

To: Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

On: 13 December 2017

Report by:

Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire

TITLE:

Greener Communities

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following the restructure of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership, Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities has been asked to take on additional responsibility in terms of the agenda formerly progressed by Greener Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 To respond to this, an informal grouping of third sector organisations is proposed to respond to issues that would previously have been routed through the Greener Communities sub group of the Greener Renfrewshire thematic group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities:
 - (a) Agrees that an informal grouping be convened of third sector organisations with expertise/interest in environmental issues, as a sounding board for responding to greener issues.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Greener Renfrewshire Community Planning Thematic Board was discontinued following the 2016 restructure of the community planning partnership, with the intention of mainstreaming work to promote the environmental agenda across the community planning partnership.
- 3.2 In particular, Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities was asked to take on oversight of community and third sector involvement in progressing

greener/environmental activity, which was formerly the remit of the Greener Communities sub group.

- 3.3 A number of developments are scheduled to take place during 2018 that would benefit from input from third sector and voluntary organisations with a green remit or focus. These include:
- Expected guidance from the Scottish Government on Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which refers to allotment provision and the development of a food growing strategy.
 - Community engagement in any planned changes to public green spaces and input into green aspects of asset transfers.
 - Community engagement in measures to mitigate Climate Change.
 - Environmental aspects of the development of asset transfer proposals.
- 3.4 Organisations represented on Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities and the wider voluntary and community sectors in Renfrewshire have a range of expertise and interest in the environmental agenda. This includes responsibility for managing building and land assets, providing community services that reduce carbon emissions and conserve energy to benefit individual households, community growing/planting, community clean-ups and the promotion of environmental awareness within communities.

Proposal

- 3.5 It is proposed that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities establishes an informal grouping of third sector organisations with an environmental focus. This grouping will act as a sounding board to respond to any environmental issues that require a community response and a source of issues to be raised with community planning partners through Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities.
- 3.6 The new environmental grouping will not be constituted as a formal sub-committee of Renfrewshire Forum of Empowering Communities, but will be convened three or four times per year, as necessary, to respond to specific issues and discuss issues that could be raised for discussion within Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. Meeting format will be flexible and may vary according to the subject being discussed or the number of organisations wishing to attend.
- 3.7 In addition to meetings or events, social media will be used to keep members informed of developing issues that require a response or present opportunities to be proactive on the Greener agenda.
- 3.8 Invitations will be sent to third sector organisations in Renfrewshire seeking expressions of interest in being part of the third sector environmental grouping.

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