

# Local Area Committee Review Update

**Local Area Committees  
November / December 2017**

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- ✓ Survey responses
- ✓ Focus groups
- ✓ Community Council Sub-Group
- ✓ LAC Conveners
- ✓ LAC Lead Officers
- ✓ Council departments
- ✓ Funded organisations
- ✓ Organisations that weren't successful getting funding
- ✓ Community led organisations that do not attend Local Area Committees
- ✓ Community Planning Partners



## Function and remit – What people told us

“Bring groups and projects together”

“Engagement activities for all to participate in”

“It should be a body which responds to the perceived needs of the community”

“In line with the Community Empowerment Bill”

“To be a recognised power of authority to be taken seriously by the Council and other statutory bodies”

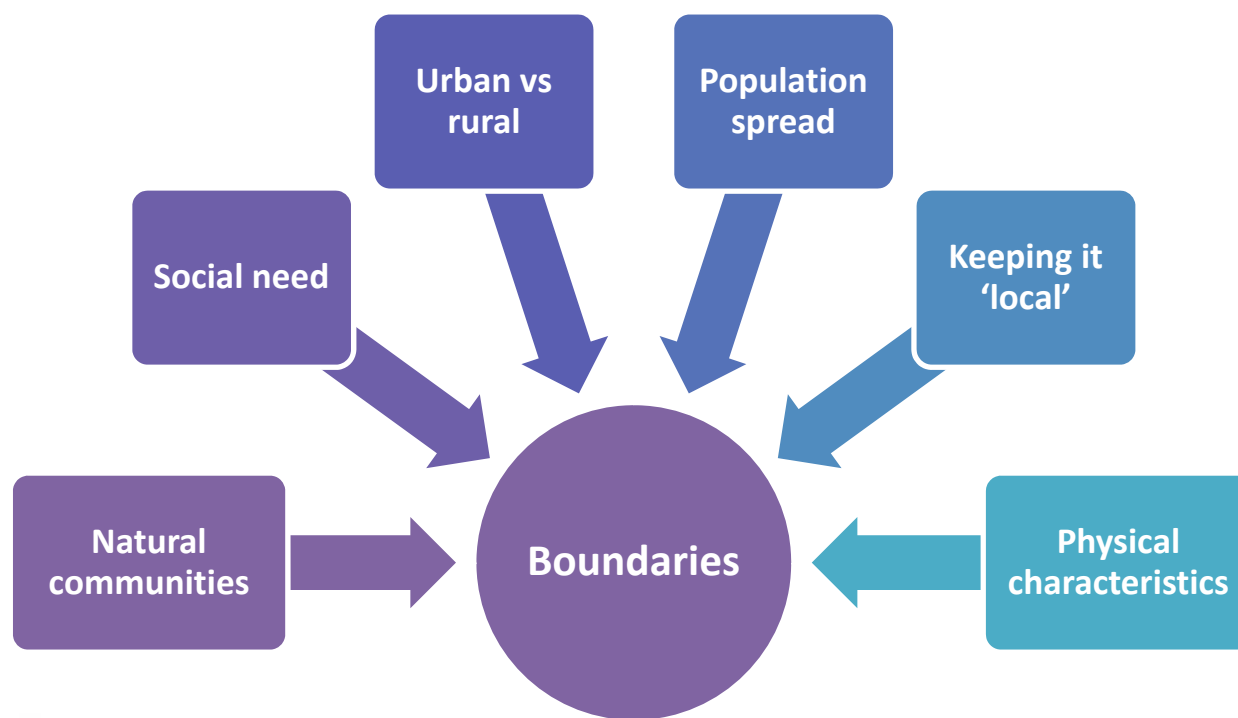
“Agree a local action plan to reflect the needs of local communities”

“To promote an interagency approach to local issues”

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## Boundaries - What people told us



## Membership - What people told us

### **Underrepresentation of some groups**

“More access and representation from voluntary organisations should be promoted and facilitated”

### **Lots of community representatives wanted to vote / more of a say**

“LAC members have become disenchanted as they feel their input was irrelevant and that decisions had already been made”

### **Some felt it right and proper for elected members to make decisions due to their democratic mandate**

“Only elected members should have a vote, they are the ones with the elected mandate from the community”

## **Meetings - What people told us**

**Some people welcomed the formality and the professionalism of the meeting style**

**Formal committee style of meetings could be offputting for new or less confident members**

**“its quite intimidating for wee voluntary and community groups and a bit impersonal at times”**

**Accessibility is important, especially making sure people can hear**

**Clear and plain English, less jargon and fewer lengthy officer reports**

**Publicity surrounding the meetings and communication of their activities could be improved**

## Grants - What people told us

- LACs fund hundreds of community led groups all over Renfrewshire
- Principles are sound, but **not enough structure** for an oversubscribed system
  - Process is **long** and sometimes **difficult**
  - Many in favour of **scoring** applications against a set of criteria
  - Mixed views on what types of applications should be supported
- Applications from Council services and multi-area applications should be reviewed
- A number of community organisations have **negative experiences**
  - Support for more **feedback, monitoring and evaluation**

## Next Steps

- Updating all of the Local Area Committees in this cycle
- Council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> December
- Asking for approval to consult on options for future arrangements



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