

To: Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

On: 1 February 2017

Report by:
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TITLE:
Renfrewshire Council Stakeholder Engagement

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council is currently developing a Stakeholder Engagement Framework, in order to ensure a systematic and consistent approach to Council engagement with its partners, service users and communities. A presentation on the Stakeholder Engagement Framework was made previously to the Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities on 30 March 2016, at which time the Forum agreed to act as a Reference Group on the development of the external stakeholder aspect of this work, provide expertise and content for sections of the Framework and sign off before presentation to the Community Planning Partnership Board.
- 1.2 The Stakeholder Engagement Framework complements the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and also the requirement of the Fairer Scotland programme, published in 2016, for 1% of Council budgets to subject to Participatory Budgeting processes.
- 1.3 An outline of the contribution required of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities to develop the Stakeholder Engagement Framework is set out in the table at paragraph 3.7.
- 1.3 The Stakeholder Engagement Framework also aligns with current and planned work to strengthen engagement with Community Councils, the Digital Renfrewshire Strategy and a review of the operation of Local Area Committees.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Forum:

- (a) Agrees to establish a sub-committee of the Forum to provide content and advice on the development of the external stakeholder engagement component of the Stakeholder Engagement Framework.
- (b) Agrees members of the Forum to serve on the sub-committee to carry out the work outline at (a) above.
- (c) Agrees that the sub-committee is remitted to consider the list of issues outlined in the table at paragraph 3.7.

3. Background

- 3.1 The refresh of the Renfrewshire Council Plan in 2015 contained an action to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Framework in order to involve customers more in the design and review of services and actively seek ideas for improvement. The Stakeholder Engagement Framework was intended to build on the Renfrewshire Council Consultation Strategy 2012-15 and the associated consultation toolkit that was reviewed in 2014.
- 3.2 Officers from Renfrewshire Council's Chief Executive's Service presented to the Forum For Empowering Communities on 30 March 2016 regarding the development of the Engagement Framework to date, opportunities for community involvement in the design and development of a Framework including wider community planning partners and a request for the Forum to act as a Reference Group on the development of the external stakeholder aspect of the Engagement Framework. The Forum agreed on 30 March 2016 to act as a Reference Group in developing the external stakeholder aspect of the Stakeholder Engagement Framework, to provide expertise on contents and sections of the Framework, sign off the Framework before presentation to the Community Planning Partnership Board and contribute to agreement of a name for the Framework.
- 3.3 Renfrewshire Council is developing a new Council Plan for the period 2017-21 and Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is developing a ten year Local Outcome Improvement Plan and associated Locality Plans to be completed by 1 October 2017. Development of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy will contribute to meeting the "understanding local needs" requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and support sustainable implementation and delivery of the Council Plan, Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans in the longer term, with strong community and other stakeholder engagement. The Stakeholder Engagement Framework should align closely with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.

- 3.4 The restructure of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Governance arrangements approved at the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board meeting on 7 December 2016 also referred to a review of the operation of Local Area Committees (LACs) in Renfrewshire during 2017. The LAC review, along with related work to build stronger working relationships with Community Councils, who have a statutory role to act as the voice of local communities, provides an opportunity for the Stakeholder Engagement Framework to be built on efforts to strengthen existing engagement activity. Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership was also one of the pilot areas for the new national community engagement standards developed by Scottish Community Development Centre.
- 3.5 The Stakeholder Engagement Framework relates to the Community Planning Partnership's commitment in the Community Plan 2013-23 to work to agree a single, integrated community consultation strategy for Renfrewshire. The Stakeholder Engagement Framework is also closely related to the Digital Renfrewshire Strategy, which the Forum For Empowering Communities also has an interest in through the following Form progress measures:
- 5% increase in the percentage of people using the internet to engage with the Community Planning Partnership.
 - 5% increase in the percentage of people using the internet for personal use.
- The use of social media and its potential for strengthening engagement between communities and partner agencies was identified within the review of the Council's current engagement policies as an opportunity that the new Stakeholder Engagement Framework will seek to develop.
- 3.6 Requirements through the Fairer Scotland Programme for Scottish councils to earmark at least 1% of their budgets to be decided through Participatory Budgeting exercises. This should also be included as part of the Stakeholder Engagement strategy, as a new requirement placed upon the Council.

Next Steps

- 3.7 In terms of the Forum For Empowering Communities contribution to the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Framework, the next steps are as follows (action required the Forum in bold):

Activity	Date
Establish a working group to develop the Stakeholder Engagement Framework. (Council/partners)	March 2017
Establish a sub-committee of the Forum to contribute to the external stakeholder aspect of the Stakeholder Engagement Framework.	March 2017

<p>Sub-committee to provide comment on draft Stakeholder Engagement Framework regarding issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping stakeholders to be included in public sector engagement; • methods of engagement preferred by communities/third sector organisations; • capacity for communities/third sector organisations to engage with partners on a range of issues; • roles of established networks or forum arrangements within the stakeholder engagement structure; • external engagement within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans; • best practice in use of social media to engage communities; • extent to which public sector engagement activity facilitates coherent, joined-up engagement work; • subjects and services suitable for participatory budgeting exercises; • role of Forum going forward in designing external engagement activity and encouraging communities to participate in engagement processes; • potential names for the Stakeholder Engagement Framework. 	<p>June- July 2017</p>
<p>Signing off final draft of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy regarding external engagement, prior to approval by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board.</p>	<p>September 2017</p>
<p>Sign off by Community Planning Partnership Board to align with development and agreement of Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans</p>	<p>September 2017</p>

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