



TO: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

ON: 12 March 2019

REPORT BY: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning

HEADING: Review of Communities and Public Protection

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update to members of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on progress with establishing an integrated and effective Communities and Public Protection Service.
- 1.2. As part of the review of senior management arrangements which took place during 2018, Communities, Housing and Planning Services was formed. This re-structure involved the Public Protection Service moving to Communities, Housing and Planning Services from the former Environment and Communities Service and Community Learning and Development being moved from Children's Services, with the new combined service named Communities and Public Protection.
- 1.3. To maximise efficiencies and ensure that outcomes are delivered appropriately, a review of Communities and Public Protection is currently being undertaken, including a review of management structures, reporting structures, role profiles and work patterns.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board:
 - (i) notes the on-going review of the Communities and Public Protection Service and the scope of the review as set out in Section 4 of this report.

3. Current Service Provision

- 3.1. Communities and Public Protection is made up of the following teams:
 - Environmental Health – Business Regulation
 - Environmental Health – Environmental Improvements
 - Trading Standards and Licensing
 - Community Safety
 - Community Learning and Development
 - Civil Contingencies Service
- 3.2. Within Communities and Public Protection there is responsibility for the following workstreams:
 - Environmental Health including Food Law, workplace health and Safety, infection control, air quality, contaminated land, public health, pest control, private water supplies, private landlord enforcement etc.
 - Trading Standards and Licensing including weights and measures, consumer protection, doorstep crime, scams and frauds, petroleum licensing etc.
 - Community Safety including the Renfrewshire Wardens, Public Space CCTV, anti-social behaviour investigations and mediations, Daily Tasking process, domestic noise complaints, Youth Interventions, Street Stuff etc.
 - Community Learning and Development covers a broad range of work including youth work, community-based adult learning, family learning and community development.
 - Civil Contingencies is a joint service covering Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire Councils. Bringing technical expertise, they implement plans to support Councils to prevent and respond to emergencies including training and testing and business continuity.
- 3.3. As well the workstreams above, Communities and Public Protection also lead on strategic issues for the Council that include tackling Serious and Organised Crime (alongside Police Scotland), Counter Terrorism and programmes such as Team Up to Clean Up and the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund
- 3.4. A significant and growing responsibility of the new service area is to develop and deliver improved approaches that empower communities and support communities to build the capacity of individuals and groups, leading to greater involvement and improvements at a local level.

4. Scope of Service review

- 4.1. Following the move to Communities, Housing and Planning Services, it has been identified that there is an opportunity for changes to be made to the structure of the Communities and Public Protection Service to support greater service efficiency and effectiveness and build capacity and the flexibility of teams within the service to deliver on all strategic and operational outcomes. The review will also seek to establish an adequate governance and management structure across the Service and support and protect frontline service delivery and posts.
- 4.2. The review will look at the overall management structure and ensure there is capacity at all levels to drive the complete agenda on public protection and community learning and development. This will take account of current and future pressures and challenges, including the capacity required to develop communities and to support resilience in relation to civil contingencies and counter terrorism activities. The review will also seek to ensure that the Regulatory agenda is resilient and flexible enough to meet the needs of Brexit and changing demands in relation to Serious Organised Crime, food security, increasing workload in relation to Glasgow Airport and increasing environmental challenges including maintaining air quality and addressing contaminated land as regeneration takes place across Renfrewshire.
- 4.3. The review will aim to increase flexibility and maximise availability of resources when most required. As part of this, role profiles will be reviewed and changed where appropriate to offer staff career opportunities and improved pathways to progress within the organisation and ensure there is a flexible workforce that is available at the times required to support communities. This is particularly important to improve capacity to support events e.g. Halloween, fireworks etc and to achieve effective enforcement activities across town centres and the wider community.
- 4.4. Discussions have now started and will continue with the workforce and trade unions with a view to implementation of the review throughout spring/summer 2019.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Whilst the review will be undertaken using existing resources, there is the potential to make efficiencies as part of the review.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – Discussions are on-going with HR and Trade Unions with regards to the review of Communities and Public Protection.
3. **Community Planning**

Renfrewshire is Safe – The Communities and Public Protection teams are crucial in ensuring that Renfrewshire is safe and this review will enhance availability of resources at key times.

4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – Not applicable

List of Background Papers

None

MC/OR
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