

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 23 September 2015	10:00	CMR 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Councillors M Macmillan and M Holmes; S Black, P MacLeod, S MacDougall, M Crearie, O Reid and D Amos (all Renfrewshire Council); D Leese and F MacKay (both Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); A McNiven, Engage Renfrewshire; E Crighton, NHS; J Downie, Police Scotland; B Davidson, Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce; M Gordon, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service; S Kerr, Scottish Government; P Martin, UWS; and A Cumberland, West College Scotland.

Chair

Councillor M Macmillan.

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/agendas.

For further information, please either email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0141 618 7112.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

1 Minute of Previous Meeting 5 - 10

Minute of previous meeting held on 24 June, 2015.

FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

2 Spotlight on Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board 11 - 30

Report and presentation by O Reid, Lead Officer, Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board and Head of Public Protection, Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council.

3 Welfare Reform 31 - 44

Report by Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council.

4 Tackling Poverty Strategy 45 - 72

Report by Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council.

5 Digital Participation

Presentation by D Webb, Project Manager, Digital Assistance and D Amos, Head of Policy and Commissioning, Chief Executive's Service, Renfrewshire Council.

FOR INFORMATION

- 6 Community Planning Partnership Thematic Board Minutes**
- (a) **Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board** **73 - 78**
Draft Minute of meeting held on 31 August, 2015.
- (b) **Children & Young People Thematic Board** **79 - 84**
Draft Minute of Meeting held on 31 August, 2015.
- (c) **Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities** **85 - 90**
Draft Minute of meeting held on 1 September, 2015.
- (d) **Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board** **91 - 98**
Draft Minute of meeting held on 2 September, 2015.
- (e) **Community Care, Health & Wellbeing Thematic Board** **99 - 104**
Draft Minute of meeting held on 8 September, 2015.
- (f) **Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board** **105 - 110**
Draft Minute of meeting held on 9 September, 2015.



Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 24 June 2015	14:00	CMR 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor M Macmillan and M Holmes; S Black, Chief Executive; P Macleod, Director of Children's Services; S MacDougall, Director of Community Resources; M Crearie, Director of Development & Housing Services; D Amos, Head of Policy & Commissioning and D Hawthorn, Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice (all Renfrewshire Council); A McNiven, Chief Executive (Engage Renfrewshire); D Leese, Chief Officer and F MacKay, Head of Planning & Health Improvement and Lead Officer Community Planning (both Health and Social Care); J Downie, Chief Superintendent (Police Scotland); B Davidson, Chief Executive (Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce); M Gordon (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service); S Kerr, Location Director (Scottish Government); and L Connolly (West College Scotland).

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Macmillan presided

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1(a) **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 2 April, 2015.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

1(b) **MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the Special meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 5 April, 2015.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

2 **YOUNG SCOT CARD**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive outlining proposals to develop the Young Scot National Entitlement Card and a package of associated services in order to engage, inform and empower young people in Renfrewshire. The further development of the Young Scot entitlement card in Renfrewshire was seen as an opportunity to deliver enhanced universal services as well as improve outcomes for targeted groups of young people, including young people disadvantaged by poverty or looked after and accommodated young people.

The card provided access for Renfrewshire's young people aged 11 to 25 to services that offered the potential to provide a proof of age card, transport concessions, discounts, a dedicated young information portal and a reward scheme that incentivised participation. The package of services available also provided a mechanism to target services at young people from specific groups including looked after children and young people from low income families. There was potential to expand services to include free or subsidised travel, free or subsidised leisure services and free experiences and opportunities like work shadowing and driving lessons. The Tackling Poverty action plan included a proposal to allocate one-off resources of £70,000 to the development of Young Scot Services in Renfrewshire. These resources would be utilised to pay for discounts, concessions and other opportunities to improve outcomes for targeted groups of young people as well as develop the processes and infrastructure to enable more young people to sign up for the card and take advantage of the benefits. An initial workshop, involving key council services and facilitated by the Tackling Poverty team and Youth Services, had identified a range of actions to develop, add value and make greater use of the package of services available via Young Scot. It was proposed that a Community Planning Partnership Young Scot Project would be established to progress the actions identified and which formed the draft action plan. A copy of the action plan was attached as an appendix to the report. Discussions had also taken place with University of West of Scotland and West College Scotland to seek their involvement and support, with input from other partners anticipated as the project rolled forward.

Following discussion it was agreed that an invite be extended to Louise McDonald, Chief Executive of Young Scot, to attend a future meeting of the Board to discuss proposals.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed to support the establishment of a CPP Young Scot Project, tasked with development of the Young Scot National Entitlement card and associated services across the Community Planning Partnership;

(b) That the proposal for resources of £70,000, to be made through the Tackling Poverty Action Plan response, to support the development of the Young Scot National Entitlement card and provide targeted services for children and young people from low-income households be noted;

(c) That feedback be provided on the draft proposals and that it be noted that the draft action plan would form the basis on which the Partnership response would be developed; and

(d) That an invite be extended to Louise McDonald, Chief Executive of Young Scot to attend a future meeting of the Board.

3 SPOTLIGHT ON CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE THEMATIC BOARD

The Director of Children's Services presented a 'spotlight' on the activities of the Children & Young People Thematic Board.

Reference was made during the presentation to the Vision of the Board; the Integrated Children's Services Plan and the outcomes and services; the Getting it Right for Every Child Policy, Interventions and assessments and the implications of new legislation; Early Years, evaluation and implementation; Corporate Parenting, the Children's Champions Board and increasing positive destinations for looked after children; Health and Wellbeing and the challenges to be faced; Child Protection, sexual exploitation and the Safer Choices Service; the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People; and future actions.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

4 RENFREWSHIRE SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT - INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Lead Officer Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership relative to the interim report made in respect of the Renfrewshire Single Outcome Agreement.

The report stated that the Community Planning Partnership was committed to ensuring that resources were deployed effectively to deliver Community Plan priorities and achieve best value. An open and rigorous performance culture had been embedded across the Partnership which promoted collective responsibility for outcome achievement. Clear accountability and reporting was key to this approach. The Single Outcome Agreement detailed the agreed outcomes together with the one, three and ten year targets for each impact measure. The report provided an update on the progress made against each of the impact measures which reported an adverse variance of 10% or more in the Year 1 progress report.

The Community Planning Partnership Board had previously agreed amendments to the

Single Outcome Agreement. However, it was noted that some of the thematic boards required to undertake an exercise to develop new targets and/or amend existing targets. On completion of the exercise, the proposed amendments would be presented to the relevant thematic board for approval. Following this the Single Outcome Agreement would be amended by the Community Planning Team and submitted for consideration at the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board to be held on 9 December 2015. In addition it was proposed that in order to bring reporting in line with the financial year, the year three monitoring report would be submitted to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board to be held on 21 September 2016. Following discussion it was agreed that notwithstanding regular review be undertaken of progress achieved in terms of the indicators, particularly those which could be directly influenced/controlled by the activities of the Partnership, and that arrangements be made to submit a review report to the meeting of the Board, to be held on 9 December 2015, for consideration.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the progress made against each of the impact measures, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be noted;
- (b) That it be agreed that, as detailed in Section 3.4 of the report, each thematic board be delegated responsibility for scrutinising the performance of the impact measures, where the year one performance had not been reported to the CPP Board due to the frequency of reporting;
- (c) That it be agreed that regular review be undertaken of progress achieved in terms of the indicators, particularly those which could be directly influenced/controlled by the activities of the Partnership, and that arrangements be made to submit a review report to the meeting of the Board to be held on 9 December 2015 for consideration;
- (d) That in order to bring reporting in line with the financial year, arrangements be made for the year three monitoring report to be submitted to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board to be held on 21 September 2016; and
- (e) That the next steps as detailed in Section 4 of the report be noted.

5 COMMUNITY JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) BILL

There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services relative to the Community Justice Bill, published on 8 May, 2015, which provided the legislative framework for the proposed changes to community justice arrangements in Scotland.

The report advised that rather than creating a new partnership to address the duties arising from the Bill it was proposed that the Community Planning Partnership oversaw the implementation of the duties and responsibilities within the Bill. The planning partners, referred to in the Bill as community justice partners, would be responsible for publishing a community justice outcomes improvement plan. The shadow year would commence on 1 April 2016, and assumption of full responsibility effective from 1 April 2017 when Community Justice Authorities were disestablished. The focus would be on delivering community solutions to the issues of reducing re-offending and offender management.

The Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership, through the community justice

partners, defined as the local authority, NHS boards, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Health & Social Care Integration joint boards, Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service and Scottish Ministers in their role as the Scottish Prison Service, required to ensure that the reducing reoffending agenda was embedded within its arrangements and contributed to the agenda within Renfrewshire. It was proposed that the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board progress this agenda on behalf of the Partnership. The Chief Officers Group would oversee the development of the strategic plan and review performance against outcomes. The report highlighted that the Community Planning Partnership Board would continue with its programme to have a 'spotlight' on each of the Thematic Boards at its future meetings.

The report also intimated that the community justice partners required to submit a transition plan to the Scottish Government during January 2016 detailing how the arrangements would be established locally. A national quality assurance framework for outcomes, performance and improvement was expected imminently while the National Strategy for Community Justice was anticipated in March 2016. In future years the community justice partners would be expected to report against both the national strategy and the performance framework. Transition funding for 3 years, commencing 2015/16, of £50,000 had been made available to local authorities to progress the new model and it was proposed that a fixed term part-time Lead Officer Community Justice post be created with responsibility for the preparation of the multi-agency reports and ensuring timeous reporting to the Scottish Government initially and the new national body Community Justice Scotland from 2017.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill created a duty on the community justice partners to work together to submit a strategic plan, based on the assessed local needs, and detailing how the Partnership would meet nationally and locally determined outcomes;

(b) That it be agreed that local strategic planning and delivery of community justice services be progressed through the Community Planning Partnership's Safer and Stronger Thematic Board; and

(c) That it be noted that (i) the community justice partnership would submit a transition plan to a future meeting of the Community Planning Partnership for approval; (ii) a post of Lead Officer Community Justice had been created on a fixed term basis to support the development of the transition plan; and (iii) a transitions group had been established, as detailed in Section 3.6 of the report, to take forward the new arrangements.

6 CITY OF CULTURE BID

There was submitted a report by the Director of Development & Housing relative to the Paisley UK City of Culture 2021 Bid.

The report made reference to the programme for regeneration of the area undertaken by the Council, through the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal. In addition mention was made of the Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy which highlighted the world class standard of Paisley's built and cultural heritage and provided a framework for investment that would drive the economic and social regeneration of Renfrewshire. The Strategy included within it the ambition to position Paisley to make a successful bid to become UK City of Culture in 2021. The

benefits of a Paisley bid were detailed, together with information relating to the proposed method of resourcing the Bid. The importance of a 'whole town' bid and the need for cross business, community and political support was emphasised. It was proposed that a Partnership Board, supported by an Executive Group, be established to draw together the necessary national and local partners across the civic, political, business, educational and community interests of the town. The members of the Board indicated agreement in principal to involvement in the development of Paisley's bid for UK City of Culture 2021. The bidding timetable for the next round of the UK City of Culture competition had been clarified, and it was noted that a report, a copy of which was attached, would be submitted for consideration at the meeting of the Council to be held 25 June 2015 to seek the approval of the Council to take forward development of the bid.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR THE RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD : SEPTEMBER 2015 TO DECEMBER 2016

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the proposed timetable of meetings for the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board during the period September 2015 to December 2016.

DECIDED: That the timetable of meetings, detailed in the report, for the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board for the period September 2015 to December 2016 be approved.

8 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP THEMATIC BOARD MINUTES

There were submitted and noted the Minutes of meetings of the following Thematic Boards:-

(a) Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities Thematic Board held on 5th May, 2015.

(b) Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board held on 14th May, 2015.

(c) Community Care, Health & Wellbeing Thematic Board held on 20th May, 2015.

(d) Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board held on 3rd June, 2015.

The Clerk intimated that the Minute of the meetings of the Children & Young People Thematic Board held on 11th June, 2015 and the Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board held on 16th June, 2015 were not currently available but would be circulated to members of the Community Planning Partnership Board as soon as possible.

DECIDED: That the Minutes of meetings of the Thematic Boards be noted.



To: **Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board**

On: **23 September 2015**

Report by:
Oliver Reid, Lead Officer, Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 28 May 2014, the Community Planning Partnership Board agreed to have a spotlight feature on each of the Thematic Boards to monitor progress at a strategic level. This report provides an overview of progress against the Greener Theme. Appendix 1 gives detailed information against Single Outcome Agreement targets and supporting indicators and a presentation at the Board will provide additional information on the key projects and work that has been undertaken over the past 2 years.
- 1.2 The Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board has responsibility for co-ordinating and driving multi-agency activity to ensure that we achieve our long term vision that: 'Renfrewshire will be a clean and attractive location, providing a healthy, inviting and pleasant environment in which to live, work and do business through the promotion of sustainable patterns of travel and development, the efficient management of energy and the treatment of waste as a valuable resource.'
- 1.3 The priority outcomes agreed in the Renfrewshire Community Plan 2013-2023 to achieve a Greener Renfrewshire are:
 - Government carbon reduction targets will be achieved and emissions from transport, fuel and waste will be minimised.
 - Residents of Renfrewshire will live in homes which are well insulated and efficient.
 - The number of households in Renfrewshire living in fuel poverty will be reduced.
 - The generation of waste will be minimised and all waste produced within Renfrewshire will be subject to reuse, recycling and treatment before landfill of any residue.
 - Sustainable growth will be delivered by directing development to locations which create sustainable communities and high quality places.



- Transport activities will be coordinated across Renfrewshire by public and private sector partners to reduce fuel use, reduce carbon impacts and improve air quality.
- Our town centres will be well maintained, clean and attractive to support trade and increase inward investment.

1.4 The Greener Renfrewshire element of the Single Outcome Agreement clearly sets out the agreed outcomes of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board, together with the one, three and ten year targets for each of the impact measures. Progress against targets was considered earlier this year by the Thematic Board, detailing the progress on the SOA. This report refined the detail of supporting indicators being used to enable more effective monitoring of the progress of high level impact measures. A summary of this report can be found at Appendix 1 of this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of this report and the progress being achieved on the priority outcomes of the Greener Renfrewshire element of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.

3. Background

3.1 Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is committed to ensuring that our resources are deployed wisely to achieve best value. An open and rigorous performance culture has been embedded across the partnership and promotes our collective responsibility for achieving our outcomes. Clear accountability and reporting is an important aspect of our approach.

3.2 The Renfrewshire Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023 was approved by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board on 12 June 2013 and was subsequently 'signed off' by the Minister for Local Government and Planning in August 2013.

3.3 Following this, the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board was established with responsibility for co-ordinating and driving multi-agency activity to ensure that we achieve our long term vision that: 'Renfrewshire will be a clean and attractive location, providing a healthy, inviting and pleasant environment in which to live, work and do business through the promotion of sustainable patterns of travel and development, the efficient management of energy and the treatment of waste as a valuable resource.'

3.4 The Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board has now met on 13 occasions with the meetings being hosted at a variety of venues across the Community Planning Partnership including Barnbrock Farm in Clyde Muirshiel Park, Engage Renfrewshire,



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Keep Scotland Beautiful HQ, Linstone Housing Association, Glasgow Airport, St Mirren Football Club and the University of the West of Scotland.

- 3.5 The Greener Renfrewshire element of the Single Outcome Agreement clearly sets out the agreed outcomes together with the one, three and ten year targets for each impact measure.
- 3.6 In 2013, when the Community Plan was agreed, there was limited awareness of the full range of activities and outcomes that might be achieved through the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board. Significant progress has been made in developing a wider range of outcome measures and in better understanding the Greener agenda. The interim progress report, which was submitted to the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board in June 2015, contained a range of proposed headline measures and supporting indicators which provide more comprehensive information on the work which is ongoing to help deliver key impact measures agreed within the plan. A summary of this report, including progress against these outcomes and supporting indicators has been included as Appendix 1 of this report
- 3.7 The priority outcomes agreed in the Greener Renfrewshire element of the Single Outcome Agreement were: carbon reduction; housing stock improvements; waste reduction; and sustainable use of land. To ensure the high level impact measures for each of these priority outcomes are achieved, four sub-groups to the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board were set up: Greener Transport; Greener Communities; Greener Housing; and Carbon Management and Waste Reduction. The sub groups are led by relevant partners and supported by key officers and each group has an agreed action plan to ensure progress is achieved.

4. Sub Group Activities

4.1 Greener Transport

The Greener Transport sub group is led by Ross Nimmo (Glasgow Airport) and supported by John Binning (SPTE) and Scott Allan (Renfrewshire Council). Partners involved in the sub-group have agreed to work towards infrastructure improvements which provide realistic and affordable alternatives to car use. These include the introduction of alternative fuel vehicles, new walking and cycling routes, new bus routes and an alternative transport route to Glasgow Airport. The high impact measures from the Single Outcome Agreement which fall under the remit of the Greener Transport sub group are:



High Level Impact Measure	Current Status
5% of the vehicle fleet which uses alternative fuels, such as electricity	
Reduce the amount of CO ² emitted by the public vehicle fleet	
No air quality management areas within Renfrewshire	
Reduce the % of car journeys to school	

- 4.1.1 Detailed progress against these indicators is included in Appendix 1 and further information on the projects being taken forward will be included in the presentation at the Community Planning Partnership meeting.

4.2 Greener Communities

The Greener Communities sub-group is led by John Wilby (Forum for Empowering Communities) and supported by Iain Cunningham (Engage Renfrewshire). Its main aim is to work with partners and community groups to develop and manage sustainable and vibrant local communities. Where appropriate, this includes promoting asset transfer by lease or sale to viable community organisations and looking at local projects to grow, reuse and use food and other materials sourced locally with communities. Over the next year, significant effort will be given to promoting and developing the Stalled Spaces initiative and building and developing community engagement across Renfrewshire. The high impact measures from the Single Outcome Agreement which fall under the remit of the Greener Communities sub group are:



High Level Impact Measure	Current Status
Reduction on the number of urban vacant and derelict land sites	
The quality, quantity and diversity of the Renfrewshire Green Network	

- 4.2.1 Detailed progress against these indicators is included in Appendix 1 and further information on the projects being taken forward will be included in the presentation at the Community Planning Partnership meeting.



4.3 Greener Housing

The Greener Housing sub-group is led by Adele Fraser (Linstone Housing Association) and supported by Louise Feely (Renfrewshire Council). The group's main objective is to make homes as energy efficient and as well insulated as possible by delivering programmes like the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. Partners are working together to promote and support energy efficiency and renewable technologies to combat fuel poverty. The high impact measures from the Single Outcome Agreement which fall under the remit of the Greener Housing sub group are:

High Level Impact Measure	Current Status
The percentage of households in Renfrewshire which are experiencing fuel poverty is 5% below than the Scottish average	
% of social housing properties in Renfrewshire which meet the National Home Energy Ratings target	Data awaited for these indicators
Increase in the percentage of social housing that meets the Home Energy Efficiency Standard by 2020.	
% of social housing properties in Renfrewshire which meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard	 (Taking abeyances and exemptions into account)

- 4.3.1 Detailed progress against these indicators is included in Appendix 1 and further information on the projects being taken forward will be included in the presentation at the Community Planning Partnership meeting, which will include playing a video developed by this sub group with the assistance of students from the University of the West of Scotland.

4.4 Carbon Management and Waste Reduction

The Carbon Management and Waste Reduction group is led by Craig Thorpe (Renfrewshire Council) and supported by Karen Anderson (Renfrewshire Council). The sub-group contributes to the delivery of Scotland's Zero Waste Plan and works with partners to meet the challenging waste minimisation, recycling and diversion targets. Partners work towards reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by promoting good quality sustainable development, and improving the efficiency of our public space lighting. The high impact measures from the Single Outcome Agreement which fall under the remit of the Carbon Management and Waste Reduction sub group are:



High Level Impact Measure	Current Status
Reduce the amount of CO ² emissions (tonnes) from public buildings	✓
Reduce CO ² per capita	✓
Reduce the amount of CO ² emitted from public space lighting	⚠
% of all waste collected which is landfilled	✓
% of household waste sent to landfill without prior treatment	✓
% of household waste recycled	✗

- 4.4.1 Detailed progress against these indicators is included in Appendix 1 and further information on the projects being taken forward will be included in the presentation at the Community Planning Partnership meeting.

5. Resources

- 5.1 A number of the high impact measures involve reducing resources such as energy and waste, which will help realise financial savings across the Community Planning Partnership.

6. Prevention

- 6.1 The priority outcomes of the Greener Renfrewshire element of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement ensure resources are targeted to prevent an increase in CO₂ emission, prevent an increase in fuel poverty and deliver an improved environment.

7. Community Involvement/Engagement

- 7.1 There is strong representation from Community Planning Partners at the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board and the four associated sub groups.

Author: Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council Tel 0141 618 7352




Email: oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk



Appendix 1

Progress against targets for Greener Renfrewshire element of the Single Outcome Agreement including supporting indicators

1. Greener Communities

Urban Vacant and Derelict Land Sites					
Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Reduction on the number of urban vacant and derelict land sites.		171	169	164	163
Supporting data					
Reduction on the level of urban vacant and derelict land. (Hectares)		239	235	227	219
Number of sites identified for community ownership		n/a	2	5	5
Number of projects identified to take advantage of the Stalled Spaces programme	New from 2015/16				7
Amount of funding allocated for Stalled Spaces projects	New from 2015/16				£10,000
Progress update					
<p>Community Resources have received £10,000 funding from Architecture & Design Scotland for the Stalled Spaces programme (a further £10,000 in match funding will be provided by the Council). The programme aims to target un-used or under-used spaces, particularly in urban areas. The aim is to fund 7 - 10 projects, where it is anticipated that the majority of projects funded will be in the region of £2,000 with some larger projects funded up to £5,000. The fund opened in April 2015 and each round of applications will be judged at each meeting of the Greener Thematic Board.</p> <p>Two Stalled Spaces community engagement events were held during May 2015 at the offices of Engage Renfrewshire. Representatives from Architecture & Design Scotland attended these events together with community group members for existing Stalled Spaces projects across the country. A presentation was delivered by officers from Glasgow City Council where the programme has been running for a number of years. Targeted invitations were issued to members of Engage Renfrewshire, environmental community groups, the Growing Grounds forum, education establishments (UWS and West College Scotland) as well as theatre groups (PACE, Starlight, etc). To date, five applications from community groups have been received with funding of £9,411 approved. Discussions are ongoing regarding a further five applications.</p>					



Renfrewshire Green Network					
Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
The quality, quantity and diversity of the Renfrewshire Green Network	✓	100	n/a	n/a	110
Supporting data					
Number of projects identified to enhance Renfrewshire's Green Network	✓	12	12	10	10
The number of projects delivered to enhance Renfrewshire's Green Network	✓	12	10	8	10
% of Renfrewshire residents satisfied with local greenspaces	✓	66%	71% (2013/14)	tbc	tbc
Progress update					
<p>The quality, quantity and diversity of the Renfrewshire Green Network was measured through a Green Network Indicator Report carried out at the end of 2013 by the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership – this exercise will be repeated late 2016/early 2017. Over the last 5 years a total of 62 projects have been delivered across Renfrewshire to enhance Renfrewshire's Green Network.</p> <p>Some of the projects completed during 2014/15 include the Grand Fountain Restoration project; Phase 4 of the Linwood Lade Project; and Saucelhill Park lighting NCN route. A detailed report on the Local Green Network projects will be submitted to the next meeting of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board.</p> <p>The Scottish Household Survey measures the satisfaction level of residents with local greenspaces – Renfrewshire has achieved an increase in satisfaction levels of 5% in the most recently published data.</p>					









Developing Community Engagement					
Supporting indicators	Status	Baseline data (2013/14)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
'Pride in Renfrewshire'- number of residents who have signed the Greener Pledge		n/a	100	100	500
Supporting Young Reporters for the Environment		n/a	n/a	Gather interest	All secondary schools participating
Conducting audit of community groups		n/a	n/a	n/a	Completion during 2015
Progress update					
<p>Residents have been asked to make a Greener Pledge at various Your Community events including the Community Resources Showcase held in October 2014. The representatives from the Greener Communities sub-group will publicise the pledge to their members and representatives to ensure the target of 500 is achieved. An email newsletter is being developed and will be issued in line with Local Area Committee meeting cycles.</p> <p>Several secondary schools in Renfrewshire have signed up to the Young Reporters for the Environment programme. Discussions have been held with Keep Scotland Beautiful and West College Scotland have agreed to be involved.</p> <p>The Audit of Community Groups is underway with the purpose of gathering information on core Greener community groups, their current activity and future plans for Greener developments. The information gathered will be presented to the board once complete.</p>					



2. Greener Transport

Greener Transport Performance Scorecard

Percentage of Vehicle Fleet which uses Alternative Fuels					
Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2013/14)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
% of the vehicle fleet which uses alternative fuels, such as electricity		0.8% (2011/12)	3.6%	2.25%	2.5%
Supporting data					
Number of electric vehicles in Renfrewshire Council vehicle fleet		5	15	15	22
Number of electric vehicle charging points in place across Renfrewshire (Council/CPP)		n/a	18	n/a	26
Number of privately installed electric vehicle charging points across Renfrewshire		n/a	57	n/a	60
Number of vehicle charges carried out at Renfrewshire CPP electric vehicle charging points		1,158	1,332	n/a	1,900
Kw of electricity used at Renfrewshire CPP electric vehicle charging points		8,939	11,100	n/a	16,000
Progress update					
<p>In 2013/14 the % of the vehicle fleet using alternative fuels, such as electricity failed to meet the target set. During 2014/15, a further 12 electric vehicles were purchased as part of the overall vehicle replacement programme, bringing the total number of electric vehicles to 15, exceeding the target of 2.25%. The purchase of further electric vehicles is planned throughout 2015/16 and this will result in electric vehicles making up more than 5% of the vehicle fleet, exceeding the 10 year target set.</p> <p>As well as the increase in the number of electric vehicles in the fleet, there are currently 18 electric vehicle charging points in place across Renfrewshire, which have been installed through the Community Planning Partnership. A further 8 charging points are planned during 2015/16, bringing the total to 26. A consultation which has been held with local business and employers has revealed that there are 57 privately installed electric vehicle charging points for use by employees and visitors with 15 of these available for public use.</p> <p>A new Transport Scotland electric vehicles initiative will continue during 2015/16. The project offers free, evidence based analysis of public sector fleets to identify new opportunities for the cost effective deployment of electric vehicles. We have approached Transport Scotland regarding the availability of any further funding streams for the purchase of further vehicles or installations of charging points and await their response.</p>					



CO2 Emissions from the Public Vehicle fleet

Headline measure	Status	Baseline data (2013/14)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Amount of CO ² emitted by the public vehicle fleet		3,523	3,570	3,450	3,170

Supporting data

Total CO ² emissions from Renfrewshire Council staff business mileage		516	527	n/a	n/a
--	--	-----	-----	-----	-----

Progress update

The CO2 emissions from Renfrewshire Council's fleet are calculated based on fuel usage. Additional driver training has been provided and rev limiters installed to promote more efficient driving. These measures, together with the introduction of electric vehicles to the council fleet should enable the achievement of the long term targets. Around 7% of all diesel used by Renfrewshire Council fleet is bio-diesel which also helps reduce emissions.

Air Quality Management Areas within Renfrewshire

Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Number of air quality management areas within Renfrewshire		1	1	1	1

Supporting data

% of air quality monitoring sites which exceed nitrogen dioxide limits		New from 2015/16			22%
Air quality – nitrogen dioxide value of sites exceeding limits		New from 2015/16			46

Progress update

New indicators have been created for 2015/16 to measure the nitrogen dioxide levels at the air quality measuring sites across Renfrewshire. There is a network of passive diffusion tubes across Renfrewshire which, on a monthly basis, are refreshed with the exposed tubes being taken to Glasgow Scientific Services for analysis. The analytical data is collated and on an annual basis the information is ratified by specialist advisors to the Scottish Government. The targets which have been set for 2015/16 for these new indicators reflect what are acceptable levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

The environmental improvements team has finalised the Local Air Quality Management progress report for 2014. Further detailed investigation of Renfrew and Johnstone Town Centres, as well as some residential areas that bound the M8 motorway is required. Work is currently underway with specialist advisers to undertake the required work. The next step will be to carry out modelling work to assist in identifying measures to continue to improve air quality in town centres.

Work is ongoing to change the sequencing of the traffic lights on the one way system in Paisley town centre to improve the traffic flow and reduce the number of stationary vehicles, therefore reducing emissions.

We have been successful in obtaining government funding of £35,000 for use in our work to improve air quality within Renfrewshire. £10,000 of this is to be used for monitoring equipment and meetings are underway to decide on a project which can be funded by the remainder of the grant, which will have an impact on air quality in Renfrewshire.



Reduction in the Number of Car Journeys to School

Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
% Reduction in car journeys to school		22%	20.5%	19.6%	18.4%

Supporting data

Number of Renfrewshire schools participating in the Bikeability cycle training scheme		n/a	22	tbc	60
Km of new cycle route created in Renfrewshire		n/a	tbc	tbc	1.5

Progress update

The percentage of children who travelled to Renfrewshire's Primary and Secondary schools by car in 2014 was 20.5% which is slightly less than the previous year, with almost 60% of children either walking or cycling. This data is taken from the annual Sustrans National Hands-up Survey which takes place in September of each year. We also encourage walk to school weeks and other individual schemes in schools which fit into health and eco schools projects.

We co-ordinate the Bikeability cycle training scheme and in the last year 22 schools participated in this scheme which, it is hoped, will encourage more children to cycle to school. The target is to ensure all 49 primary and 11 secondary schools across Renfrewshire participate in the scheme.

Plans are in place for the creation of a new cycle route between Renfrew and Inchinnan as part of the City Deal project.

Increased use of Public Transport

Supporting data	Status	Baseline data (2013/14)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Bus route enhancements – number of bus boarders installed across Renfrewshire		11	17	n/a	tbc
WORKBUS Scheme – number of employment sites identified to pilot the scheme		3	3	n/a	5
Generate a 20% reduction in car travel by year 10 at specifically identified major employment locations		n/a	tbc	n/a	5% reduction

Progress update

At the end of 2014/15 a total of 17 bus boarders were in place across Renfrewshire. Priority has been given to the major routes: Glasgow/Linwood and Glasgow/Renfrew. A further 4 bus boarders are planned for Erskine during 2015/16. These are funded through the SPT grant for public transport infrastructure.




The group are identifying the top 10 journey generating employers and developing a co-ordinated suite of green travel plans and pilot WORKBUS schemes to deliver a 5% reduction in car travel by year 3 and 20% reduction by year 10.

Plans to identify the top five journey generating employment sites, collect staff travel to work data and use it together with existing data to evaluate the potential for a pilot WORKBUS scheme.

Leap Car Club is the first community car club in Renfrewshire which gives you a car just when you need it. It is a not for profit car club providing fuel efficient cars in Lochwinnoch and Bridge of Weir, including local charging points in Lochwinnoch.




3. Greener Housing


Fuel Poverty					
Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
The percentage of households in Renfrewshire which are experiencing fuel poverty is 5% below the Scottish average		29%	This is the most up to date data and a target of 5% below the national average has been agreed		
Supporting data					
Number of visits undertaken to Renfrewshire residents to provide domestic energy advice		n/a	336	tbc	tbc
Value of financial savings on fuel costs achieved for Renfrewshire residents		n/a	£87,858	tbc	tbc
Progress update					
<p>The data relating to fuel poverty is extracted from the Scottish House Condition Survey which is published by the Scottish Government on an annual basis. Renfrewshire Council aims to achieve a score of 5% below the national average. In 2012/13 the Scottish national average showed that 36% of households were experiencing fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Connect 4 Renfrewshire Project - led by FLAIR, RAMH, Credit Unions and Renfrewshire Council - offers tenants and factored owners, access to advice and information, from a range of services including help with energy advice, furniture, budgeting and support.</p> <p>The LEAP project which covers the communities of Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Bridge of Weir has completed more than 600 Home Energy Checks in local homes including more than 200 draught and thermal imaging tests. This resulted in energy efficiency measures being installed in almost 250 homes (including loft, wall or floor insulation, draft-proofing, double glazing) and green energy measures being installed in 19 homes (photovoltaic panels, solar thermal panels, air or ground source heat pumps, wood fuelled heating systems etc.)</p>					



Properties Meeting the National Home Energy Ratings Target

Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2013/14	2013/14	Next Target
			Value	Target	
% of social housing properties in Renfrewshire which meet the National Home Energy Ratings target		tbc	88.6%	tbc	100%

Supporting data

Percentage of Renfrewshire Council properties at or above the appropriate NHER (National Home Energy Rating) or SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) ratings specified in element 35 of the SHQS, as at 31 March each year.		tbc	85.1%	tbc	100%
--	---	-----	-------	-----	------

Progress update

Progress to 31 March 2014:
 Renfrewshire Council: 85.1%
 Linstone HA: 94.5%
 Williamsburgh HA: 100%
 Bridgewater HA: 99.3%
 Paisley South HA: 93.7%
 Ferguslie Park HA: 91.9%


It is expected that Renfrewshire Council will achieve full compliance for the stock by 2015 except within the following key circumstances:

- (i) Where it is not technically feasible to carry out the work
- (ii) Where it has not been possible to achieve the necessary level of owner support.
- (iii) Where access has been refused by the tenant.


The Scottish Government has recognised these areas within a structure of exemptions and abeyances. In categories (ii) for example the Council would be expected to attempt to coordinate work should there be future changes of ownership, whilst in category (iii) the work could be carried out during the next void period.

The data for 2014/15 will be available later in the year.

Social Housing which meets the Home Energy Efficiency Standard

Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data	2014/15	2013/14	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Increase in the percentage of social housing that meets the Home Energy Efficiency Standard by 2020.		Not yet available	tbc	70.8%	tbc

Supporting data

Number of properties in which energy efficiency measures were delivered through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes		n/a	1,013	1,037	1,413
---	---	-----	-------	-------	-------

Progress update

Funding of £2,056,339 was awarded for qualifying projects within the Renfrewshire Council area for 2014/2015 under the HEEPS:ABS programme targeting 1,037 properties across Renfrewshire Council, Linstone Housing Association, Bridgewater Housing Association and Williamsburgh Housing Association to have efficiency measures delivered. The current projected completion number for the 2014/2015 programme is 1,013 although there may be some final variations as the funding from



the Scottish Government allows committed work to carry forward into 2015/16 as long as its spent by 30 September. For 2015/16, funding of £3,920,725 has been awarded to support owner participation in council and partner projects within the Renfrewshire area. This will enable energy efficiency measures to be delivered in 1,413 homes.

We are awaiting guidance from the Scottish Government on the statutory reporting framework for EESSH (Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing). This reporting will commence in 2016.

A new standard is currently under consultation by the Scottish Government – REEPS (Regulation of Energy Efficiency in the Private Sector). Once this process is implemented a target will be set to ensure all houses sold in Scotland meet level C.

Scottish Housing Quality Standard					
Headline indicator	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
% of social housing properties in Renfrewshire which meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard	✓	30.02%	87.3%	100%	100%
Supporting data	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
% of Renfrewshire Council housing stock which meets the Scottish Housing Standard	✓	32.3%	84.5%	100%	100%
Progress update					
<p>Taking abeyances and exemptions into account, the Council was 100% compliant with SHQS by the end of March 2015. (84.5% achieved SHQS, 15.5% in abeyance).</p> <p>Over 10,000 homes have received new kitchens, bathrooms and rewiring. Over 6,500 homes have had new heating systems installed. Almost 3,500 tenants have benefitted from external work such as new roofs, rendering, guttering, downpipes, over-cladding and door entry systems.</p> <p>1,000 owners in common blocks have also benefitted by sharing the cost of major improvements in buildings and blocks of flats where properties are owned by both the council and individual owners</p> <p>Progress for all social housing across Renfrewshire to 31 March 2015:</p> <p>Renfrewshire Council: 84.5%</p> <p>Linstone HA: 74.5%</p> <p>Williamsburgh HA: 100%</p> <p>Bridgewater HA: 97.3%</p> <p>Paisley South HA: 99.8%</p> <p>Ferguslie Park HA: 98.9%</p>					







4. Carbon Management and Waste Reduction

CO2 Emissions from Public Buildings					
Headline measure	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Total CO ² emissions (tonnes) from public buildings	✓	29,114	25,480	28,247	26,566
Supporting data					
CO ² emissions (tonnes) from public buildings caused by electricity usage	✓	12,505	11,663	12,428	12,286
CO ² emissions (tonnes) from public buildings caused by gas usage	✓	14,479	12,251	14,026	13,431
CO ² emissions (tonnes) from public buildings caused by water usage	⚠	395	431	393	352
CO ² emissions (tonnes) from public buildings caused by oil usage	✓	1,735	1,135	1,401	498
Progress update					
<p>A refreshed Carbon Management Plan for 2014-2020 was approved at the Planning and Property Policy Board in November 2014. The baseline data of 25,336 tonnes which was originally published in the Community Plan for 2012/13 was recalculated as part of this process, resulting in a revised baseline figure of 29,114 tonnes of CO₂ emissions from public buildings in 2012/13.</p> <p>An energy saving voltage optimisation programme was completed during 2014/15 in the premises listed below which realised CO₂ reductions of more than 61,000kg and total annual financial savings of more than £35,600.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castlehead High School • Gryffe High School • Johnstone High School • Trinity High School • Renfrew High School • Park Mains High School • St James' Primary School • Johnstone town Hall • Hunterhill Care Home • Montrose Care Home • Renfrew Care Home • Weavers Linn Respite Unit <p>During 2015/16 works are planned to install photovoltaic panels in the following premises which are anticipated to realise CO₂ reduction of more than 84,600 kg and total annual financial savings of more than £43,400.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houston Primary School • St Fillan's Primary School • Ralston Primary School • East Fulton Primary School • Heriot Primary School • Lochwinnoch Primary School • St Charles' Primary School • St Mary's Primary School • St Peter's Primary School • West Primary School • Williamsburgh Primary School 					



CO ² per capita					
Headline measure	Status	Baseline data (2012/13)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Reduce CO ² per capita	✓	10.94 (1990 Scottish average)	7.1 (2013 data)	7.26 (2013 data)	7.1
Supporting data					
% Reduction in overall CO ² emissions for Renfrewshire Council (CMP 2014-2020)	✓	n/a	14.1%	2.3%	6%
Total CO ² emissions for Renfrewshire Council (tonnes) (CMP 2014-2020)	✓	53,514	45,975	52,300	50,277
Progress update					
<p>The target for this indicator is based on a 42% reduction on the baseline figure of 10.94 tonnes of CO₂ per capita which is based on the Scottish national average of 55.6 Mt CO₂e from 1990 data (report can be found here: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/06/5527/downloads#res452106). Population figure used for calculation is the mid year estimate for 1990 which is 5,081,270 (National Records Scotland)</p> <p>Renfrewshire's CO₂ emissions per capita for 2013 was 7.1 tonnes compared to the Scottish average of 6.6 tonnes. Over the past few years Renfrewshire has been consistently higher than the Scottish average but has followed the same trend. This data was published by the Scottish Government in June 2015.</p> <p>The nature of emission inventories is such that improvements to data collection or estimation techniques will inevitably lead to some revisions of historical data. Therefore, it is not appropriate to use data from previous reports and compare them with the figures in this report, without taking account of any changes to either the emission estimation methodology or the source data.</p> <p>The data is published annually on the Scottish Government's website on their Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions report.</p>					



CO2 Emissions from Public Space Lighting					
Headline measure	Status	Baseline data (2013/14)	2014/15	2014/15	Next Target
			Value	Target	
Reduce the amount of CO ² emitted from public space lighting.		7,460 (2011/12)	7,778	6,980	6,720
Supporting data					
Total number of public street lighting columns in Renfrewshire		30,915	30,882	n/a	n/a
Number of public street lighting columns in Renfrewshire which are LED		97	97	n/a	2,000
% of street lighting columns in Renfrewshire which are LED		0.3%	0.3%	n/a	5%
Progress update					
<p>The increase in the CO² emissions from the baseline of 7,460 tonnes in 2011/12 to 7,778 tonnes in 2014/15 can be explained by a number of new housing developments across the authority. From the end of 2014, all planning approvals for new housing developments make it compulsory for developers to install low consumption energy lamps.</p> <p>Renfrewshire Council's street lighting improvement strategy for the replacement of existing street lanterns with LEDs was approved by Renfrewshire Council in June 2015. This strategy will improve the quality of light and reduce energy and maintenance costs and involves the establishment of a capital investment programme, estimated at £11m to fund delivery of the strategy by the end of financial year 2016/17.</p>					



Waste Reduction					
Headline measure	Status	Baseline data (2012)	2014	2014	Next Target
			Value	Target	
% of all waste collected which is landfilled		56.1%	31.5%	36%	36%
% of household waste sent to landfill without prior treatment		47.3%	11.5%	36%	36%
% of household waste recycled		40.9%	46.6%	52%	52%
Supporting data					
Tonnage of household residual waste collected (grey bin)		41,141	33,798	n/a	tbc
Tonnage of biodegradable household waste which is landfilled		29,127	16,043	n/a	tbc
Tonnes of household waste sent to landfill without prior treatment		38,967	9,335	n/a	tbc
Tonnage of household waste collected by Renfrewshire Council which is ultimately landfilled		46,234	25,465	n/a	tbc
Tonnage of food waste collected across Renfrewshire		0	2,995	n/a	tbc
Tonnage of household waste which is sent to Energy from Waste		4,293	24,556	n/a	tbc
Tonnage of household mixed recyclate which was ultimately recycled		8,999	14,621	n/a	tbc
Tonnage of all waste collected in Renfrewshire which was composted		9,342	9,765	n/a	tbc
Progress update					
<p>Progress has been made on reducing the percentage of all waste collected which is landfilled with a significant reduction in 2014 to 31.5%, achieving the interim target set of 36%. It is anticipated that, with the implementation of the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Solution initiative by December 2019, the 10 year target will be achieved.</p> <p>The % of household waste which has been recycled has improved from the baseline data, although it should be noted that we have limited control over the national targets which have been set. The nature of our council area, our housing stock and the demographics of Renfrewshire are contributing factors in the achievement of these challenging targets. (It should be noted that SEPA now report on calendar year data which is reflected in the LGBF data publication).</p> <p>The supporting data for this waste reduction impact measure shows an ongoing reduction in the amount of waste collected, together with significant reductions in the amount of waste ultimately landfilled. During 2014 there was a significant increase in the amount of household waste diverted from landfill which was sent to Energy from Waste – this element of diversion from landfill will be incorporated in new contractual negotiations.</p>					



To: **Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board**

On: **23 September 2015**

Report by:

Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council: Welfare Reform

1. Summary

The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with an update on the the key welfare reform changes announced in the July 2015 Budget as reported to Renfrewshire Council's Leadership Board on 16 September 2015 (Appendix 1) and proposes opportunities for Community Planning Partnership involvement and action.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that...

- a) Note the Welfare Reform changes and consider potential impacts on partner services
- b) Note that a welfare reform work stream will be established within the Tackling Poverty Programme and that a corporate and partnership response is developed in a similar manner to the previous welfare reform project
- c) Approve a co-ordination role for the Community Planning Partnership in relation to Welfare Reform, and consider preferred engagement and partnership working arrangements
- d) Request that the Community Planning Partnership Board receive regular progress updates on Welfare Reform as further detail and guidance emerges

3. Background

The UK Government announced a number of changes to welfare and personal taxation at the July 2015 budget. The underlying policy intent is to reduce overall welfare spending and encourage people into work. The attached report summarises the key reforms and provides an initial assessment of the impact on households in Renfrewshire.



4. Resources

The exact level and scale of the associated work programme that will emerge will become increasingly evident as the details of the measures and how they will be implemented is better understood. The CPP Board will wish to consider how to best use existing welfare reform resources to ensure appropriate resources are deployed to achieve the desired outcomes in line with the anticipated pace of change. Any requirements for additional resources in future years to support this programme of work will require to be kept under careful review by partner organisations.

5. Prevention

By preparing an effective response to the introduction of the new welfare reform measures the CPP will be better able to mitigate the impact on individuals, families and the wider community as well as consider the strategies required to safeguard service provision across Renfrewshire.

6. Community Involvement/Engagement

As with previous welfare reform measures, any one of the Welfare Reform changes would demand an effective response however with such wide ranging changes being introduced there are significant implications for a range of Council services, and subsequent impacts upon Community Planning Partner services and customers. Renfrewshire Council has committed to undertaking proactive and coordinated steps to plan for the changes in order to manage and mitigate the impacts, and there are benefits to be gained from a strategic public and voluntary sector approach to Welfare Reform in Renfrewshire.

7. Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Response

It is proposed that the Community Planning Partnership Board consider the following key issues:

- **Impacts on Community Planning Partnership** – the potential challenges and service pressures for individual partner services and the impact or risk for the Community Planning Partnership in achieving the Community Plan vision and outcome targets, particularly in relation to tackling poverty outcomes
- **The Community Planning Partnership response as part of the Tackling Poverty programme** – the benefits from a strategic partnership response to welfare reform in Renfrewshire, delivering shared data and planning, co-ordinated communications and training, and, effective service responses
- **Develop opportunities for joint working and new initiatives** – staff awareness and training, communications planning, and new initiative development offer opportunities for the partnership to achieve consistent, effective and efficient service responses.



To: Leadership Board

On: 16 September 2015

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: UK Government Budget 2015 – Welfare Reform

1. Summary

1.1 The UK Government announced a number of changes to welfare and personal taxation at the July 2015 budget. The underlying policy intent is to reduce overall welfare spending and encourage people into work. This report summarises the key reforms and provides an initial assessment of the impact on households in Renfrewshire.

1.2 The measures will result in a range of changes to welfare benefits being introduced from April 2016 and 2017 that will have an impact through until 2020 and beyond, across the spectrum of welfare benefits available to people of working age. The level of change in benefit provision is likely to be significant in the context of some individual circumstances and this in itself will present challenges and service pressures for the Council. It is recognised that there exists a real risk that the continued reform of welfare provision for working age families will exacerbate poverty for the most vulnerable individuals and families, whether in work or not, creating additional service pressures arising from demand for welfare, debt and money advice, additional family distress and increased homelessness presentations.

1.3 This report outlines the changes and provides an initial impact analysis using Renfrewshire data as well as Scotland wide analysis to reflect the numbers likely to be affected in Renfrewshire and offers a view on the potential impact on individuals, the community and the council. It also explains how we will progress the Council's response to the continuing changes to welfare provision.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Board

- Note the contents of the report

3. **Background**

3.1 The UK Government has, through the Welfare Reform Act 2012, introduced a raft of changes to welfare provision over the last four years. The underlying policy intent of the Government's measures is to reduce the level of welfare spending; to support people off welfare benefits and into work and; to reduce the complexity and administrative burden of the current system. Many of these changes have already led to a significant reduction in the levels of benefits received by the poorest households across Renfrewshire, with some of the impact of these changes yet to take effect.

The measures that were previously introduced include:

- Changes to the financial support people receive to help meet housing costs this includes Local Housing Allowance (LHA) restrictions; benefit cap; under occupancy restrictions (Bedroom tax); temporary and supported accommodation restrictions
- Changes to tax credits for working people
- Changes to state benefits for people who are unable to work because they are sick or disabled – this refers to the Incapacity Benefit (IB) to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) migration
- Changes to financial support for people who need help to live independently – this refers to the end of Disability living Allowance for working age people and the introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Changes to social fund urgent/hardship support and community care grants - the devolution of these elements of the Social Fund scheme to the Scottish Government, with Councils now administering the new Scottish Welfare Fund scheme
- Introduction of Universal Credit – single integrated working age benefit paid to one person in the household on a monthly basis, with council providing arrange of support to ensure the people affected receive information and support to allow them to access the benefit and manage their finances

- Changes to the financial support people receive to help with the cost of Council Tax - the devolution of Council Tax Support to the Scottish Government, with Councils now administering the new Council Tax Reduction scheme

3.2 The measures announced by the UK Government at the July 2015 Budget introduced further changes to welfare benefits, changes to personal taxation and the introduction of a higher national minimum wage for over 25s.

3.3 This report provides information on the measures being introduced; the timescale for introduction where known; indicative data on the number of Renfrewshire citizens who may be affected by changes; as well as an initial assessment of the potential wider impact on the community and the Council.

4. **July 2015 measures**

4.1 In total, the welfare measures announced by the Chancellor will cut welfare spending across the UK by £13 billion a year by 2020-21 (OBR Economic and Fiscal Outlook). The key welfare reforms announced include:

- A freeze on the level of benefits paid to people of working age
- Changes to tax credits for working age people, including restricting child tax credit for people with more than three children
- Changes to the housing benefit rules for families and for people aged 18-21
- Changes to the length of time Housing Benefit can be backdated
- A change to the overall amount of welfare support a household can receive
- Changes to the amount paid to people receiving Employment and Support Allowance
- Changes to the rules for receiving Universal Credit for Lone Parents

4.2 More detail on the specific measures along with information on related changes to personal taxation and the national minimum wage are summarised, along with an initial analysis of the number potentially affected are provided in Table 1, included in Appendix 1 to this report.

- 4.3 This initial analysis draws on analysis undertaken at Scotland wide level, as well as provides Renfrewshire context where possible. The changes affect people on working age benefits, including Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Tax Credits, Child Benefit and Universal Credit.
- 4.4 Where it is possible to identify the specific number of households or individual claimants that are likely to be affected the analysis provides an estimate of the potential impact for individuals and households related to the specific measure. What it isn't possible to do at this stage is draw conclusions on the cumulative effect of the impact, even though it is understood that some people and households will be affected by more than one of the changes.
- 4.5 Members will wish to note that the greatest, long term impact on household income and the local economy is expected to arise as a result of the proposed four year freeze on benefit levels that will be introduced from 2016/17.
- 4.6 The Government's plans mean that these new measures will be introduced at the same time as the UK Government moves forward with a wider roll out of Universal Credit across the UK and in tandem with the move to devolve welfare powers to the Scottish Government, as proposed by the Smith Agreement, both of which will have significant implications.
- 4.7 It is therefore important that the Council takes proactive and coordinated steps to plan for the changes in order to manage and mitigate the impacts as far as possible for the people directly affected, the wider Renfrewshire Community and Council and partner service provision.
- 4.8 The Council's strategic approach to welfare reform has, over the last four years recognised and planned an effective response to the changes. These included ensuring effective arrangements were put in place to manage the impact of welfare reform; manage the impact on citizens and the financial risks to the council. These risks have continued to be kept under review. The July 2015 announcements require the Council to once again consider the new risks as the detail on the measures and the potential impacts are more fully understood.
- 4.9 Specifically, while a number of the intended measures directly apply to Housing Benefit, the complex interaction between the different benefits and tax credits, will also lead to revisions in Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction entitlement, which will have a consequential impact on Council financial assessment capability, as well as anticipated growth in requests for support from DHP and SWF.
- 4.10 This initial analysis highlights the range of changes that will be introduced over the next couple of years, all of which will require an

appropriate corporate and partnership response to mitigate the impact for people and prepare Council services to be able to respond to the increased demand for support and advice as well as the financial impact as a result of reduced benefit levels.

5. **Development of an effective response**

5.1 As with the first phase of welfare reform changes, any one of the changes would demand an effective Council response however with such wide ranging changes being introduced there are significant implications for a range of Council services and citizens.

5.2 It is therefore proposed that a welfare reform work stream is established within the Tackling Poverty Programme and that a corporate and partnership response is developed in a similar manner to the previous welfare reform project, developing an effective response to manage the financial and social impact on the most vulnerable; to identify and assess the impact of the proposed changes on Council finances, policies and strategies and propose effective strategies to mitigate the impact.

5.3 It is anticipated that plans will be developed to take account of the objectives are described below:

- Identify and assess the impact of the proposed changes on council policies and strategies and propose effective strategies to mitigate the impact.
- Develop effective strategies to communicate the changes to citizens. Define vulnerable citizens and seek to minimise the impact by offering advice and support to manage the financial and social impact during the transition period.
- Work with key stakeholders, including DWP, to plan an effective and coordinated response to a variety of impacts including the impact on housing provision; concessionary service provision and the provision of financial, benefits and debt advice.
- Mitigate as far as possible the impact on the council's financial position arising from the expected reduction in income; a reduction in external resources and new burdens.
- Consider the impact of the changes on the future provision and structural arrangements of Council Services
- Plan an effective and coordinated response to the 'make work pay' aspect of welfare reform by building on existing employability programmes and the wider programme of

economic regeneration activity

6. **Community Planning Partner engagement**

- 6.1 The welfare reform changes will impact on many individuals and organisations across Renfrewshire recognises that there is an opportunity and a need to continue to engage with Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) as a conduit for change within localities.
- 6.2 It is proposed that the Council facilitates discussions with community partners in relation to welfare reform under the auspices of the Tackling Poverty Programme in order to create an effective vehicle for the sharing of ideas, resources and good practice and act as a sounding board for the development of plans to mitigate the impacts of the welfare reform changes and develop consistent and coordinated communications.

7. **Resources**

- 7.1 The exact level and scale of the associated work programme that will emerge will become increasingly evident as each associated project develops and existing welfare reform funding will continue to be utilised and directed in a flexible manner to ensure appropriate resources are deployed to achieve the desired outcomes in line with the anticipated pace of change. Any requirements for additional resources in future years to support this programme of work will be kept under careful review and considered as part of the Council's budget setting process.

Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** - The welfare reform changes have potentially significant financial implications and risks for the Council both directly and indirectly will continue to be recognised and managed as part of the Council's strategic financial planning and risk management arrangements.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - there are potentially significant staffing implications over the medium term in relation to the migration of Housing Benefit to Universal Credit. A report on any future staffing implications will follow as the implications become clear
- 3. **Community Planning** – There are potentially significant financial implications for the Renfrewshire economy and for citizens of Renfrewshire as a result of the scale of change to be introduced to the benefit system

4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) The changes are as a result of the UK Government legislation. 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** - there are significant financial risks as referred to above and risks associated with the change which the Council will be required to manage in relation to the welfare changes being planned by the UK Government. Risks will be identified and managed as part of the welfare reform workstream within the Tackling Poverty Programme.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

Author: Rhona McGrath, Head of Customer and Business Services,
0141 618 6879

Table 1

Measure	Impact on citizens	Renfrewshire Estimate	Wider impact on Community/Council/Community Planning Partners
Freezing all working age benefits and tax credits for four years from 2016/17 to 2019/20. This includes a freeze on the Local Housing Allowances (level of support for rent in the private sector which is annually determined)	This will result in a real terms cut in the value of benefits received by working age benefit recipients. It will affect the people who claim a wide range of benefits in Renfrewshire, including families who currently receive child benefit. It does not affect maternity pay or disability benefits. Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that families will lose an average of £260 per year Cumulative inflation from 2015-2019, the period covered by the freeze, is forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility to be about 7 percent	23,000 households will be affected across Renfrewshire; this is estimated based on Scotland level data. Renfrewshire benefit recipients are shown below: Child Benefit – 20,215 families receive CHB in respect of 32,525 Jobseekers Allowance – 3017 recipients Employment and Support Allowance – 9165 recipients Tax Credits – 12,600 families in receipt of tax credits	Impact on local economy as a consequence of reduced spending power; increase in Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction entitlement if rent and CT liability levels increase; Potential detrimental effect on housing affordability if rent levels in Private Rented Sector rise quickly; Increased demand for advice and employability services
A reduction in income thresholds in tax credits and work allowances in Universal Credit (UC) from April 2016	This will reduce the amount of income an individual can earn before their tax credits start to be withdrawn from £6,420 to £3,850. The equivalents in UC will be reduced to £4,764 for those without housing costs, £2,304 for those with housing costs and removed altogether for non-disabled claimants without children	12,600 families receive tax credits. 8,900 are in work and this includes 4000 lone parent families	Impact on local economy as a consequence of reduced spending power; reduced work incentives Increased demand for advice and employability services
Increase the tax	This increases the speed at which tax	12,600 families receive tax	Impact on local economy as a

0

Measure	Impact on citizens	Renfrewshire Estimate	Wider impact on Community/Council/Community Planning Partners
credits taper rate from 41% to 48% from April 2016	credits start to be withdrawn once a person earns over £3,850. This reduced the rewards for a person from working more hours or moving into work	credits. 8,900 are in work and this includes 4000 lone parent families	consequence of reduced spending power; reduced work incentives Increased demand for advice and employability services
Restrict eligibility for child tax credit to the first two children, from April 2017	This will reduce the value of tax credits for future claimants with 3 or more children.	There are currently 2295 households in Renfrewshire with 3+ children receiving child benefit. At this stage it isn't possible to determine how many receive tax credits	Increased requirement for advice services about the impact of having another child;
From April 2017, those out of work aged 18 to 21 making new claims to Universal Credit will no longer be entitled to the housing element, with some exceptions	Young people in this age bracket will no longer receive support for housing costs, requiring them to live with family or friends	In Renfrewshire there are currently 64 claimants aged between 18-21 on Housing Benefit and JSA. If they were all subject to these new rules, the annual reduction in housing benefit or the UC Housing element across Renfrewshire is estimated to be £392,000	May lead to increased homelessness; impact on the funding of temporary and supported accommodation Increased demand for advice and employability services
The overall limit on welfare benefits (the benefit cap) will be reduced from £26,000 per annum for families couples	This will reduce the overall amount of welfare support received and breaks the link between need and entitlement. The benefit cap is currently applied by reducing the amount of housing benefit paid to a household. Universal Credit claimants can	Currently there are 30 households affected by the current Benefit Cap (£26,000 per annum), with an average weekly Housing Benefit loss of	Some of the impact may be offset by awards of Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP). Additional impacts/costs falling on councils include cost of providing temporary accommodation for

Measure	Impact on citizens	Renfrewshire Estimate	Wider impact on Community/Council/Community Planning Partners
living outside London, to £20,000 per annum, with single claimant's capped at £13,400 per annum. There is no defined date for when this Cap reduction will become effective.	have their total award reduced.	£32.29 per person, per week. It is estimated that the reduction in the cap amount will increase the number of households affected to 251 with an estimated average loss of Housing Benefit per person, per week of £50.50. It is anticipated that many affected by the cap will be lone parent families.	priority needs households if made homeless as a consequence of the benefit cap; additional support to families affected by the cap to enable to escape the cap; disruption to children's lives and schooling. Increased demand for advice and employability services
Reduction in the rate of employment and support allowance to jobseeker's allowance levels (this will be extended into Universal Credit) from April 2017	Entitlement will reduce by approximately £30 a week	There were 9165 ESA recipients as at February 2015, although not all will be in the work related activity group that will be affected by this measure	More vulnerable customers likely to be affected by this measure; Increased demand for advice and employability services
Backdating limit for HB reduced from 3 months to 4 weeks from April 2016	Housing Benefit awards will be restricted for periods prior to the date of application	Analysis of backdating values is being progressed	Impact on tenant's ability to make rent payments
Parents on UC expected to look for work if children over	Lone parents will be expected to attend the Jobcentre to discuss plans to return to the workforce when their youngest child	No data on the numbers likely to be affected is available at the current	Potential for benefit sanctions and a consequential impact on benefit levels if conditionality rules not

Measure	Impact on citizens	Renfrewshire Estimate	Wider impact on Community/Council/Community Planning Partners
3yrs of age. No date for introduction.	turns 3.	time	adhered to; impact on the need for quality flexible childcare provision
Introduction of a higher national Minimum wage for over 25s from April 2016	Initially be set at £7.20 per hour and is expected to rise to £9 per hour by 2020. People on the minimum wage who live with higher earners will benefit most from the increases as they are out of the tax credit system. The impact of this measure will be offset, for those whose income is supplemented by benefits, by the reductions to tax credits and housing benefit	Approximately 214,000 workers in Scotland over age of 25 who currently earn less than £7.20 an hour.	Impact on local economy as a consequence of increased spending power
Increase in the income tax personal allowance to £11,000 from April 2016	The increase will benefit the majority of taxpayers however the increase won't benefit people who currently earn less than £10,600 as they are already under the threshold for paying income tax. Increased income for many however the impact will be offset, for many whose income is supplemented by benefits, by the reductions to tax credits and housing benefit.	No data available	Impact on local economy as a consequence of increased spending power, but not for those earning less than the threshold
The UK Government is increasing the overall amount allocated for Discretionary Housing Payments	This is an increase in funding for DHP when compared with current annual funding of £125 million for 2015/16 There are no details of how the funding is to be apportioned, but it is will possibly be linked to the impact of the Benefit Cap and other	Renfrewshire's DHP allocation from DWP 2015/16 is £366,294. The Council has topped up the fund from its own resources in each of the	DHP is becoming the fund of last resort. Increased pressure on DHP provide an admin overhead and decisions based on need

Measure	Impact on citizens	Renfrewshire Estimate	Wider impact on Community/Council/Community Planning Partners
across the UK from £500 million to £800 million over 5 years from April 2016.	reductions	last 2 financial years	



To: **Community Planning Partnership Board**

On: 23rd September 2015

Report by:
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report details the key elements of the draft Council Tackling Poverty Strategy, which will be submitted to Council 24th September for approval. The report includes information of the governance, consultation and monitoring and evaluation arrangements to support the strategy and action plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Community Planning Board:
- note the content of the Council Tackling Poverty Strategy set out in Appendix A;
 - note the arrangements for governance, consultation and monitoring and evaluation, and
 - highlight any activity currently underway, or planned within their own organisations which seeks to address poverty related issues and where beneficial links could be made with the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Commission was set up by the Council in February 2014. The Commission was asked by the Council to consider the nature, causes and impact of poverty in Renfrewshire and to make recommendations to mitigate and minimise the impact of child poverty in Renfrewshire.
- 3.2 The Commission published its report on Friday 13 March 2015, submitting the report to the Council and Community Planning Partners for consideration.



- 3.3 At the Council meeting on 23 March 2015 the Council endorsed all of the Commission's recommendations and made an initial allocation of £3.3 M from the £6M of Council resources set aside in the 2015/16 budget to support an early response to the work of the Commission. Recognising the value of a partnership response, the Commission's report was referred to the Community Planning Partnership Board to agree a coordinated, cross-partnership response to the findings and recommendations of the Commission and to report back to Council on 25 June 2015.
- 3.4 In June 2015, Council approved an action plan to tackle poverty developed by the Community Planning Partnership. This action plan fully committed the total of £6M set aside in the 2015/16 budget to enable an early response to the work of the Tackling Poverty Commission. The allocation of the additional resources is in addition to strategic investments already made by the council in support of longer term economic growth and regeneration and reaffirms the Council's commitment to tackle poverty and inequality

4. Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Strategy

- 4.1 The aim of the Tackling Poverty Strategy is to provide a formal response to the work of the Tackling Poverty Commission, which sets the £6 million investment within the context of the opportunities and challenges that Renfrewshire will face in coming years.
- 4.2 The strategy acknowledges that Renfrewshire has already started innovative work to tackle poverty. It highlights the importance that partners in Renfrewshire continue to deliver programmes which are already having an impact, and continue to invest in developing innovative approaches. The strategy highlights Renfrewshire's achievements to date, such as Families First, Invest in Renfrewshire and Street Stuff – all of which have a robust evidence base which demonstrates real impact for low income citizens in Renfrewshire.
- 4.3 The strategy also puts the action plan in context of the opportunities that Renfrewshire faces with significant strategic investment through the City Deal and Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy. It focuses on putting tackling poverty at the heart of all of the Council's major investments, making sure everyone in Renfrewshire is able to benefit.
- 4.4 The strategy acknowledges the challenges that Renfrewshire will face over the next few years, namely with further welfare reforms and the challenges to local authority and wider public sector funding. The strategy establishes protecting low-income families from financial challenges the Council faces as a priority and reinforces the Council's intention to challenge welfare reforms, which risk more children being pushed into poverty.



4.5 The strategy is structured into six key priorities as outlined by the Tackling Poverty Commission. These are:

1. Increase the number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living
2. Prevent financial crisis and support low income families to make the most of their money
3. Improve levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families
4. Close the educational gap between children from low income families and their better off peers
5. Create neighbourhoods where people want to live and can afford to live
6. Narrow inequalities by working in a way which is inclusive, effective and evidence-based

5. Governance

5.1 In June 2015, Council approved a Tackling Poverty Steering Group, which is comprised of chief officers from across the Council and key Community Planning Partners and stakeholders. This steering group will be chaired by the Head of Policy and Commissioning and will meet quarterly. The group will report to Leadership Board and Community Planning Partnership on the progress of the programme on a six-monthly basis.

5.2 There will be three project boards for the Tackling Poverty programme, which will drive the delivery of the projects within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, and manage the relationships with the wide range stakeholders. The three project boards will report to the Leadership Board and the Council's Corporate Management Team, as appropriate. These three project boards will be themed in line with the key outcomes of the strategy:

- Pockets – Maximising financial resources of families on low incomes
- Prospects – Improved life chances of children in poverty
- Places – Children from low income households live in well designed sustainable places

5.3 Existing governance arrangements for issues relating to welfare reform will be reviewed as the proposals around welfare reform and devolution of welfare are developed, but will report into the Pockets project board.

6. Measurement and evaluation

6.1 A Poverty in Renfrewshire 'dashboard' is being developed in order to give a more responsive picture of poverty in Renfrewshire, by looking at key causes and impacts of poverty as well as poverty levels themselves.



- 6.2 A draft set of indicators for the dashboard has been produced to support the strategy, and this is currently being developed with a range of stakeholders and is a key part of the engagement work with citizens.
- 6.3 The Tackling Poverty Programme team is in discussions with the Welfare Analysis team within the Scottish Government in the development of this dashboard moving forward, to ensure local measurements are aligned and supported by the national Child Poverty Measurement Framework.
- 6.4 Individual projects within the action plan are developing key performance indicators for the success of their projects, which will be monitored by the relevant project board.
- 6.5 The Community Planning Partnership has a target to 'reduce poverty to no more than 15% in any area' by 2020. This target, along with other related poverty targets within the Community Plan will be reviewed as part of the Single Outcome Agreement later in 2015.
- 6.6 It should be noted that where projects have been extended by the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, this is based on robust evaluations that have been carried out. For example, Families First and Street Stuff already have external evaluations that will be continued in the life of the project.
- 6.7 Where new approaches are being tested within the Action Plan, they will be appropriately evaluated, and the lessons learnt from these evaluations will be shared widely.
- 6.8 We will also commission a piece of qualitative research which follows the experiences of a selection of Renfrewshire families over the course of the programme, in order to understand how life events and different services affect the lives of our residents.

7. Community Involvement/Engagement

- 7.1 The engagement approach used within the Tackling Poverty Commission will be extended through the life of the strategy, to ensure that people's experiences are clearly heard through the development and delivery of the action plan. This engagement work is now underway, and sees the Council working with an extended range of third sector partners across Renfrewshire.
- 7.2 A session was held with a range of stakeholders from across the third sector in Renfrewshire in July, to establish interest in creating a network or organisations that can carry out ongoing consultation and conversation with their service users throughout the life of the Tackling Poverty programme.
- 7.3 A number of organisations are carrying out consultation sessions with their service users on the strategy and action plan over September 2015, as a continuation of (and in the same style as) the consultation work done by the Tackling Poverty Commission. The



programme is currently engaging with the following wide range of third sector organizations; Stepping Stones, Families First, Childcare First, Local Energy Action Plan, Home-Start Renfrewshire, Engage Renfrewshire, Citizens Advice Bureau, Recovery Across Mental Health, Barnados Threads, Renfrewshire Foodbank, Renfrewshire Access Panel, Star Project, Save the Children, Foundations First (Shelter).

- 7.4 In the first instance, the Council is working with these organisations and their service-users to feed in to the monitoring and reporting processes for the Strategy and Action Plan, and more specifically to develop citizen-led measures of success and the methods for reporting progress on the programme.
- 7.5 Moving forward, the Council will be working with these organisations throughout the life of the programme to inform to development of projects within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.
- 7.6 A workshop was held where council officers contributed views and ideas on how the impact of the Tackling Poverty programme can be measured moving forward. These will be incorporated into the performance monitoring of the programme moving forward.
- 7.7 Consultation has also been carried out with Community Planning Partners, with updates and discussions on the Action Plan being given at all of the Community Planning Thematic Boards in September. This included an engagement session with S6 students at the Children and Young People's Thematic Board.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Tackling Poverty in Renfrewshire

Tackling Poverty Strategy 2015-2017

Contents

Foreword by Councillor Mark Macmillan	2
Executive Summary	3
What is poverty?	5
Poverty in Renfrewshire	6
Our approach: Renfrewshire's strengths and challenges.....	7
Our approach: Vision and priorities.....	10
Pockets – Maximising financial resources of families on low incomes.....	12
Prospects – Improved life chances of children in poverty	14
Places – Children from low income households live in well-designed, sustainable places	16
Principles – How organisations should work.....	18
Delivering the strategy	20
Measuring Success.....	21

Foreword by Councillor Mark Macmillan

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission presented the Community Planning Partnership with its findings on child poverty in Renfrewshire in March 2015, along with some challenging recommendations for the Council and our partners. Our Tackling Poverty Strategy responds to these challenges, and provides the blueprint for our approach to tackling poverty.

The findings of the Commission were sobering. Too many of Renfrewshire's children continue to live on the breadline, and it's predicted that child poverty will rise across the country over the course of the next few years. Many of the key causes of poverty are out of Renfrewshire Council's direct control, but it's vital we use our influence to affect change where we can.

Our Council priorities are to increase opportunity in employment and education, support the most vulnerable members of our community and put in place the necessary strategic investment that will deliver positive change for Renfrewshire. Tackling poverty is core to achieving all our priorities, and therefore needs to be firmly at the core of everything we do.

Our strategy puts tackling poverty at the heart of our role as a service provider, educator, employer, community leader and landlord. Our commitment to tackling poverty is demonstrated by our early investment of a £6 million Tackling Poverty Action Plan over the next two years, which will deliver a raft of preventative and emergency measures to fight deprivation. We're committed to strong leadership around tackling poverty, both for our partners in Renfrewshire and on a national stage.

Poverty is not inevitable and we should not underestimate our ability to affect change locally. We already provide services everyday that stop people falling into poverty, and which mitigate the impacts of living in hardship.

Renfrewshire is entering an exciting time of investment and regeneration. I want everyone in Renfrewshire to be able to access the benefits of investments such as the City Deal and our Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy, and we will do everything in our power to address the inequalities Renfrewshire faces.

The strategy and action plan provide a comprehensive roadmap for Renfrewshire Council for the next two years. It is the beginning of a long journey, and we will face significant challenges, but doing nothing to address the issue of child poverty in Renfrewshire is not an option.

Councillor Mark Macmillan

Executive Summary

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Strategy sets out a blueprint for our approach to tackling child poverty in Renfrewshire. It is supported by a £6 million Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

Case study: Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission was set up to assess the nature, causes and impact of child poverty in Renfrewshire. The Commission made recommendations for the introduction of a strategic approach to tackle poverty across Renfrewshire in March 2015.

Renfrewshire's strengths and challenges

Renfrewshire has already started innovative work to tackle poverty. We will continue to deliver and expand programmes which are already having an impact, and continue to invest in developing innovative approaches which address the causes of poverty.

Renfrewshire is facing a time of unprecedented opportunity. We will put tackling poverty at the heart of all of our major investments, making sure that we narrow inequalities and that everyone in Renfrewshire benefits.

Renfrewshire also faces real challenges. We will protect low-income families from the brunt of the cuts we face and we will challenge UK welfare reforms which risk more children being pushed into poverty.

Our approach

Maximising incomes is at the core of our Tackling Poverty Strategy, but we have produced a comprehensive strategy and action plan which also seeks to address the persistent inequalities faced by people living in poverty.

We aim to prevent people from experiencing poverty in the first place, as well as mitigating the impacts of poverty and supporting people to lift themselves out of poverty.

We will look to build on what is already working well as well as developing ways of doing things differently.

Local people have a central role in defining the success of this strategy, and we will make sure that the stories and voices of people living in poverty remain at the centre of our decision-making.

Our priorities

The strategy sets out a clear vision and 6 priorities:

1. **Income and employment** - Increase number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living
2. **Managing money** - Prevent financial crisis and support low income families to make the most of their money
3. **Health** - Improve levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families
4. **Attainment** - Close the educational attainment gap between children from low-income families and their better off peers
5. **Neighbourhoods** - Create neighbourhoods where people want to live and can afford to live
6. **How organisations should work** – Narrow inequalities by working in a way which is inclusive, effective and evidence-based

Delivering and evaluating

Tackling poverty is a long-term aspiration that cannot be achieved in the next two years; our strategy is the next step in a long and challenging journey ahead.

The strategy provides the structure for our Action Plan, but also describes what are priorities are when delivering services everyday. It outlines what we are doing that is already working, as well as what we would like to do differently.

We still have a lot to learn. We will closely measure and evaluate our activities, and learn lessons about what works.

What is poverty?

There are a number of different ways of describing poverty, with a wide range of definitions and measurements.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation defines poverty as ‘When a person’s resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation).’

Quote: Measures are only part of the picture of the scale and the impact of poverty, Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Commission

Poverty is, first and foremost, about household income. However, the experience of poverty is often much wider and more complex than just having a low income, with some people experiencing a range of disadvantages that extend beyond just not having enough money.

We understand that many people that we might describe as ‘living in poverty’ do not consider themselves to be living in poverty, or don’t associate with words like ‘poverty’ at all.

We will challenge myths and misinformation about poverty.

Quote: ‘Poverty is changing, and our response needs to change’, Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Commission

Some areas of Renfrewshire have much higher levels of poverty than others, and we often call these ‘deprived neighbourhoods’ as a result of area-based measures of poverty such as the Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation. In some cases, the actions in our strategy are focussed on areas where we know there are more people living in poverty. However, we recognise that there are people living in poverty in all of Renfrewshire’s communities, and therefore challenge the view that poverty can be determined by where you live.

People don’t tend to stay in poverty forever. Many people who experience poverty will do so only for a short time, or will move in and out of poverty. Many of the actions target people who are living in poverty, whereas other actions are focussed on preventing people from moving into poverty by supporting people universally through life events or moments of transition (such as having a baby).

Some groups of people are at a higher risk of experiencing poverty, such as disabled people, lone parents and care leavers. That doesn’t mean that all people in these groups experience poverty, but it does mean that we need to think about the needs of these groups of people when we deliver our action plan.

Poverty in Renfrewshire

The Tackling Poverty Commission carried out a detailed assessment of poverty in Renfrewshire which forms the evidence base for this strategy. The Commission's report details the key findings from its assessment of poverty in Renfrewshire. There is also a detailed 'Poverty Profile' of Renfrewshire, which supported the Commission's findings and can be found at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/tacklingpoverty.

Summary of key findings

In Renfrewshire, more than 1 in 5 of our children is growing up in poverty

Infographic: Levels of poverty in key wards in Renfrewshire

Infographic: Families with children are the biggest group in poverty

Fact: A parent with two children aged 5 and 14 will be classed as living in poverty if their income (before tax but after housing costs) is less than £269 per week

Quote: '[You] feel like you are looking in on the rest of the work as there is such a divide', Participant, Star Project

Fact: Paisley Jobcentre Plus has the highest number of sanctions in the west of Scotland

Infographic: Inflation rates

Fact: A boy born in Bishopton lives on average 16.4 years longer than a boy born in Ferguslie Park

Infographic: Deprivation and attainment at P5 in Renfrewshire

Quote: 'The existence of poverty isn't due to individuals and if we accept that poverty is societal problem then we have to also accept that there is a societal response. Scotland is one of the richest countries in the world and yet we have families who are unable to eat properly. As a society, we need to say that we will no longer tolerate the existence of poverty.' Poverty Alliance

Our approach: Renfrewshire's strengths and challenges

Renfrewshire has already started innovative work to tackle poverty

Renfrewshire has already established itself as a real leader in Scotland for its approach to tackling poverty.

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission was the first of its kind in Scotland to look specifically at child poverty at a local level, and sets ambitious recommendations for the Council and our partners to meet.

Renfrewshire has been investing in innovative programmes that have already started to make a difference to people living in poverty across the area, such as our economic development programme 'Invest in Renfrewshire' and our Early Years Strategy 'Families First'.

We will continue to deliver and expand programmes which are already having an impact, and continue to invest in developing new and innovative approaches. We will also continue to focus on prevention and early intervention.

Case Study: Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission was set up to assess the nature, causes and impact of child poverty in Renfrewshire, and make recommendations for the introduction of strategic approach for the Community Planning Partnership. It published its report and recommendations in March 2015.

The Commission was the first of its kind in Scotland, and this is what made its recommendations different; they are designed to be delivered in partnership, and focused on making a difference at a local level.

More information on Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission can be found at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/tacklingpoverty

Renfrewshire is facing a time of unprecedented opportunity

There are big plans for Renfrewshire, with strategic investments like the City Deal and Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy bringing major investment into the area.

The £1.13 billion Greater Glasgow and Clyde City Deal is an opportunity to transform Renfrewshire's economy by increasing employment and supporting growth with improved transport links.

We also have plans for Paisley which build on its rich cultural heritage, which will have a wider effect on all of Renfrewshire. This focus to put Paisley back on the map will also see Paisley bid for UK City of Culture 2021.

Fact: The City Deal is expected to create 15,000 construction jobs while work is underway on its projects and 28,000 permanent jobs when work is finished.

We will put tackling poverty at the heart of all our major investments, making sure that we narrow inequalities and everyone in Renfrewshire is able to benefit.

Renfrewshire also faces real challenges

The UK government's welfare reforms have already had a significant effect on people in Renfrewshire. The latest announcement of welfare reforms still needs to be developed, but it is likely that new welfare cuts will continue to hit Renfrewshire families hard. Further devolution of powers within the Scotland Bill poses potential opportunities to mitigate these impacts, but many areas of welfare reform will remain within the control of the UK Government.

Fact: Ferguslie Park is one of the 20 most affected wards in Scotland by welfare reform.

Shrinking budgets and increases in demand for services will also continue to put pressure on local government budgets. Renfrewshire Council faces a significant shortfall between the money we receive and the costs of the services we must provide over the next three years.

Renfrewshire Council is proud of its success in protecting low income citizens from reductions in funding and we will continue to make sure that we protect low income citizens from cuts to front-line public services wherever possible.

Quote: "[The cuts] risk putting local authorities in a situation where they will be unable to meet their statutory duties and unable to deliver critical services to their poorest and most vulnerable citizens" Cost of the cuts, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

We will continue to condemn UK welfare reforms that risk more of Renfrewshire's children being pushed into poverty, and continue to mitigate the impact welfare reform locally.

Case study: A Better Council

We are constantly looking for ways to improve the services we provide, and increasing our focus on addressing inequalities. Our new Customer and Business Services function brings many of our front-line services together, such as our customer service centres, benefits teams and advice services. By doing this, we can make sure the service we deliver is much more streamlined, and reduce the need for people to contact lots of different teams, or to give us information multiple

times. We're also bringing together teams that work in health with our social care teams as part of Health and Social Care Integration. Through our Customer Access project, people will be able to contact us in more convenient ways, such as paying bills online – and our customers who need more assistance face-to-face will be able to access help more easily.

Our approach: Vision and priorities

Vision: We want a Renfrewshire where no child lives in poverty. All children should be able to achieve their potential and feel healthy, happy and valued, no matter how much money their parents or carers have.

We want a Renfrewshire where everyone understands that tackling poverty is everyone's responsibility. We believe that if we act locally, and in partnership, we can make a real difference.

Our strategy has six key priorities, which are linked to the outcomes within the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland. These outcomes are often referred to as Pockets, Prospects and Places.

National Outcomes

Pockets – Maximising financial resources of families on low incomes

Prospects – Improved life chances of children in poverty

Places – Children from low-income households live in well-designed, sustainable places

Local priorities

The strategy is guided by six key priorities for tackling poverty in Renfrewshire:

Income and employment - Increase number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living

Managing money - Prevent financial crisis and support low income families to make the most of their money

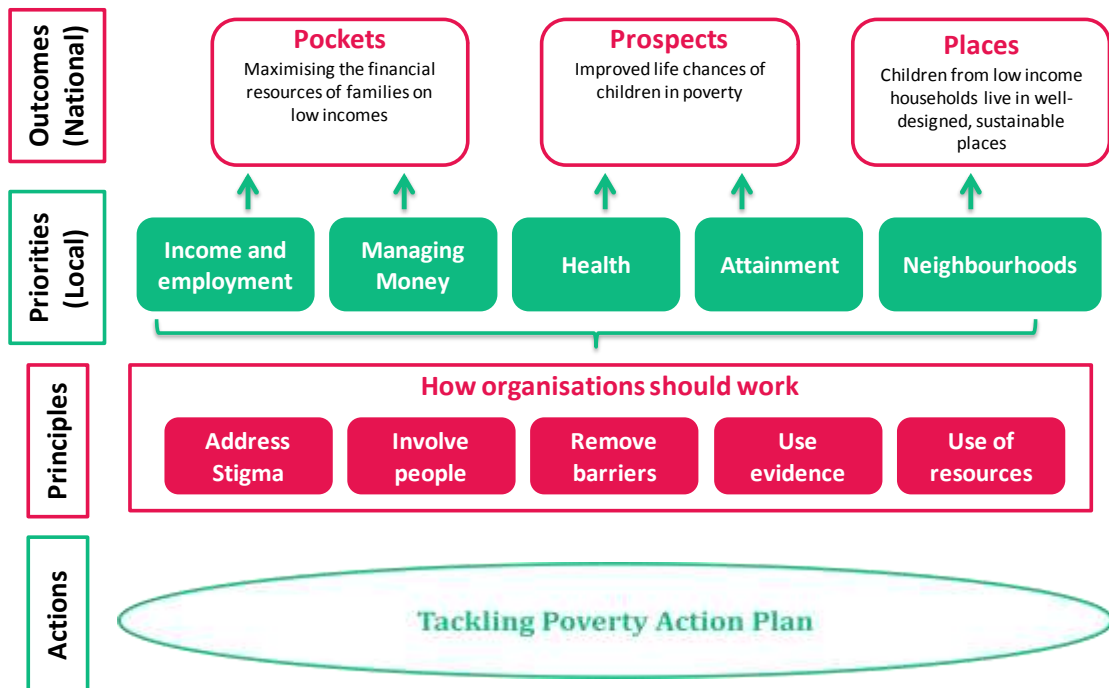
Health - Improve levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families

Attainment- Close the educational attainment gap between children from low-income families and their better off peers

Neighbourhoods - Create neighbourhoods where people want to live and can afford to live

How organisations should work – Narrow inequalities by working in a way which is inclusive, effective and evidence-based

Tackling Poverty Strategy: Our Approach



Pockets – Maximising financial resources of families on low incomes

There are currently more families in poverty who are working than not working. In-work poverty is rising, and its being driven by low pay, unstable contracts and rises in the cost of living.

Welfare reforms are taking money out of the pockets of people in Renfrewshire, and further welfare reforms targeted at working-age people are likely to hit families even harder.

Major investments such as the City Deal and Paisley Town Centre Heritage and Asset Strategy will bring a real boost to Renfrewshire's economy, but we need to make sure they also deliver for local people living in poverty.

Quote: 'Central to any strategy for tackling poverty is to maximise incomes, this is true to families both in and out of work' Poverty Alliance

Our Priorities

Priority 1: Increase the number of households who can access employment that provides an acceptable standard of living.

Priority 2: Prevent financial crisis and support low income families to make the most of their money.

What is already working well

We've already invested heavily in boosting Renfrewshire's economy, with a particular focus on improving youth employment rates through our **Invest in Renfrewshire** programme, which has made a real impact.

Case study: Invest in Renfrewshire

Invest is an integrated economic development programme which aims to generate jobs, bridge the skills gap, and support business growth. Invest in Employability provides help and support to any unemployed person looking for work. The service aims to tackle poverty in the area through reducing unemployment and supporting local people to realise and fulfil their potential in employment. Invest has provided wage incentives to create an additional 882 new and additional paid posts (jobs, internships, apprenticeships and traineeships). Invest has also helped a further 2000 people (young people and adults) find wider employment opportunities and it continues to work with around 2000 job seekers each year.

We have refocused Invest in Renfrewshire to specifically address inequalities, extending our service to work with all ages and on key issues for tackling poverty such as in-work progression. We're also working more intensively with people who have more barriers to employment.

Renfrewshire Council has been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions locally, in particular to prepare for the introduction of Universal Credit in Renfrewshire. We've put Income Advisers into all of the local Jobcentres to provide budgeting support, and we're one of two local authorities working with Department for Work and Pensions nationally on their response to the Oakley review on benefit sanctions.

We've been working hard to increase payment of the **Living Wage** across Renfrewshire, but we'll be doing more to encourage this across the Community Planning Partnership. We aim to take advantage of the changes being introduced by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act to do more to leverage on procurement spend in support of our tackling poverty objectives.

We have a number of successful advice projects in Renfrewshire that are already making a huge difference to people living in poverty. We will extend advice projects which have received promising evaluations, such as **Healthier Wealthier Children** and **Energy Advice Renfrewshire**. We've also set up the **Advice Partnership Renfrewshire**, which includes a range of advice-giving organisations across Renfrewshire.

What we will do differently

We will be looking at how we might be able to deliver more **flexible and affordable childcare** in Renfrewshire, and whether there might be other models of delivery that might better suit some low-income families.

We will be looking at how we build on the co-location work with the Department for Work and Pensions to avoid **benefit sanctions** and the harm these can cause.

We will make **advice** as easy to access as possible in Renfrewshire, making sure people who need advice can get appointments quickly and at a convenient place.

We will also be piloting new projects that support people to develop their **digital and financial skills**, and testing more innovative and sustainable ways of doing this work by involving people more closely in the design and delivery of the projects.

Prospects – Improved life chances of children in poverty

Children from poorer families in Renfrewshire are getting an unfair start in life. The attainment gap in schools means poorer children often do less well at school than their more affluent peers. This 'gap' widens as children go through school, with fewer poorer children heading off to 'positive destinations' and ultimately, to better paid work.

Quote: 'Growing up in poverty can have a huge impact on a child's future. Addressing the attainment gap in schools is critical to making sure children from low-income families are able to achieve their potential.' Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission

There is also a large life expectancy gap in Renfrewshire, with a boy born in Bishopton living on average 16.4 years longer than a boy born in Ferguslie.

Our priorities

Priority 3: Improve levels of physical and mental health of children in low income families

Priority 4: Close the educational attainment gap between children from low income families and their better off peers

What is already working well

There has already been significant investment in supporting children's early years in Renfrewshire, most notably through our early years strategy '**Families First**'

Case study: Families First is a family support programme. It started with two 'core teams', one in Ferguslie and one in Linwood – to help families build a better future for their children, with a focus on 0-8 years. The teams offer a support package that starts with staff building trust and quickly moves forward to helping the families achieve their potential. Some families have a key worker working very closely with them for months, while others come to drop-in sessions for a chat – and they know the teams are there if they need them. 371 families have been supported by Families First core teams, with £1million of income generated for local families

We're expanding our Families First programme to add three new localities to our core team approach, in Johnstone, Foxbar and Gallowhill, based on the results of a successful evaluation from University of Glasgow.

It is essential that we promote good mental health and wellbeing for young people in Renfrewshire. We have successful **peer-mentoring** projects currently operating in two of our secondary schools, and we will be rolling that out across all of our schools. We will also be supporting that with arts, cultural and sports opportunities that improve health and wellbeing for young people.

What we will do differently

We will invest £2 million to **address the attainment gap** in Renfrewshire. The primary focus of this work will be developing new approaches to teaching reading across Renfrewshire. We're also focusing on improving how we support parents to engage with their children's learning at school and at home.

We will set up a fund dedicated to supporting families with the **cost of the school day**, and we will work with young people to better understand the impacts of the cost of the school day on their learning.

We will set up a new joint team focussed on **positive destinations** that will make sure that young people from low-income households get the support they need to move on to work or further education that meets their aspirations and abilities, such as improving work experience opportunities.

Places – Children from low income households live in well-designed, sustainable places

Changes to the housing landscape mean that more and more people are living in the private rented sector, but lack of regulation and standards within the sector means tenants have poorer security of tenure and little protection from escalating rents.

Many of Renfrewshire's communities continue to face deprivation despite significant investment in housing regeneration, with high turnover of tenancies and low demand for social housing in some areas. We believe that putting local people back in the driving seat is key to addressing some of these issues

Quote: 'Power should be shared, with communities allowed to set their own priorities, and resources devolved to help them achieve them.' Renfrewshire Tackling Poverty Commission

Our priority

Priority 5: Create neighbourhoods where people want to live, and can afford to live

What is already working

Street Stuff is a successful partnership programme which provides activities for young people, and helps make communities feel safer.

Case Study: Street Stuff is a youth engagement project celebrating its fifth year in operation and supported by Renfrewshire Council, St Mirren Football Club, Engage Renfrewshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland. It works with children and young people in their own communities, through the deployment of resources, including football pitches and shipping containers with various equipment (games consoles, dance mats, exercise equipment)

Here are some of the 'headlines':

- Reduction in anti-social behaviour and low-level offending across the local authority by 75% since 2009
- Street Stuff has won 13 awards and been recognised in the Scottish Parliament as a model of best practice
- Average annual attendance figures of 20,000 children and young people since 2009
- 96 sessions delivered 6 nights per week, 52 weeks of the year
- 200 young people have become volunteer coaches, with 15 securing employment through the programme

Shelter Scotland has launched an innovative new project in Renfrewshire called **Foundations First**, which aims to support families at risk of homelessness across the range of tenures. This project embodies many of the principles of the Renfrewshire

Tackling Poverty Commission, such as co-production and community capacity building.

What we will do differently

We will pilot **asset-based approaches** to regeneration by introducing ‘community builders’ into communities to build networks and encourage communities to set their own priorities and support them to build their capacity. We’d like to do this in an area where we already have some planned physical regeneration activity and devolve some money out to communities.

We will increase enforcement of **private rented sector** landlords, to improve the housing standards for tenants. We will also be working with social landlords across Renfrewshire to make sure that **social housing rents** are fair and affordable.

We will be offering a range of **volunteering and work experience** opportunities in community safety and in partnership with the police, to give young people a chance to improve their employability while helping to keep their communities safe.

Principles – How organisations should work

The Commission made a set of recommendations around how organisations should work, which are the key principles of how the Tackling Poverty Strategy will be delivered.

Quote: ‘It’s not just what you do that’s important; it’s also how you do it’
Renfrewshire’s Tackling Poverty Commission

Our priority

Priority 6: Narrow inequalities by working in a way which is inclusive, effective and evidence-based

Address Stigma

We all have a responsibility to challenge the stigma associated with poverty, but the Commission’s engagement with citizens was particularly challenging around how we address stigma within our own organisations.

Quote: “Everyone felt blamed. A feeling of ‘eye rolling’ and ‘you again’”
Participant, Star Project

We will be launching a campaign to tackle stigma, which will initially be targeted at staff members across the Council and Community Planning Partnership.

Involve People

It’s clear that services designed without people who have direct experience of poverty often fail to meet their needs. In particular, the Commission recommended co-production and peer support as models for Community Planning Partnership work moving forward.

We will continue the engagement approach of the Commission throughout the life of the Strategy and Action Plan, in particular working with third sector organisations as facilitators for conversations with the community.

Remove barriers

It’s important that we remove the barriers to accessing our services, and people told us that even some of our free and universally available services have barriers that we aren’t aware of.

We will be introducing poverty into our impact assessment process to make sure the services we design and deliver are accessible, appropriate and meet people’s needs.

Use evidence

It's important that the decisions that we make are evidence based, but we want to make sure that we use evidence wisely. We've identified in our strategy and action plan which activities are proven, and which are promising.

We will robustly monitor and evaluate our action plan, and make the details of performance and evaluations widely available.

Use of resources

In a time of shrinking budgets and increasing demand, it's important that we make the most of our combined resources to have the most impact.

We will pilot work across the Community Planning Partners to better understand our collective spend on tackling poverty across all of our service areas, and look at opportunities for joint resourcing.

Case Study: Digital Strategy

Increasing digital participation is a key part of our approach to tackling poverty. We will be developing a new digital strategy for Renfrewshire, with digital participation at the core, focussing on how we can improve access to technology and internet and support people to build their digital skills. We will initially target those who face the most barriers; people living in poverty, disabled people and older people.

Our digital participation plan embodies many of the principles of our tackling poverty strategy, for example:

- The digital participation plan was designed in close consultation with local people, and citizens will form a central part of the reference group as the plan is delivered.
- It addresses stigma and removes barriers by ensuring that digital access and training is located in accessible locations which are used by target groups. Person centred support will be provided to trained staff using accessible technology.
- The digital participation plan will develop and pilot new approaches, evaluate success locally and feed into a national digital skills framework to provide a coordinated, consistent approach to measuring digital participation across Renfrewshire.

Delivering the strategy

The Tackling Poverty in Renfrewshire programme is owned by the Community Planning Partnership. This is essential to make sure that the Strategy and Action Plan are delivered in true partnership.

Quote: Tackling poverty is everyone's responsibility. The Council, its Community Planning Partners and wider organisations such as employers and housing providers, will need to work in partnership on shared priorities and deliver real leadership around anti-poverty practice in Renfrewshire and beyond.

A Tackling Poverty Steering Group has been set up which comprises senior officers across the Council and Community Planning Partners. This group will meet quarterly and will drive the delivery of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

Tackling poverty is a long-term aspiration, and cannot be achieved in the next two years. The focus of our Strategy and Action Plan will be to build a more robust evidence base for the anti-poverty impact of the work we are already doing, and to test the new approaches recommended by the Commission. This will allow us to produce a long-term, evidence-based and sustainable approach to tackling poverty in 2017.

The Community Planning Partnership will report annually on its progress implementing Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission's recommendations and the success of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

Measuring Success

Measuring poverty can often be challenging, as there are many different ways of measuring levels of poverty. Often these measures are not collected regularly, and are only available nationally. It is also predicted that child poverty levels in Scotland may start to rise again, and many of the reasons for this (such as UK welfare reform) are out of Renfrewshire's control.

We will monitor a range of measures that give us a more responsive picture of poverty in Renfrewshire, by looking at key causes and impacts locally as well as poverty levels themselves. We believe this is a more practical approach than adopting a single measure or target.

We will produce a "Poverty in Renfrewshire" dashboard quarterly, which will highlight key national and local poverty measures. This will help us to understand whether poverty is getting better or worse across Renfrewshire. It will also be aligned to the Scottish Child Poverty Measurement Framework.

A key part of our strategy is assessing how effective the Tackling Poverty Action Plan. We will closely measure the impact of our activities, and learn lessons about what works.

Many of the activities in our action plan have been proven to be successful, such as Families First and Street Stuff, and have already had robust external evaluations. These evaluations will continue to assess the success of these projects.

There are also activities within our action plan which test new approaches which appear promising, such as our plans around developing new approaches to teaching reading. These will be robustly evaluated to get better evidence about their impact, investing in external evaluations from subject-matter experts such as the University of Strathclyde.

It's essential that local people have a role in defining the success of this work, and the role of people's stories and voices cannot be underestimated. We have continued the engagement approach of the Commission, and these relationships and conversations are an essential part of the work going forward.

Minute of Meeting Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 31 August 2015	10:00	Room P116, P Block, UWS, High Street, Paisley,

PRESENT

Councillors E Devine and Audrey Doig; O Reid, Lead Officer and Head of Public Protection; J Lynch, Head of Property; and C Thorpe, Corporate Asset/Energy Manager (all Renfrewshire Council); I Cunningham, Engage Renfrewshire; A Fraser, FLAIR Representative; J Still, Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership; and C Roxburgh, West of Scotland University.

CHAIR

Councillor E Devine, Chair, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

A Armstrong-Walter, A Greig, S Jones, E Lorimer, J Brown and C MacDonald (all Renfrewshire Council); and B Kiloh SPT.

APOLOGIES

S MacDougall and L Feely (both Renfrewshire Council); J Wilby, Forum for Empowering Communities; Ross Nimmo, Glasgow Airport; G Tarvit, Keep Scotland Beautiful; J Downie, Police Scotland; P Nelis, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; J Binning, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; and C Devine, Zero Waste Scotland.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest intimated.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Convener intimated that he proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 7 of the agenda after item 3.

1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board held on 3 June, 2015.

DECIDED: That the minute be approved.

2 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

DECIDED: That the Rolling Action Log be approved.

3 LOCAL GREEN NETWORK PROJECTS UPDATE - GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB GROUP

Susan Jones gave a presentation relative to the Local Green Network projects which had the potential to improve the quality of the local environment by enhancing open space, accessibility, natural features and biodiversity.

The presentation highlighted that the delivery of the Renfrewshire Local Green Network programme had been a great success and various projects which were cited in the slides had secured significant levels of external funding.

After discussion Councillor Devine thanked Susan for her presentation.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

4 UPDATE ON TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Annabelle Armstrong-Walter gave a presentation relative to the Tackling Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.

The presentation gave the background to the development of the strategy and the launch of the report; outlined the timeline that was being followed; highlighted the key messages of the strategy and the priorities; summarised the key principles; and drew special attention to the fuel poverty actions.

After discussion Councillor Devine thanked Annabelle for the presentation.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

5 **RENFREWSHIRE TRANSPORT OUTCOMES REPORT 2015/16**

There was submitted a report by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport relative to Renfrewshire's Transport Outcome Report (TOR).

The report summarised the SPT activities and investments delivered in 2014/15. It also provided detailed information on the agreed SPT/Renfrewshire joint workteams for 2015/16 which included key issues; progress to date; and a look at the year ahead.

The TOR highlighted the role of transport in achieving positive outcomes at the local level by noting the supporting relationship between the joint workteams agreed between SPT and Renfrewshire and the local outcomes set out in the Single Outcome Agreement.

DECIDED: That the contents of the report be noted.

6 **CYCLING STRATEGY**

Elaine Lorimer gave a presentation relative to the cycling strategy for Renfrewshire.

The presentation outlined the cycling strategy; looked at the objectives and how the Council engaged with people; defined the communication strategy and the findings of the survey which took place; summarised the action plan and detailed the plans for expansion.

After discussion Councillor Devine thanked Elaine for her presentation.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

7 **STALLED SPACES SCOTLAND UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the Head of Public Protection updating members on the Stalled Spaces Scotland applications.

The report advised that one application had been received in the first round of funding following the June 2015 deadline. The application, along with another four applications were tabled at the meeting:

- Roar - Connections for Life, West End Community Centre
- Paisley West & Central Community Council - West End Growing Grounds Association
- I Am Me Scotland
- Loud n Proud
- West College Scotland - Paisley Campus

After discussion, the Lead Officer asked that the stalled spaces applications be approved in principle with final details of level of award and content to be remitted to

Lead Office and Convener. It was agreed that that details would be confirmed at next meeting together with information on further award applications received.

I Cunningham advised that Engage were currently in the process of discussing potential applications with six other community groups and would continue to work with them in the completion of their applications.

DECIDED:

(a) That the applications be approved in principle with final details of level of award and content to be remitted to Lead Office and Convener and the details to be submitted to the next meeting together with information on further award applications received.

(b) That the report be noted.

8(a) GREENER HOUSING SUB GROUP

Adele Fraser presented a video to Members on energy advice to Renfrewshire residents.

She advised that the video was jointly developed with the University of the West of Scotland and was in direct response to the Greener Renfrewshire Housing Sub Group action plan to develop an energy advice video for local residents with a clear Renfrewshire focus highlighting energy efficiency within the home linked to greener ways of living.

She thanked everyone that had been involved in the development of the video and advised that it was now on Renfrewshire Council and Renfrewshire 2023 websites.

Councillor Devine thanked Adele and everyone involved for their hard work and the production of a very professional video.

DECIDED: That the video presentation be noted.

8(b) GREENER TRANSPORT SUB GROUP

There was submitted a report by the Greener Renfrewshire Transport Sub Group.

The report detailed the progress made by the Greener Transport sub group in achieving the high level priorities of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board. The minute of the meeting of the sub group, which took place on 14th July 2015, was attached as an appendix to the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

8(c) GREENER COMMUNITIES SUB GROUP

There was submitted a report by the Greener Communities Sub Group detailing the progress made in achieving the high level priorities of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board. The minute of the meeting of the sub group, which took place on 23rd July 2015, was attached as an appendix to the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

9 SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNER

A presentation was given by Claire Roxburgh, UWS highlighting the Green challenges facing the University. The presentation outlined the plans for greener travel; the energy savings achieved; the proposals for disposing of waste; the plans for a community garden scheme; the difficulty of changing behaviours; and highlighted the plans for a sustainability hub.

After discussion Councillor Devine thanked Claire for her presentation.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

10 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RENFREWSHIRE HOUSE

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Asset and Energy Manager relative to a survey which was conducted in July 2015 within Renfrewshire House to measure attitudes to energy usage, waste collection, recycling and travel-to-work.

The survey was intended to provide baseline measurements of prevailing attitudes ahead of a promotional campaign to recruit Green Champions to help engage the wider staff group in energy efficient and other 'green' measures within the workplace.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

11 OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVES AND GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

There was submitted a report by the Head of Public Protection which provided an overview of recent developments, initiatives and funding streams made available to Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

12 ELECTRIC VEHICLE PRESENTATION

A Greig delivered a presentation to the Board on the advantages of electric vehicles (EVs).

He advised that the great environmental benefits of electromobility were clearly reflected in the low carbon emissions of the vehicles. Cost modelling analysis showed that EVs had lower overall costs than conventionally fuelled vehicles; cheaper fuel costs; and lower operational and maintenance costs, when EVs were deployed correctly.

He demonstrated the charging points and the quiet running of the vehicle which would be a benefit for operating in noise-restricted areas.

DECIDED: That the presentation and demonstration be noted.

DRAFT

Minute of Meeting Children & Young People Thematic Board

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 31 August 2015	13:30	Staff Room, Gleniffer High School, Amochrie Road, Paisley, PA2 0AG,

PRESENT

Councillors Henry, Bibby and McCartin (Renfrewshire Council); L O'Brien, Director, Barnardos; R Ritchie, Service Manager, Children 1st; F MacKay, Head of Planning & Health Improvement, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; A Lowe, Chair, Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee; J Melrose, Renfrewshire Children's Panel; L King, Authority Reporter, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration; P MacLeod, Director of Children's Services; D Hawthorn, Head of Child Care & Community Justice; G McKinlay, Head of Resource Services; and S Glasgow, Senior Officer (GIRFEC) (all Renfrewshire Council); P Nelis, Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services; K Miller, Volunteer Development Officer, Engage Renfrewshire; M Gilligan, Area Manager West, Skills Development Scotland; S Graham, Vice Principal, Education & Leadership, West College Scotland; and R Deucher, Assistant Dean, School for Education, University of the West of Scotland.

CHAIR

Councillor J Henry presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Stott, S Flockhart, L McMinn, D Smiley, S McMeekin, J McKinnon, Z McKinnon, J Martin, S McCorrisken, K Allan, K Nesbitt, B Muir, J Gilmour, R McCormick, R Parnis, A Chalmers, R Urquhart, J Gunn, F Boyd, T Logan, E Barbour, and M Wilson (S6 Pupils from Gleniffer High School); L McAllister, Education Manager; Y Farquhar, Senior Policy Officer; R Cooper, Economent Development Manager; A Curruthers, Housing Advice & Homelessness Services Manager; A Conboy, Education Manager; and C MacDonald, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council); DCI C Henderson, Police Scotland; E Finlay, Team Leader (Children & Families); and L Daniels, Service Manager (Childrens Services) (both Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); and J Binning, Principal Policy Officer, SPT.

APOLOGIES

B Davidson (Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce); E McLean, J Trainer and S Bell (all Renfrewshire Council); N Burns, Police Scotland.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Children & Young People Thematic Board held on Tuesday 12 May, 2015.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

C&YP.21.05.13(4) - Strategy for Engagement of Young People; **C&YP.26.11.13(4)** - GIRFEC Implementation; and **C&YP.24.02.15(6)** - Single Outcome Agreement - It was agreed that these actions were now complete and would be removed from the action log.

DECIDED: That the Action Log be approved.

3 UPDATE ON TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Annabelle Armstrong-Walter, Policy Lead (Tackling Poverty, Welfare Reform & Equalities) delivered a presentation setting out proposals to deliver the recommendations made by the Tackling Poverty Commission as set out in the Council's Action Plan. Renfrewshire Council had committed £6M towards the delivery of the Action Plan. Both the Scottish Government and national media were taking a keen interest in progress to deliver positive outcomes.

The presentation gave the background to the development of the strategy and the launch of the report; outlined the timeline that was being followed; highlighted the key messages of the strategy and the priorities; summarised the key principles; and outlined some of the projects that were being developed.

After discussion Councillor Henry thanked Annabelle for her presentation.

DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

4 YOUTH VOICE - HAVING YOUR SAY

The S6 students gave a presentation relating to Youth Voice.

The following key points were made:

- Students felt that they were not listened to and this led them to be discouraged; students asked for a Board Member to come to the school to update them and feedback their views, comments and suggestions; and students intimated that they would be keen to engage with younger students in the school and to cascade information to them.

After questions and discussion both Councillor Henry and Peter MacLeod thanked the students for their presentation and intimated that they would look at the points raised and develop an action plan for the items discussed.

DECIDED:

(a) That the presentation be noted; and

(b) That the Board examine the points raised and develop an action plan to deliver improvements.

5 HEALTH & WELLBEING

The S6 pupils gave a presentation relating to Health & Wellbeing.

The following key points were made:

- Students felt too much pressure was being put on them to do well at school by staff and parents which led to unnecessary stress and had a negative impact on their performance; teachers and other people in authority did not understand how they felt and there was not enough information on how to deal with the situation; all the exams came at the one time and this caused them to feel overwhelmed. They asked for exams to be timetabled better and the workload spread out more evenly. F MacKay advised that a new counselling service would be developed as part of the Tackling Poverty Commission action plan and that this could be something the pupils could help to develop.
- Drugs were often considered socially acceptable within certain social groups; were easily accessible and low prices attracted young people; and not enough was being done by law enforcement to counter drug use in young people. Discussion took place with DCI Henderson relating to the stigma of talking to the Police. She advised that if any pupil had any concerns they could report incidents anonymously.
- Exam stress meant that students did not have any time to exercise; there was not enough emphasis to do exercise by parents and teachers; leisure facilities and clubs were too expensive and not accessible enough for certain people; and the cost of transport to get to these locations was too expensive as child fares stopped at 16 and they had to pay full fare. A Conboy advised that the Council was committed to making physical activity accessible to all young people and had lowered the cost of access to leisure facilities. J Binning intimated that deregulation of buses meant that local bus companies were responsible for their own fare prices however he advised that the Young Scot Card meant that the pupils could save on the cost of transport.

After questions and further discussion both Councillor Henry and Peter MacLeod thanked the students for their presentation and intimated that they would look at the points raised and develop an action plan for improvement.

DECIDED:

(a) That the presented be noted; and

(b) That the Board examine the points raised and develop an action plan to deliver improvements.

6 **EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING**

The S6 students gave a presentation relating to Jobs and Employment.

The following key points were made:

- More support should be offered to 6th year students for work experience; would like additional information about workshops and new jobs; would like job shadowing opportunities; would like an opportunity talk to people in careers.
- Sanctions for employment benefits were too severe; they would like to see more communication relating to jobs through social media.
- Students wanted a better relationship with Career Advisors; they felt that the information they wanted was not always available; they would like an opportunity to speak to university students regarding courses. M Gilligan advised he would feedback the points raised in relation to Career Advisors. He indicated that he would ensure that Skills Development Scotland was promoted through the school and he was keen to hear suggestions from students at any time.
- Students wanted basic understanding of skills required for employment ie. working on tills or filling out tax forms would be a great benefit.

K Miller advised that a summer programme of volunteering opportunities had been circulated to the school however if any pupil was interested in volunteering they should contact her directly.

After questions and further discussion both Councillor Henry and Peter MacLeod thanked the students for their presentation and intimated that they would examine the points raised and develop an action plan for improvement.

DECIDED:

(a) That the presentation be noted; and

(b) That the Board the points raised and develop an action plan to address these.

7 MISCELLANEOUS - OTHER ISSUES

The S6 Students gave a presentation on the topic of Other Issues Facing Young People.

The following key points were made:

- Lack of communication skills due to increased use of technology; lack of good shops, cafes and facilities for young people which led to a lack of opportunity to socialise safely causing anxiety/lack of confidence and had a negative emotional impact.
- If Paisley's facilities were to improve it would raise the issue of transport prices and frequency/lack of bus routes in more rural villages; teenagers over the age of 16 had to pay full fare even while they were still at school and the price difference was significant.
- Single parents did not receive enough support from the Council for grants (clothing, food etc) which led to single parents feeling stressed and anxious and it affected family life. Discussion took place on the cost of school uniforms (especially blazers); the price of branded items and peer pressure to wear these items; and the cost of school trips.

After questions and further discussion both Councillor Henry and Peter MacLeod thanked the students for their presentation and intimated that they would look at the points raised and develop an action plan for improvement.

DECIDED:

(a) That the presented be noted; and

(b) That the Board examine the points raised and develop an action plan to address these.

8 THANKS AND CLOSE

Peter MacLeod thanked everyone for their input and advised the students that the Board would look at the points raised; develop an action plan; and respond to the students within two weeks.

Councillor Henry thanked the students for their comprehensive and impressive presentations. She also thanked everyone who had been involved in organising the meeting, especially the Youth Workers, and the teaching staff for giving up their staff room for the meeting. She also thanked the Members of the Board and other Partners for their attendance and participation.

DECIDED:

(a) To note the thanks to everyone for their participation; and

(b) That it be agreed that within two weeks an action plan to deliver improvements be developed and shared with the students.



Minute of Meeting Forum for Empowering Communities

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 01 September 2015	16:00	Engage Renfrewshire, 1 Falcon Crescent, Paisley, PA3 1NS

PRESENT

A McNiven, Engage Renfrewshire; Lynne Oâ€™Brien, Barnardos; K Taylor, Citizens Advice Bureau; J Wilby, Paisley West & Central Community Council; S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel; I McLean, FLAIR; and J Cram, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership.

CHAIR

Alan McNiven presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

I Cunningham, S Graham, K Miller and S Miller (all Engage Renfrewshire); and A Armstrong-Walter, A Bradford, C MacDonald, A McNaughton, D Webb (all Renfrewshire Council).

APOLOGIES

A Fraser, Flair; S McLellan, RAMH; and J Ferrie, Engage.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities held on 5 May, 2015 was submitted for approval.

DECIDED: To approve the minute.

2 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for discussion.

DECIDED:

(a) **RF.12.11.13(6)** - Timetable of Thematic Board meetings to be sent to Members in order they can schedule in a presentation to their respective Board; and Forum representative on each of the Thematic Boards to be sent a list of actions set out in each of the Thematic Board's action plans that directly relates to Forum involvement;

(b) **RF.12.11.13(9)** - to review this target; identify current youth employment programmes being delivered by the 3rd Sector; and develop and deliver further job opportunities/initiatives (eg Xmas Leavers) for young people;

(c) **RF.04.02.14(4)** – to note that as the Advice Service review had been carried out and a partnership group had been established, this item could be removed from the action plan;

(d) **RF.27.01.15(2)** – to note that more localised events, in collaboration with local groups, would be delivered throughout Autumn 2015/Spring 2016; and that a new community council had been established in the Foxbar & Brediland area with 18 members;

(e) **RF.27.01.15(4)** – to note that the use of film/media was being examined and that funding was required to develop the online directory;

(f) **RF.27.01.15(5)** – to note the actions are being progressed in relation to Streets for All report;

(g) **RF.05.05.15(3)** – to note that the format and timing of a symposium about the Community Empowerment Act and the implications for the transfer of Council assets was under discussion; and

(h) That the Rolling Action Log be approved.

3 DIGITAL STRATEGY

Diane Webb, Project Manager (Digital Assistance) delivered a presentation about the Digital Development Plan which aimed to ensure that everyone in Renfrewshire had the opportunity to reach their digital potential and had the means of access, awareness, skills and confidence to participate online responsibly. It was recognised that digital connectivity was now considered the 4th utility fast becoming as necessary as water, electricity and gas. There was a real risk residents who were not digitally connected could find it difficult to access public services.

The plan set out the barriers to participation and identified the most disadvantaged groups- disabled people, those over 55 years old, and those in poverty. Resources would therefore be targeted towards these groups.

It was highlighted that there was a need for Renfrewshire to have an overarching Digital Strategy to co-ordinate public, private and 3rd sector activities to develop infrastructure and accessibility, improve connectivity, deliver training, advance ecommerce, educate and innovate – with digital participation at its core.

DECIDED: To thank Diane for her presentation and to make copies available to members.

4 UPDATE ON TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Annabelle Armstrong-Walter, Policy Lead (Tackling Poverty, Welfare Reform & Equalities) delivered a presentation setting out proposals to deliver the recommendations made by the Tackling Poverty Commission as set out in the Council's Action Plan. Renfrewshire Council had committed £6M towards the delivery of the Action Plan. Both the Scottish Government and national media were taking a keen interest in progress to deliver positive outcomes.

It was recognised that this Forum could play a pivotal role in scrutinising delivery of the Action Plan and strengthening community engagement to ensure resources to help tackle poverty were delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible by the full range of service providers.

The meeting discussed the need to pull together, into one coherent strategy, the various strands of work being undertaken by different agencies in order to maximise the impact of individual initiatives and the need to develop links with existing providers.

It was proposed that progress be advised as a standing item on the agenda for Forum meetings and this was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) To thank Annabelle for her presentation; and

(b) To include a progress report on Tackling Poverty as a standing item on the agenda for this meeting.

5 CITY OF CULTURE 2021

Alan McNiven (Chair) advised that the Council had set up a Board and was expected to appoint a Director, to oversee preparation of its bid for City of Culture and now wanted to appoint a community representative. Members should be aware that applications for this role would be invited shortly from third sector agencies. More details about the role were being sought. It was recognised that the role would provide an excellent opportunity for 3rd sector agencies to provide input to the bid.

DECIDED: to note the information and await further information about the role and the appointment of a representative to the Board.

6 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015

Anne McNaughton (Community Council Liaison Officer) invited members to publicise and promote the 4-yearly elections to community councils taking place throughout September. Community councils were the first statutory level of local democracy/representation.

Currently, 23 of the 25 community council areas were active and 283 residents were members of their local community council.

Given current low levels of membership, existing community councils in Gallowhill and Houston could struggle to obtain the required minimum number of members to form new community councils for 2015/19.

It was proposed that Engage Renfrewshire advertise membership as a volunteer opportunity. It was noted that information had been provided to ethnic and disability groups to promote participation. It was recognised that resources were required to remove barriers that prevented ethnic and disabled groups from seeking membership.

DECIDED:

(a) To promote the Community Council elections as volunteer opportunities;

(b) To examine the availability of resources to assist ethnic and disabled people become members of their community councils.

7 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

Alan McNiven (Chair) submitted a report advising that the Forum would have a significant role to play in ensuring that some key parts of the new Act were implemented effectively in Renfrewshire. Although guidance on implementation was still awaited, the Forum would have a key role in developing the wider Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership's response.

An appendix to the report summarised the key point for the community planning partnership and outlined the expected role the Forum could play to help deliver key elements of the Act.

DECIDED:

- (a) To note the publication of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the expected role the Forum would play in its implementation; and
- (b) To agree that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 be included as a standing item on the Forum agenda.

8 PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE THIRD SECTOR

There was submitted a report from A McNiven (Chair) on building more sustainable community capacity in the third sector in order to help deliver the outcomes of the Community Plan.

There was scope to strengthen the third sector through specific in-kind support to build governance and operational capacity. This would, in turn, increase the level of awareness within the public sector of the potential contribution the third sector could make to achieving policy objectives. An approach could also be made to the private sector for similar support to further increase the pool of resources available to voluntary and community organisations in Renfrewshire.

DECIDED:

- (a) To agree to consult with voluntary and community sector groups on skills requirements for governance and use the results of this work to contribute to the further development of statutory partners' staff volunteering schemes as appropriate;
- (b) To agree that the Forum deliver a presentation to the Community Planning Partnership Board on practical ways for statutory partners to support local third sector organisations; and
- (c) That the Lead Officer and Empowering Communities Manager develop the presentation.

9 UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS

Feedback reports from the members who had been present at the various Thematic Boards were submitted in respect of

- Greener Renfrewshire
- Jobs & Economy
- Safer & Stronger
- Children & Young People; and
- Community Care Health & Wellbeing

DECIDED: To note the feedback provided in these reports.

10 SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT VISIT

Alan Niven (Chair) intimated that a Parliament Day event would be held in Paisley on 21 September 2015 when the Presiding Officer (Rt Hon Trich Marwick MSP) would chair a

public meeting in the Town Hall with a panel of local MSPs. This would allow MSPs to hear the opinions of local people and answer their questions. Suggestions about ways of engaging with the Parliament to make positive change possible would be welcomed.

In addition, during the day the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee will hold informal meetings looking at their 'Work, wages and well-being in the Scottish labour market' Inquiry.

More details about this event would soon become available and would be publicised by the Scottish Parliament in the local press.

DECIDED: To note the information.

11 **EXPORTING PRACTICE**

A McNiven advised that Engage had a meeting with representatives from Clackmannshire Council to discuss the joint and integrated work being carried out between the Engage and Renfrewshire Council. At the meeting A McNiven was able to demonstrate positive outcomes of the approach and the Forum for Empowering Communities was recognised as having a direct influence on developing future plans.

DECIDED: That the verbal update be noted.

12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Forum meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 11 November 2015 at 4.00pm at Engage Renfrewshire.

Minute of Meeting Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 02 September 2015	10:00	CMR 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

Councillor T Williams; S MacDougall, Lead Officer and Director of Community Resources; D Hawthorn and O Reid (all Renfrewshire Council); S Miller, Engage Renfrewshire; Stephen Cruikshank, Forum for Empowering Communities; W Kennedy, North Strathclyde Criminal Justice Authority; K Philips, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; P Nelis, Scottish Fire and Rescue.

CHAIR

Councillor Williams, Chair, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

CI A Kennedy, Police Scotland; A Walter-Armstrong, Y Khan, D Kerr, Y Farquhar and C MacDonald (all Renfrewshire Council); and A Price (Scottish Community Safety Network).

APOLOGIES

E MacLean; D Mair; and A Conboy (all Renfrewshire Council); J Downie, Police Scotland; A Dick, West College Scotland; C Prentice, Victim Support; and L King, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made prior to the meeting.

1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of A Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board held on 14 May, 2015.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

DECIDED: That it be agreed that completed action S&S.05.03.15(3) be removed from the Rolling Action Log.

3 UPDATE ON TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Annabelle Armstrong-Walter, Policy Lead (Tackling Poverty, Welfare Reform & Equalities) delivered a presentation setting out proposals to deliver the recommendations made by the Tackling Poverty Commission as set out in the Council's Action Plan. Renfrewshire Council had committed £6M towards the delivery of the Action Plan. Both the Scottish Government and national media were taking a keen interest in progress to deliver positive outcomes.

The presentation gave the background to the development of the strategy and the launch of the report; outlined the timeline that was being followed; highlighted the key messages of the strategy and the priorities; summarised the key principles; and drew special attention to key actions relating to the Safer & Stronger theme.

DECIDED:

(a) To thank Annabelle for her presentation; and

(b) To note the presentation.

4 DIVERSITY & QUALITY ALLIANCE RENFREWSHIRE GROUP

Yasmeen Khan and Stephen Cruickshank delivered a presentation which informed the Board of the work of the Diversity and Equality Alliance in Renfrewshire Group (DEAR).

The presentation outlined the aims and purpose of the group; highlighted actions and achievements; the future plans for the group; and the key challenges facing them.

After further discussion it was agreed that the DEAR Group, as a sub-group of the Board, should submit an annual outcome report. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

- (a) To thank Yasmeen and Stephen for their presentation;
- (b) That it be agreed that the DEAR Group submit an annual outcome report; and
- (c) That the presentation be noted.

5 SAFER & STRONGER RENFREWSHIRE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - OUTCOME 4

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to a progress report for Outcome 4 “Renfrewshire citizens are positive, support equality and value diversity to achieve fairness for all within our communities”.

The report highlighted some key areas of progress and the progress against each individual action was detailed within the appendix.

Discussion took place on how information was communicated to the general public; how to gain their trust; how to create confidence; and the context of questions in surveys. It was agreed that this would be investigated and taken forward through the Culture Bid.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the key areas of progress be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that there are no areas for improvement;
- (c) That it be agreed that the Board undertake a review of the action plan as detailed within the report; and
- (d) That the area of developing plans to communicate with the public be investigated and taken forward through the Culture Bid.

6 SAFER & STRONGER UPDATE ON YEAR 1 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR REPORTING TO COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to an update on Year 1 Performance Indicators for reporting to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

The report advised that at the Community Planning Partnership Board in June 2015 it was agreed to delegate responsibility for scrutinising the performance of impact measures where the year one performance hadn't been reported to the appropriate thematic board. Five impact measures from the Safer and Stronger Single Outcome Agreement fell within this category:

- Increase % of adults who agree with the statement “I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as place to live”;
- Reduction in the number of teenagers who report being involved in 4 or more delinquent

activities in the past 12 months;

- Reduction in the number of teenagers who report having committed 4 or more criminal acts in the past 12 months;
- Increase the perception of secondary school pupils who report their communities are safe places to live (1-4 lower the better);
- Reduction in the number of secondary school pupils reporting that they are living in communities with many problems.

The report advised that an analysis of the progress of the first indicator, Increase % of adults who agree with the statement “I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as place to live” was contained within the report and results from the remaining indicators would be drawn from the second study of need and perception which would be carried out in late 2015/early 2016 using the Social Research Unit epidemiological approach.

The results were likely to follow six weeks after the completion of the survey and would show the change which had occurred since the baseline study which was carried out in late 2011/early 2012.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the update provided on the indicator: Increase % of adults who agree with the statement “I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as place to live” be noted;
- (b) That the position statement of the remaining indicators be noted; and
- (c) That it be agreed that the update be reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board at its meeting on 23 September 2015.

7 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources which provided an update on environmental enforcement and improvement activities; protecting vulnerable residents; building safer communities; diversionary activities; the development of the integrated control room and CCTV; and tackling poverty.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

8 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE AND POLICE SCOTLAND - TWO YEARS ON

(a) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – TWO YEARS ON

P Nelis delivered a presentation which outlined the progress made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service since it came into effect in 2013.

The presentation gave background to the amalgamation; defined the area covered by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; detailed the resources available; highlighted the priorities and the local plan; outlined key areas of performance; and summarised their engagement and partnership working activities.

Discussion noted that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service partnership working was very effective and very visible. S MacDougall indicated that a lot of good work was being developed on the prevent side and this should continue to be strengthened.

DECIDED:

- (i) To thank Paul for his presentation; and
- (ii) That the report be noted.

(b) **POLICE SCOTLAND – 2 YEARS ON**

A Kennedy delivered a presentation which outlined the progress made by Police Scotland since it came into effect in 2013.

The presentation gave background to the amalgamation; summarised the national and local Policing priorities; outlined key statistics; detailed key events that had taken place nationally and locally since the amalgamation; and highlighted new initiatives and projects that were being developed.

DECIDED:

- (i) To thank Alison for her presentation; and
- (ii) That the report be noted.

9 **SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME (SOC) STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND - REFRESH**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to an update to Scotland's Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy.

The updated strategy highlighted that a number of key messages would require to be addressed by the Community Safety Partnership; advised that the nature of serious organised crime was changing and would require a broader involvement from a range of services and partners in order to address the situation; and it also had implications for the Prevent approach, which had been focused on Counter Terrorism.

The report noted that 60% of SOC groups were involved in the use of seemingly legitimate businesses with 70% of the groups being located in the West of Scotland. There was evidence that the impact disproportionately affected poorer communities; contributed to social and economic inequalities; and impacted on the elderly population and adult care services and Health services as victims suffered a more rapid decline in health than their non-victim peers.

The report proposed that information be submitted to future meetings of the Board from other service areas and organisations, to raise awareness and share knowledge at a strategic level of how community issues were being tackled and to identify any strategic issues or interventions that could support better practice. Many of the actions would be similar to those being taken forward by the Prevent group as it sought to strengthen community resilience and capacity to prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable people. It was important that at a strategic level these connections were made and that actions

were appropriately assigned to each group to avoid duplication of effort.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the issues highlighted in the updated national strategy be noted:
- (b) That it be noted that the Integrity Group and Prevent Group were being tasked with their self assessment analysis and action plans;
- (c) That it be noted that relevant messages and actions relating to the work arising from the spotlight sessions to the Prevent Action plan would be added as it was developed;
- (d) That it be noted that employees from Regulatory Services would be prioritised for WRAP training to support their work on this agenda; and
- (e) That it be agreed that information be submitted to future meetings of the Board from other service areas and organisations, to raise awareness and share knowledge of how community issues were being tackled and to identify any strategic issues or interventions that could support better practice.

10 PREVENT - COUNTER TERRORISM

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which was approved at Westminster on 12 March 2015 and the multi-agency workshop event which took place on 23 June 2015 at Police Scotland's training college in Tulliallan to put both the act and the guidance into context and to develop strategic objectives.

The report advised that the topics discussed at the workshop reinforced the work that was already taking place; emphasised the importance of developing a strategic approach; and highlighted the need to develop connections being made across not only the council, but our partners and the community in order to strengthen community resilience and capacity to prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable people.

It was noted that the Home Office was proposing to allocate a one-off payment of £10,000 to local authorities to cover activity required to deliver on the terms of the duty.

DECIDED:

- (a) That it be noted that the current internal Prevent Group would expand to include representation from: Police Scotland; Prison Service; Scottish Fire and Rescue; NHS; Capability Scotland; and Further Education Establishments; and
- (b) That it be noted that the Home Office was proposing to allocate additional funding to cover activity required to deliver on the terms of the duty and a report would be submitted to a future meeting on how the funding would be allocated.

11 SELF ASSESSMENT UPDATE

A Price delivered a presentation relative to the self assessment which was undertaken by the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board.

The assessment was designed to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses and identify actions to strengthen partnerships.

The scorecard was made up of 6 score sheets covering:

- the Focus and impact of the partnership
- Partnership working
- Strategic coherence
- Planning and Delivery
- Review, reflect, refine
- Capturing performance

The scorecards were scored by Members of the Board and the report, which was tabled, set out the main findings and recommendations for action. It was presented in eight sections: one section for each score sheet together with a section on the overall pattern of average scores and a final section on recommendations.

The Assessment indicated that overall the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board appeared to have a very positive outcome with Focus and Impact and Strategic Coherence both scoring over 4/5. Those that fell below four were Partnership Working and Review, Reflect and Refine.

The assessment identified that many of the process and practices within the Board were working well with only a few areas that scored below the very high benchmark set across most of the categories of the assessment.

The areas where the scores were lower than the benchmark were:

- Partnership Working – Induction
- Capturing Performance – Sharing and Analysing Data Across Services
- Personal Roles – Recognition

DECIDED

(a) That the Board studies the areas for improvement and develop a strategy to address the issues; and

(b) That the presentation be noted.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 26 November 2015 at 10.30am within Renfrewshire House.



Minute of Meeting Community Care, Health & Wellbeing Thematic Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 08 September 2015	14:00	CMR 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

Councillor I McMillan, I Beattie and R Robertson (all Renfrewshire Council); S McDonald, Active Communities; S Nelson, Police Scotland; D Reid, Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership; D Goodman, Renfrewshire Carers; F MacKay, C Walker, C Burling and H Cunningham (all Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); J McKellar, Renfrewshire Leisure Limited; and R Telfer, Scottish Care.

CHAIR

Councillor I McMillan, Chair, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

J Davis, D Richmond and C MacDonald (all Renfrewshire Council); J McGhie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and A Gatopoulou, M Hunter and C Oliver (all Stroke Association).

APOLOGIES

Councillor M Brown and L Muirhead (both Renfrewshire Council); J Ferrie, Engage Renfrewshire; S McLellan, Forum for Empowering Communities; Dr A Van der Lee, GP representative; P Nelis, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; D Leese, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership; and A Cumberland, West College Scotland.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the Community Care, Health & Wellbeing Thematic Board held on 20 May, 2015.

DECIDED: That the minute be approved.

2 ROLLING ACTION LOG

CCH&W.04.09.14(10) – COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

CARERS FORUM – It was agreed that Councillor McMillan and a small group of Members would attend the next meeting of the Carers Forum in October to discuss increased carer engagement across Renfrewshire and would report back to the next meeting of the Board.

ADP – It was noted that D Leese and P MacLeod would attend a meeting of the ADP to be held on 23 November; would discuss key priorities and ideas for programme 2015/16; and would report back to the next meeting of the Board.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed that Councillor McMillan and a small group of Members attend the next meeting of the Carers Forum in October to discuss increased carer engagement across Renfrewshire and report back to the next meeting of the Board;

(b) That it be noted that D Leese and P MacLeod would attend a meeting of the ADP in November; would discuss key priorities and ideas for programme 2015/16; and report back to the next meeting of the Board; and

(c) That the Rolling Action Log be noted.

3 UPDATE ON TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

D Amos delivered a presentation setting out proposals to deliver the recommendations made by the Tackling Poverty Commission as set out in the Council's Action Plan. Renfrewshire Council had committed £6M towards the delivery of the Action Plan. Both the Scottish Government and national media were taking a keen interest in progress to deliver positive outcomes.

The presentation gave the background to the development of the strategy and the launch of the report; outlined the timeline that was being followed; highlighted the key messages of the strategy and the priorities; summarised the key principles; and drew special attention to the key actions relating to the Community Care, Health & Wellbeing theme.

DECIDED:

- (a) To thank David for his presentation; and
- (b) To note the presentation.

4 MY STROKE GUIDE

A Gatopoulou, M Hunter and C Oliver delivered a presentation on the work of the Stroke Association.

A Gatopoulou gave some background information and advised that the stroke association worked with people affected by stroke by supporting them, raising funds and developing strategies to prevent strokes from happening. The presentation outlined the impact of a stroke and the management of recovery.

M Hunter highlighted the “My Stroke Guide Project” within Inverclyde and Renfrewshire. The Guide was a unique online platform to support stroke survivors to make the best possible recovery and it was an interactive application which could be accessed through computers, tablets and smartphones. It was highly accessible, and offered goal-setting tools and peer to peer support as well as information through text and videos.

C Orr spoke to the Board about the “Know Your Blood Pressure” project. He highlighted the importance of the project and why it was important to develop the project.

DECIDED:

- (a) To thank Anastasia, Maureen and Colin for their presentation; and
- (b) To note the presentation.

5 UPDATE ON PROGRESS REPORT AGAINST YEAR 1 TARGETS

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Health Improvement relative to an update on Year 1 Performance Indicators for reporting to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

The report advised that on 20 May 2015, an update on progress against year 1 targets for the Community Care, Health & Wellbeing indicators was presented to the Community Care, Health and Wellbeing Board. At that point the Health & Social Care Partnership did not have the results of the Adult Health and Wellbeing Survey 2014 and the Community Profile 2014 and could not therefore provide data against some of the indicators. The report intimated that the Survey results and Community Profile data were now available and a summary of progress was provided in the report.

DECIDED: That the update on progress against the indicators as detailed within the report be noted.

6 HOUSING STRATEGY

A presentation was delivered by J Davis relative to the draft Local Housing Strategy 2016-2021.

The presentation outlined the purpose of the Local Housing Strategy; highlighted the key issues for consideration; summarised the draft outcomes; drew special attention to Outcome 5 – Homelessness and Outcome 6 – Supported Living; and detailed timescales for the Strategy.

DECIDED:

(a) To thank Jane for her presentation; and

(b) To note the presentation.

7 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING SURVEY

C Walker delivered a presentation relative to the 2014 Adult Health & Wellbeing survey for the Renfrewshire area. The survey provided an update from which progress towards performance assessment targets and national health behavior targets could be measured against the 1999 baseline data.

The presentation advised that 1,203 face-to-face interviews were carried out with adults in the Renfrewshire area. The survey findings related to: health behaviours such as smoking, alcohol, diet and physical activity; body mass index; access to health services; people's perceptions of their health and well-being; social health; and social capital.

After further discussion it was agreed that there should be formal launch of the survey information similar to the previous launch three years ago in the marriage suite.

DECIDED:

(a) To thank Clare for her presentation;

(b) That it be agreed that a formal launch of the survey be organised; and

(c) That the presentation be noted.

SEDERUNT

Prior to consideration of the following item of business J McKellar left the meeting.

8 BRAW UPDATE

There was submitted a report by R Anderson, Renfrewshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership relative to an update on progress in relation to the project event Brighter Renfrewshire Alcohol Awareness Week (BRAW).

The report advised that the event took place between 15 and 19 June 2015 with the message focused on getting the most out of summer by being safe and having fun

without excessive use of alcohol.

BRAW and the associated funding allowed a large scale campaign which highlighted sensible drinking messages to the community. Information was directly disseminated to around 2000 individuals via the road shows, community events and a street party. The BRAW branded posters were distributed throughout the locality which meant that the message reached an even wider audience and advertising in the Paisley Daily Express further promoted BRAW activity.

The funding also allowed engagement with the wider community, local groups and partner organisations, including licensed premises. This allowed networks to be established which would be useful in future partnership projects.

D Reid advised that evaluation of the impact funding had on those in receipt of BRAW awards was positive, with participants reporting positive outcomes and as a result of their BRAW activity this had allowed a distinct branding for alcohol awareness campaigns in Renfrewshire.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

9 **INTEGRATION FUND UPDATE - INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS**

R Robertson and S McDonald delivered a short presentation relative to four projects which were being funded by the Integrated Care Fund. The four projects were being led by local third sector organisations RAMH; Active Communities; Linstone Housing Association; and the Thistle Foundation, and relate to a Social Prescribing Pilot; the development of Community Health Champions; the development of Health and Housing Hubs; and a Lifestyle Management Project respectively. The first three projects were linked and would be piloted in Johnstone and Linwood and the fourth would be piloted in another area to be decided.

DECIDED:

(a) To thank Roisin and Susan for their presentation; and

(b) To note the presentation.

VALEDICTION

On behalf of the Board, Councillor McMillan extended his thanks to Chief Inspector Sandy Nelson, Police Scotland for the significant contribution he had made to the Community Care, Health & Wellbeing Thematic Board and for the advice and assistance he had provided and wished him well for the future. These sentiments were echoed by all members present.



Minute of Meeting Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 09 September 2015	09:45	InCube, 27 High Street, Paisley,

PRESENT

Councillor R Glen; M Crearie; A Morrison; R Cooper (all Renfrewshire Council); B Davidson, Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce; S Graham, Engage; S Clocherty, Health & Social Care Partnership; A Dick, West College Scotland; and M Dunn University of the West of Scotland.

CHAIR

Councillor Glen, Chair, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

D Amos; Y Farquhar and C MacDonald (all Renfrewshire Council).

APOLOGIES

I McLean, Forum for Empowering Communities; R Nimmo, Glasgow Airport; J Downie, Police Scotland; H Cunningham, Health & Social Care Partnership; K Sharp, Scottish Enterprise; M Gilligan, Skills Development Scotland; J Binning, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Convener intimated that he proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 6 of the agenda after item 2.

Councillor Glen opened the meeting by welcoming Meg Dunn, External Engagement Business Partner from UWS, and Alasdair Morrison, Head of Regeneration, Renfrewshire Council to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board held on 16 June, 2015.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

J&E.27.03.13(2.3III) AND J&E.09.01.14(6) - DISCUSSION ON OVERLAPPING THEMES WITH C&YP TB

M Crearie advised that she had met with P MacLeod, Director of Children's Services and Lead Officer for Children & Young People Thematic Board and it was agreed that the first hour of the next meeting of the Children & Young People Thematic Board to be held on 12 November, 2015 should involve a group of Members from the Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board to discuss overlapping themes. The Clerk took a note of Members who were interested in attending the meeting and she advised that she would send a calendar invitation to those Members

J&E.12.03.15(6) - IIQ

It was noted that meetings were ongoing.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed that a group of members representing the Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board meet with the Children & Young People Thematic Board at its next meeting to be held on 12 November, 2015 to discuss overlapping themes; and

(b) That the rolling action log be noted.

3 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

R Cooper delivered a presentation relating to InCube, the new business incubator for creative retail businesses. She advised that all InCube businesses won their places

against stiff competition and were receiving a broad mix of support, training and advice from industry experts with a package of support worth more than £11,000 which included funding and support. The incubator gave young businesses a worry-free environment in which they could concentrate on developing their products, services and markets.

She advised that a shop would shortly open up in Gilmour Street which would sell the products of the young businesses and the shop would also run as a retail academy.

DECIDED:

- (a) To thank Ruth for her presentation; and
- (b) To note the presentation.

4 UPDATE ON TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

D Amos delivered a presentation setting out proposals to deliver the recommendations made by the Tackling Poverty Commission as set out in the Council's Action Plan. Renfrewshire Council had committed £6M towards the delivery of the Action Plan. Both the Scottish Government and national media were taking a keen interest in progress to deliver positive outcomes.

The presentation gave the background to the development of the strategy and the launch of the report; outlined the timeline that was being followed; highlighted the key messages of the strategy and the priorities; summarised the key principles; and drew special attention to five specific projects relating to the Jobs & the Economy theme.

DECIDED:

- (a) To thank David for his presentation; and
- (b) To note the presentation.

SEDERUNT

Prior to consideration of the following item of business S Graham left the meeting.

5 INVEST IN RENFREWSHIRE UPDATE

R Cooper delivered a presentation updating members on the Annual Employability Awards and Conference which took place in the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew on 17 and 18 June, 2015.

The Awards ceremony recognised the achievements of many unemployed people who had secured work over the last 2 years. The event also highlighted the depth of partnership in Renfrewshire with a number of CPP partners presenting the awards and speaking on the night.

The annual Employability Conference took place on 18 June, 2015 and the conference programme included tackling inequalities and key developments; building on developing Scotland's young workforce; local information/communications on employability; and

maximising opportunities from planned Renfrewshire Developments.

DECIDED

(a) To thank Ruth for her presentation; and

(b) To note the presentation.

6 CITY DEAL EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

A report was submitted by R Cooper, Development & Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council which provided an update on the Working Matters labour market programme being delivered through Invest in Renfrewshire as part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal. This was the first of the employability programmes to be delivered through City Deal.

The report advised that the programme commenced in August and would run for a period of three years. Participants to the programme were ESA claimants who had completed two years on the Work Matters Programme and had not achieved a sustainable outcome.

DECIDED

(a) That the roll out of the Working Matters programme in August 2015 be noted; and

(b) That it be agreed that further updates on progress would be submitted to the Board.

7 VOYAGER PROJECT - EVALUATION

There was submitted a report by B Davidson relative to an evaluation of the Voyager Project.

The report advised that the Voyager Project was a cross partner international themed initiative focused on students conducting international research for local business; working with 4 key partners – Scottish Enterprise (SE), the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce and Renfrewshire Council (Invest in Renfrewshire).

Overall, all partners, students, mentors & clients believed that Voyager was a success and the report recommended that the project be continued and expanded in the future.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

8 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

A verbal update was given by Bob Davidson, Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce on the activities of the Chamber.

He advised that applications were due to close for the annual business awards of Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, the ROCCO awards. A new category had been established called “Renfrewshire’s Favourite Business” which would be sponsored by the Paisley Daily Express and the timeline for this award would be different from the rest.

It was noted that the Chamber's next lunch would take place on Thursday 24 September 2015 at Ingliston Country Club and the speaker was Tom Stewart, the Chair of Paisley First (the BID - Business Improvement District).

Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce had become the first Chamber in Scotland to be accredited with Investors in People Gold. He intimated that the Chamber was delighted to receive this award.

Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce and Renfrewshire Council were working together on a STEM fortnight which would take place between Tuesday 29 September and Friday 9 October, 2015. They were looking to provide as many STEM related opportunities as possible for pupils to enter into Renfrewshire businesses that were involved in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths.

The Young Enterprise Scotland Company Programme was launched at West College Scotland on 2 September, 2015. The programme was an opportunity for S5 and S6 pupils to learn real entrepreneurial skills in a safe but competitive environment.

DECIDED: That the verbal update be noted.

9 **RENFREWSHIRE RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE**

There was submitted a report by R Cooper, Economic Development Manager relative to potential funding sources and delivery of a single employer offer to companies.

The report advised that the new model was broadly similar to the model being developed through Renfrewshire Council and it had been incorporated into a wider Renfrewshire Recruitment Incentive for the next three years.

DECIDED

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That updates on the project would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

10 **LABOUR MARKET UPDATE**

There was submitted a newsletter by Economic Development which provided an overview of employment activity and economic development in Renfrewshire at the end of July 2015.

The newsletter illustrated the Renfrewshire labour market position and advised how Renfrewshire fared in comparison to the rest of the country. It also included a brief summary of the progress made to date by the Council's Invest in Renfrewshire Programme and Business Gateway Programme and provided information on wider economic development activity across Renfrewshire.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

