a “can do” place in which people work together to ensure that everyone living in the area enjoys a high quality of life
- our economy is strong. We make the best of our unique economic assets to grow the local and Angus-wide economy. Businesses are thriving and growing. There is local, well-paid, employment for the people who live in the area and they take advantage of this. Our locality is also a competitive location for employers and a ‘must go to’ destination for local, national and international visitors
- our people enjoy good physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. They live healthy and active lives, free from the impact of poverty and inequality. Our children and young people succeed and reach their highest possible levels of achievement and attainment. There are clear pathways for young people to follow when they leave school and they are all well supported to make a positive transition to further learning or work opportunities that are aspirational. We all work well together to support more vulnerable families in our communities and we take action as soon as possible when there are signs of things beginning to go wrong. Our communities take good care of those who are elderly or infirm and there are good, well coordinated arrangements for providing health and social care which enable people to remain in their own homes and communities for as long as possible
- the Brechin and Montrose locality is a desirable place to live, work and visit. Town centres are vibrant, villages welcoming and value is placed on the spectacular rural landscape and natural environment. The quality of housing is good and meets the needs of the different people who live in our communities. The locality is a connected place which people can travel around easily and which has good links to other parts of Angus and elsewhere. Everyone in the locality enjoys good digital connections which make it possible for them to socialise, work, access services and take opportunities easily.



What We Know About The Brechin & Montrose Locality



The Brechin and Montrose locality stretches from the North Sea in the east to the Glens of Esk and Lethnot in the west. The two principal settlements are the towns of Brechin and Montrose. The population of the locality is 28,529, which is approximately 25% of the Angus population. The majority of people live in the two towns and in the villages of Edzell, Ferryden, Hillside and Craigo with the remainder spread across a broad rural area.

There are two electoral wards in the locality; Brechin and Edzell Ward, and Montrose and District Ward. The wards are served by seven elected members. There are five community councils in the area: City of Brechin; Royal Burgh of Montrose; Ferryden and Craigo; Hillside, Dun and Logie Pert; and Inveresk.

Brechin is an historic settlement, located in the north of Angus adjacent to the A90 trunk road and on the north bank of the River South Esk. It functions as an employment, commercial and service centre for the surrounding area including the northern Angus Glens. There has been significant regeneration in the town improving the Queens Park housing estate and developing brownfield sites for housing and retail use. The Brechin Townscape Heritage Initiative brought significant improvement to the central core of the town. Engineering, manufacturing and tourism form the foundation of the local economy and there has been a good take up of new employment sites in the Brechin area.

As the largest village in north Angus, Edzell is an important rural service centre providing a range of local services and some employment. It is an attractive village and its proximity to the

Angus Glens and rural Aberdeenshire draws many visitors. However, it is predominantly a dormitory settlement with residents living in the village and commuting to other places for work.

Montrose is located on the north east coast of Angus. The town has developed on a narrow peninsula, with the sea to the east and a unique tidal basin to the west. It has an attractive townscape and a number of distinctive character areas including its wide town centre, the Mid Links, harbour area and extensive seafront and open links. Montrose is an important service and employment hub for the north east of Angus and southern Aberdeenshire. Its key businesses, including Montrose Port and GSK, play an important strategic role in the Angus economy.

The locality has good road links to the north and south provided by the A92 and A90, but connections from its coastal communities to the A90 are not good and this has a negative impact both on economic development and quality of life. There are many small communities in the locality, making transportation and links across the rural areas very important for accessing employment, services and social opportunities. Public transport links to the north and south of both Brechin and Montrose are good, but cross-country links more variable.

The locality has two secondary schools; Brechin High School and Montrose Academy. There are 12 associated primary schools. Brechin High School is located in the Brechin Community Campus, opened in 2016, along with leisure and community facilities. Leisure facilities in Montrose are located in Montrose Sports Centre which is adjacent to Montrose Academy.

Both Brechin and Montrose have public libraries and the rural hinterlands of the towns are served by a mobile library service.

There is a good range of community organisations in the locality. These organisations work to promote and develop the towns and outlying areas. They include volunteer led youth organisations, action groups, civic groups, sports and cultural organisations. Community organisations plan and deliver a range of annual events including Mofest, local gala weeks and events. They also run local projects, services and initiatives including the Caledonian Railway, Brechin City Hall, Glen Esk Retreat and Folk Museum, Montrose YM, and Brechin Youth Project (The Attic). Active organisations in towns and villages carry out a wide range of pride in place activities that enhance the appearance of the area and contribute to a deeper sense of 'community' and to community resilience.

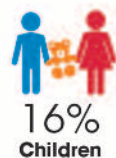
What The Data Is Telling Us

Brechin

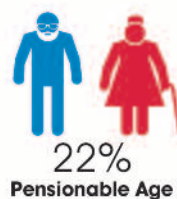
Population Statistics



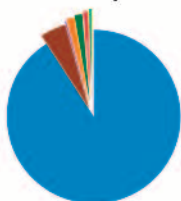
Source: National Records of Scotland, 2016 projection



Source: National Records of Scotland, mid 2016 estimate



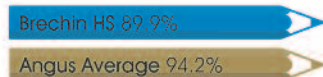
Ethnicity



- White Scottish 91.1%
- White other British 4.6%
- White Irish 0.4%
- White Polish 1.2%
- White Other 1.5%
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British 0.7%
- Other Ethnic Groups 0.5%

Source: Census 2011

Education: Positive Destinations by School



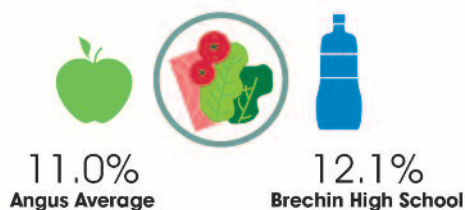
Positive Destination: School leavers moving into further education, higher education, employment or training. Source: Angus Council, 2014/15

SIMD16:

- 1155** People income deprived and receiving certain benefits/tax credits
- 610** Working age people employment deprived and receiving certain benefits

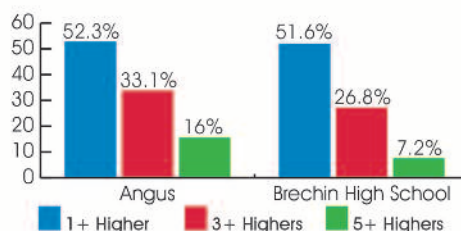
Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016, Brechin & Edzell Ward

Free School Meals



Source: Angus Council, March 2016 census

Exam Results 2016, S5



Source: SQA National, Diet 2016

General Health



Source: Census 2011

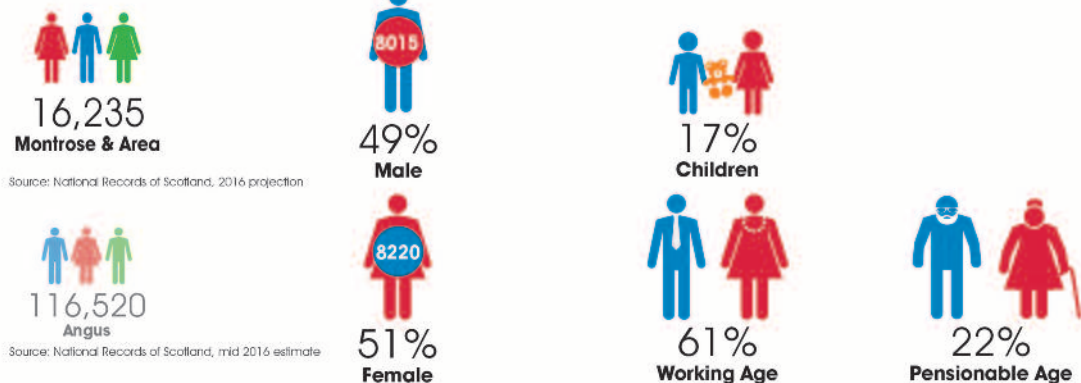
Housing



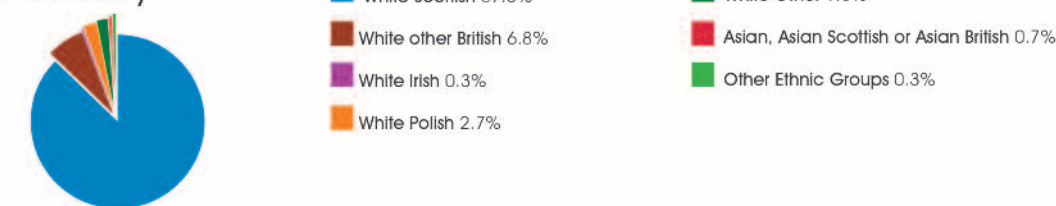
Source: Census 2011

Montrose

Population Statistics



Ethnicity

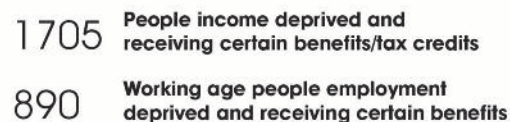


Education: Positive Destinations by School



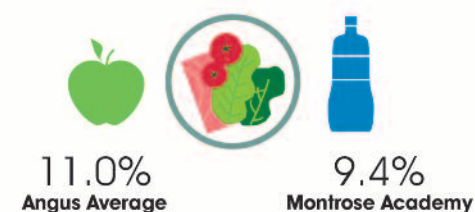
Positive Destination: School leavers moving into further education, higher education, employment or training. Source: Angus Council, 2014/15

SIMD16:



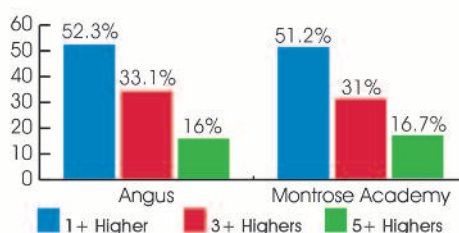
Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016, Montrose & District Ward

Free School Meals



Source: Angus Council, March 2016 census

Exam Results 2016, S5



General Health



Housing



Inequalities

Most of the people living in the Brechin and Montrose locality enjoy a good quality of life, but there are some areas where people do less well than others in the locality, Angus and similar communities across Scotland.

In parts of Brechin East and/or Montrose South:

- children and young people's attainment at school falls below the Angus baseline and other comparable communities (also in Brechin West)
- life expectancy for some people is significantly shorter than elsewhere in Angus and Scotland
- housing is rated comparatively poorly in terms of central heating and/or overcrowding
- crime rates, while falling, are still higher than in other areas
- the rate of child poverty is rising and predicted to go on rising over the next four years
- income levels are relatively low
- the number of people who are not working and receiving benefits is comparatively high

More detail is available at www.angus.gov.uk/cpplocalities



What People Are Telling Us



Our Priorities And What We Are Going To Do

We have worked together to analyse all of the information that we have about Brechin and Montrose and used this to help us decide the areas in which we need to take action if we are to achieve our outcomes. These areas of action have emerged from:

- the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and other shared plans
- conversations between people and partners
- the data we have about the area

| Economy | Areas for Action |
|--|--|
| <p>An inclusive and sustainable economy</p> <p>A skilled and adaptable workforce with attractive employment opportunities</p> <p>Attractive employment opportunities</p> | <p>Together we will support business growth, investment and job opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementing North Angus Tay Cities projects (if approved) • implementing Phase Two of the Montrose South Regeneration Project • supporting businesses to grow • attracting inward investment <p>Together we will promote the Brechin and Montrose area locally, nationally and internationally by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing local tourism activities • aligning with Visit Angus campaigns <p>Together we will improve digital connectivity</p> <p>Together we will promote and support the development of social enterprise</p> |

| People | Areas for Action |
|---|--|
| <p>The best start in life for children</p> <p>More opportunities for people to achieve success</p> <p>Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being</p> | <p>Together we will promote emotional and mental wellbeing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tackling anxiety and stress • building on existing strategies and initiatives <p>Together we will Increase digital learning capabilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending affordable access • expanding learning opportunities |

| People | Areas for Action |
|---|---|
| <p>The best start in life for children</p> <p>More opportunities for people to achieve success</p> <p>Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being</p> | <p>Together we will take early action to support families and communities at risk from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • domestic abuse • drug and alcohol use • criminality • anti-social behaviour • impact of disabilities <p>Together we will increase access to, and uptake of, leisure activities</p> <p>Together we will develop opportunities for vulnerable older people to be active and involved in the community</p> <p>Together we will improve long-term prospects for young people by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing achievement and attainment • developing post school pathways to learning and employment • improving post-school transitions • reducing youth unemployment <p>Together we will assist older people to live at home for longer by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving health • supporting self-management of health conditions and health care • better integrating health and social care <p>Together we will promote and support the integration of minority communities in Brechin and Montrose</p> <p>Together we will implement the Aspiring Communities Project to tackle poverty and inequality in East Brechin</p> |

| Place | Areas for Action |
|--|--|
| <p>An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment</p> <p>A reduced carbon footprint</p> <p>Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities</p> | <p>Together we will improve the quality of Brechin and Montrose town centres by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving physical appearance • achieving higher occupancy of property • achieving the right balance between pedestrians and vehicles <p>Together we will improve connections within the locality and with the rest of Angus and Scotland by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving public transport connections • developing the roads infra-structure – links to the A90 • developing footpaths • developing cycle routes and paths • improving signage and way finding <p>Together we will create housing opportunities that help to develop and sustain our communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating new housing, including affordable housing to buy or rent (eg at Sunnyside) • implementing housing led re-generation in South Montrose and East Brechin • developing town centre living <p>Together we will minimise effects of coastal erosion in Montrose</p> |

More specific and detailed actions will be included within appropriate shared and single agency plans.

Our Commitments

Tackling Inequality

We are committed to combating poverty and inequality in Angus. We will use our resources purposefully to make Angus a fairer place for everyone to live. This means that we will have to move some of those resources between localities to make sure that we are committing them where they are most needed and will make the biggest difference.

But we will take action in all four of our localities. In Brechtin and Montrose our priorities will be to:

- do everything that we can to lessen the impact which poverty and inequality are having in our communities
- reverse the trend in child poverty, specifically in East Brechtin and South Montrose
- target our efforts to improve the quality of life for people in parts of East Brechtin and South Montrose
- support all of our children and young people to achieve and attain at the highest level they can.



Working Together

In Brechtin and Montrose we will work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for the locality. This will involve:

- putting local people and places at the heart of our planning and delivery, involving individuals and groups in the design, delivery and evaluation of services and initiatives
- leaders in the community and all organisations providing inspiration and clear direction, with a focus on building a strong culture of joint working, based on shared values. They will also assume collective responsibility for delivering the changes and improvements that we all want to see
- working within a set of values which we share. As we develop our work together, we will demonstrate that we
 - actively care about each other and our communities
 - are committed to achieving a fairer and more equitable Brechtin and Montrose
 - are committed to tackling problems and developing solutions together
 - respect each other as equal partners in a joint enterprise

- developing new ways of working that are right for Brechin and Montrose. This will help us to make the biggest possible difference to the people and community. We will be innovative, flexible, smarter and open to taking considered risks. We are committed to learning from experience and will use all of the information available to help us keep developing and improving the services we deliver
- establishing a Locality Implementation Partnership. The members of this partnership will be key leaders from the community and from voluntary, private and public sector organisations. The partnership will be focussed on action and charged with responsibility for ensuring that the actions and commitments set out in this plan are delivered
- holding at least two wider partnership events each year, which will be open to all of the organisations that are active in the area
- working with the Executive Group for Angus Community Planning Partnership which will both oversee and support the work of the Locality Implementation Partnership. This is the group which will be responsible for looking across Angus and helping to ensure that resources are committed where they are most needed.

Localities Empowering
Prevention Communities Democratic Opportunities
Values
Work Together Fairer Actively Care
Respect Engage Equitable



Angus Community Planning Partnership



Brechin And Montrose Locality Implementation Partnership



Resources

Together we will do everything we can to make sure that all of the resources available in Brechin and Montrose are used to help us achieve our ambitions and deliver this plan. In order to do that we will have to:

- develop our understanding of the resources which are available. In addition to the budgets and staff of partner organisations this needs to include an understanding of the many contributions that communities make through:
 - formal and informal volunteering
 - their social, community and work networks
 - the knowledge they have
 - the community resources and facilities they control
- develop a better understanding of how we are using resources now and where our challenges lie if we are to shift them to help us address our shared priorities
- make sure that the actions and ambitions set out in this plan drive activity and the deployment of resources within each of our separate organisations. This will help to ensure that we are fully committing to a locality way of working and to our shared vision and ambition
- invest in our people. By this we mean all of the people who have a contribution to make and not just those who work in public services. We need to recognise the skills, knowledge and experience which people have and allow them the freedom to use these to help us achieve our goals. We also need to provide the learning and support that people need to help them deliver change
- be prepared to share and shift resources. This means thinking about resources in a more collective way as one total “pool of resources” for the locality. If we develop this type of thinking, we will open up new possibilities for using resources differently and targeting them where they will make most difference. This is a major challenge, but one which we want to take on because it is the right thing to do.



Prevention

Together we will do everything we can to shift our resources to where we think they can make the biggest difference in the long term. This means giving greater priority to ensuring that children and young people get the best possible start in life and that – across the range of our work – we take early action when things start to go wrong. This will help us to reduce the amount of time and money we spend responding to problems and situations that could have been avoided if we had acted sooner.

Accountability

Together we are committed to developing the new ways of working, delivering on the actions and achieving the ambitions that are set out in this plan.

We want to be accountable to each other for all of this, and will achieve this by:

- keeping everyone informed of what we are all doing and achieving. We will do this in a variety of ways including online media, the local printed press, and updates to local groups.
- updating on progress at the twice yearly locality events we will hold
- carrying out a yearly “sense check” with members of the community to find out if things are improving for them
- making regular progress reports to the Angus Community Planning Partnership Executive Group and, through it, to the Partnership Board
- publishing our progress reports
- reviewing the plan





Angus Alive
Angus Council
Community
Department of Work & pensions
Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce
Dundee & Angus College
Federation of Small Businesses
Forestry Commission
Integration Joint Board
NHS Tayside
Police Scotland
Private Sector
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Scottish Fire & Rescue
Scottish Natural Heritage
Skills Development Scotland
Sports Scotland
TACTRAN
Third Sector Collaborative
Visit Scotland
Voluntary Action Angus

Charrettes photographs courtesy of Austin Smith: Lord

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