

**Policy Statement on the Role of
Community Councils and Local Area
Partnerships and their relationship with
Community Planning**

December 2010

Community Planning

Since 2003, community planning has been the statutory process for the planning and delivery of public services, including making policy for the long term, and encouraging change and improvement.

The Local Government in Scotland Act, through the duty of community planning, requires the council to invite and encourage community bodies and other public sector bodies within Angus area to participate in community planning. It is particularly important that communities are engaged in the process at a local level as it is here that agencies can come together and work with their communities to address local issues and concerns. Community councils and local area partnerships both operate at this local level.

In order to establish close and constructive relationships with both community councils and local area partnerships their needs to be a mutual respect and a realistic understanding of each others roles. The respective roles of community councils and local area partnerships are outlined below.

Community Councils

Community councils have a statutory role defined in Section 51 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

“to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which these authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable”.

It is essential that these views are demonstrated to be accurately representative of the community and, accordingly, community councils have in place recognised consultative mechanisms to validate their views; and devise strategies to secure greater involvement by all sectors of the community. A community council has a statutory right to be consulted on planning applications. Licensing matters and any other matters may also be jointly agreed between the community councils, local authorities and other public sector and private agencies.

A community council may also carry out other activities that are in the general interests of the communities it represents. Community councils engage in a wide range of activities – their own and other meetings, commenting on public policy, publicity and promotion, dealing with enquiries and surveys of opinions.

There are currently 25 community councils in Angus the majority of which are operational and elections are held every 4 years. Community councils are established according to the Angus Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils.

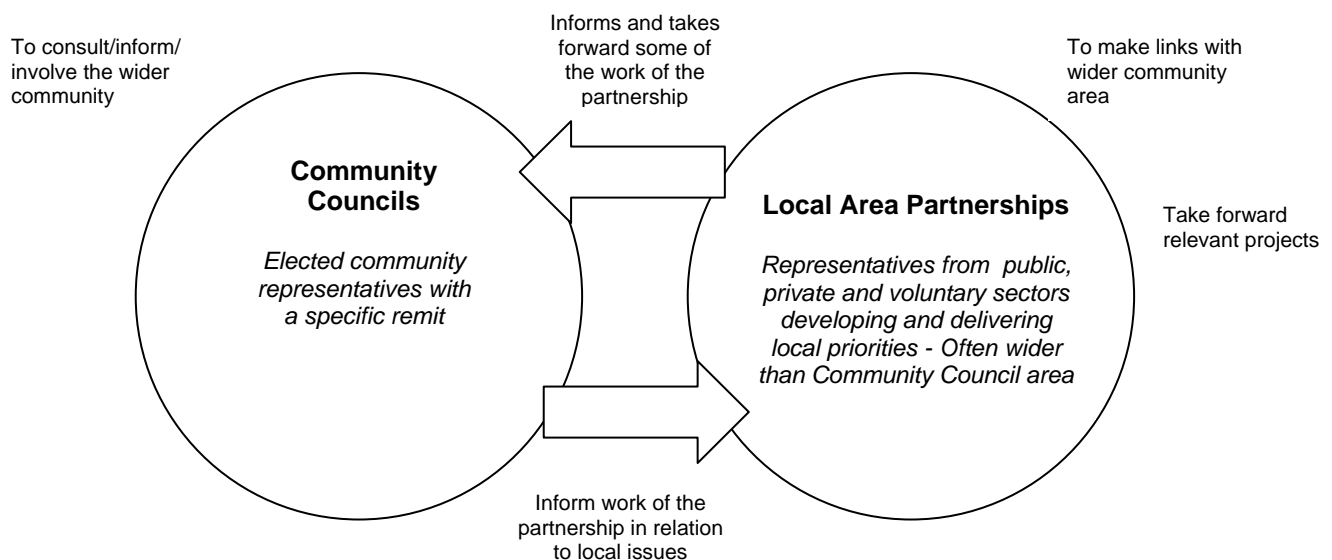
Local Area Partnerships

Local area partnerships are non-statutory partnerships that have developed in Angus over the past decade. They are a vehicle for developing and delivering local priorities bearing in mind that partnership working is an evolving process, and local history and context make a difference. The membership of local partnerships varies, however, in the main, each consist of local community groups, community councils representatives, local businesses/business groups, council officer and elected member representation and other interested individuals.

There are currently six local area partnerships in Angus.

It remains up to local area partnerships themselves to decide how to go about their business.

The diagram below shows the distinct role of each of the bodies as well as showing the links between them.



Both community councils and local area partnerships have a significant leadership role in their areas and partnership working between community councils and local area partnerships can offer many advantages. Through coming together and focusing on a common goal, a shared vision can be formed of what partners want to achieve and how they want to achieve it. Working in partnership also co-ordinates action between organisations which can provide additional momentum to get things done.

The role of Community Councils and Local Area Partnerships in community planning

Community planning in Angus is directed by the Angus Community Planning Partnership.

The council recognizes the valuable contribution that community councils and local area partnerships have made, and continue to make, to the development of the Angus community and provides support to community councils and local area partnerships by:

- providing training
- supporting organisational development
- building community assets and resources
- identifying community needs and aspirations
- ensuring an effective flow of information between partners in relation to local priorities and aspirations and
- encouraging people to work together to achieve important local outcomes

In turn the Council asks that community councils and local area partnerships are actively involved in community planning through:

Local Community Plans

We ask that community councils and local area partnerships support the development of local community plans. There are seven local community plans, one for each ward in Angus, with the exception of Arbroath, whose two wards have been incorporated into one plan. The plans set out the work being undertaken and key developments planned by community planning partners alongside key activities and community aspirations that community organisations are committed to working towards.

Working in partnership

We ask that community councils and local area partnerships work in partnership with local groups to deliver local community planning priorities where local priorities and aspirations have been identified.

Consultation Exercises

We ask that community councils and local area partnerships act as a consultative body for strategic partnership groups. Community councils and local area partnerships can respond to both local and national consultations through The “Have Your Say” section of the Angus Council website. Consultations publicised here include those of community planning partners eg Tayside Police, Cairngorms National Park Association

Involving Communities

We ask that community councils and local area partnerships enable local community involvement in the planning and delivery of public services. As representatives of local communities

community councils and local area partnerships can comment on how services could be improved.

Strengthening Democracy

We ask that community councils and local area partnerships strengthen the system of representative democracy at a local level by supporting the development of structures which will enhance the influence of local people in decision-making which affects their communities. .

Community Councils	Local Area Partnerships
Arbroath Friockheim	Arbroath and Area Partnership
Aberlemno Brechin (non-operational) Inveresk	Brechin Partnership
Carnoustie	Carnoustie Forward
Forfar Inverarity Letham Lunanhead	Forfar and Area Partnership
Kirriemuir Kirriemuir Landward East Kirriemuir Landward West Glamis	
Monifieth Monikie & Newbigging (non-operational) Murroes and Wellbank Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff	Monifieth Landward Partnership
Montrose Hillside, Dun and Logie Pert Ferryden and Craig	Montrose Together
Auchterhouse Newtyle and Eassie	

Strathmartine	
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Tealing	
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