

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Forum for Empowering Communities

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 17 November 2015	16:00	Engage Renfrewshire, 1 Falcon Crescent, Paisley, PA3 1NS

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

L O'Brien, Barnados; I McLean, Bridgewater Housing Association; A Fraser, Linstone Housing Association; J Wilby, Paisley West End & Central Community Council; S McLellan, RAMH; S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel; K Taylor, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau; J Cram, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; and J Kiddie, Renfrewshire Law Centre.

Chair

Alan McNiven

Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to reception where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

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.

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|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Minute of Previous Meeting | 5 - 10 |
| | Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday 1 September, 2015. | |
| 2 | Rolling Action Log | 11 - 14 |
| | Report by Director of Finance & Resources, Renfrewshire Council. | |
| 3 | Community Council Election Update | 15 - 18 |
| | Report by Director of Finance & Resources, Renfrewshire Council. | |
| 4 | Community Learning & Development Strategy | |
| | Verbal Update by A Conboy, Acting Education Manager, Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council. | |
| 5 | Renfrewshire Forum for Communities Development Day, 30 September, 2015 | 19 - 24 |
| | Report by Lead Officer of Forum for Empowering Communities. | |
| 6 | Tackling Poverty In Renfrewshire | |
| | Discussion led by Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities. | |
| 7 | City of Culture 2021 | |
| | Verbal Update by Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities. | |

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| 8 | Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2105 | 25 - 46 |
| | Report by Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities. | |
| 9 | Widening Opportunities for School Work Experience Placements | |
| | Verbal Update by Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities. | |
| 10 | Update from Thematic Boards | 47 - 58 |
| | Report by Director of Finance & Resources, Renfrewshire Council | |



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 O'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:

- (a) To note the information and await further information about the role and the appointment of a representative to the Board.
- (b) That it be agreed that the City of Culture be a standing item on the agenda.

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 Alan 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 McNiven (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

Alan 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 Alan 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.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

ROLLING ACTION LOG

Action No.	Action	Action Owner	Status	Expected Date of Completion	Actual Date of Closure	Update & Comments
RF.10.09.13(4)	<u>Report back to the Forum on the agreed outcome for Local Area Committee Review.</u>	Lead Officer		Future Meeting		<p>RF.12.11.13(5) Survey sent to LAC members; Report went to LACs in November; Forum has input into Review; Update paper to be submitted to Council; Area based meetings to be set up January-March 2014.</p> <p>RF.04.02.14(3) LAC Review ongoing and a report to be submitted to a future meeting.</p> <p>March 2014 An options paper for different potential models for the future of Local Area Committees was drafted in March 2014 and submitted to politicians for their views. Further development work will be undertaken that incorporates the views of the politicians.</p> <p>November 2014 Updated proposals paper to be produced for officer discussion by 21st November, 2014.</p> <p>January 2014 Proposals paper produced and discussed.</p> <p>November 2015 Forum involvement complete and referred to Council.</p>
RF.10.09.13(8)	<u>Development of Targets & Baselines.</u>	Forum Members		Future Meeting		<p>RF.12.11.13(6) Priorities for third sector work to be further discussed and a presentation to the relevant thematic Boards setting out potential third sector contribution to delivery of the action plans would take place.</p> <p>RF.04.02.14(4) each Forum representative to submit a presentation to their respective Thematic Board outlining the actions the Forum will deliver that contribute to the Themed</p>

Action is on track



Areas for concern that will impact on completion date if not fixed. Action required to bring up to satisfactory level



Past deadline date and action required.



KEY

Action No.	Action	Action Owner	Status	Expected Date of Completion	Actual Date of Closure	Update & Comments
		Forum Members		February 2014	Sept 2015	<p>targets.</p> <p><u>RF.12.11.13(6)</u> Forum representatives on each of the relevant Boards takes responsibility for progressing the actions set out in each of the tables regarding Forum involvement.</p> <p><u>RF.01.09.15(2)</u> 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.</p>
<u>RF.12.11.13(9)</u>	<u>Youth Employment – Engagement, Initiatives and Considerations</u> - A McNiven to meet with Director of Education & Leisure Services and other partner organisations to discuss the matter and report back to a future meeting.	Lead Officer		Future Meeting		<p><u>January 2014</u> A McNiven and Robert Naylor met with MSYPs. Discussion centered around MSYPs looking to expand their membership and establish pupil forums to discuss issues relating to the Thematic Board rather than attending the Board meetings. It was noted that MSYP's agreed to develop a strategy and to keep the Lead Officer informed.</p> <p><u>March 2014</u> Meeting with Director of Education and chair of Forum and Reps of Flair on 1st May, 2014</p> <p><u>RF.28.05.14(2)</u> It was noted that A McNiven and R Naylor met with the Chair of the Forum and Representatives of Flair on 1st May, 2014. It was noted that FLAIR were interested in the potential of a job-training initiative for young people looking to leave school at Christmas and that R Naylor would be contacting the organisation to discuss the matter further.</p> <p><u>RF.01.09.15(2)</u> 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.</p>

Action No.	Action	Action Owner	Status	Expected Date of Completion	Actual Date of Closure	Update & Comments
<u>RF.27.01.15(2)</u>	Local Engagement Events (i) Engage looking at organisations in the Bridgewater area in Erskine to ascertain if any are currently undertaking a public engagement exercise in order that they can piggy-back on to it. (ii) Names are being collected for development of engagement activity within Foxbar.					<u>May 2015</u> Programme of engagement events to be finalised during May 2015. Steering Group for establishment of a Community Council in the Foxbar/Brediland area now agreed. <u>RF.01.09.15(2)</u> more localised events, in collaboration with local groups to be delivered throughout Autumn 2015/Spring 2016; and a new community council has been established in the Foxbar & Brediland area with 18 members.
<u>RF.27.01.15(4)</u>	Social Enterprise Event communication through media/film be investigated and reported to a future meeting					<u>RF.21.04.15</u> Engage working on a directory of names. <u>RF.01.09.15(2)</u> the use of film/media being examined and funding required to develop the online directory.
<u>RF.27.01.15(5)</u>	Streets for All Contact to be made with Renfrewshire Council, the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board, the Jobs and Economy Thematic Board and the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board to discuss the possibility of introducing safer pavements as an equality outcome for Renfrewshire Council and the Community Planning Partnership					<u>May 2015</u> Papers on Streets For All to be submitted to the following meetings of CPP Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer and Stronger (14 May 2015)• Greener (3 June 2015)• Jobs and Economy (11 June 2015)
<u>RF.05.05.15(3)</u>	Asset Transfer Symposium event to be developed around the Community Empowerment Bill and Asset Transfer and to liaise with Council staff, Housing Associations and DTAS to participate in the event.	Lead Officer				<u>RF.01.09.15</u> Format and timing of a symposium about the Community Empowerment Act and the implications for the transfer of Council assets under discussion
<u>RF.01.09.15(6)</u>	Community Council Elections examine the availability of resources to assist ethnic and disabled people become members of their community councils.	Lead Officer				

Action No.	Action	Action Owner	Status	Expected Date of Completion	Actual Date of Closure	Update & Comments
<u>RF.01.09.15(8)</u>	<u>Promoting And Supporting The Third Sector</u> Forum will deliver a presentation to the Community Planning Partnership Board on practical ways for statutory partners to support local third sector organisations. Lead Officer and Empowering Communities Manager develop the presentation.	Lead Officer/ SG				



To: **FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

On: **17 November, 2015**

Report by:
Director of Finance & Resources, Renfrewshire Council

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS - UPDATE

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report advises that 21 community councils have been established until 2019 following the 4-yearly elections held throughout Renfrewshire to return members.
- 1.2 A total of 308 residents are now members of their local community councils. Of these, 122 are new members engaged in representing their communities for the first time.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the last Forum meeting it was noted that 4-yearly elections would take place during September 2015 to return members to community councils throughout Renfrewshire. It was also noted that Foxbar & Brediland Community Council area was exempt from the Council-wide election, given that it had only recently been established and had returned 18 members following a local election in that area.
- 3.2 The elections were conducted in accordance with the method set out in the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils (the Scheme) approved by Renfrewshire Council in February 2015. The Scheme details the minimum and maximum number of members required to establish each community council as a viable concern.
- 3.3 The following table lists the 21 community councils that by the close of the election period on 30 September 2015 had achieved the minimum number of members required in order to be established for the next 4 years to 2019.

Table 1 – Community Council Election Outcome 2015

Community Council	<i>Minimum Members</i>	<i>Maximum Members</i>	Members Elected
Bishopton	10	30	15
Bridge of Weir	7	21	13
Brookfield	7	21	10
Elderslie	10	30	11
Erskine	10	30	16
Foxbar & Brediland*	10	30	18
Gallowhill	10	30	10
Hawkhead & Lochfield	10	30	16
Houston	10	30	17
Howwood	7	21	19
Inchinnan	7	21	12
Johnstone	10	30	15
Kilbarchan	7	21	16
Langbank	7	21	15
Linwood	10	30	15
Lochwinnoch	7	21	20
Paisley East & Whitehaugh	10	30	12
Paisley North	7	21	7
Paisley West & Central	10	30	17
Ralston	7	21	13
Renfrew	10	30	21
			308

(*The table also includes the result of the local Foxbar & Brediland Community Council election held in June 2105).

- 3.4 A combined total of 308 residents are now members of their local community councils. Including the recently-elected members of Foxbar & Brediland Community Council, some 122 residents are engaged in representing their communities for the first time. 186 members were re-elected having served as members during 2011-2015. (Prior to this election, 284 residents were members of their local community councils).
- 3.5 As the number of candidates for election to each community council did not exceed the maximum required, no Ballots were held and consequently all members of community councils were elected “unopposed”.
- 3.6 Only 5 candidates came forward for election to Glenburn Community Council (minimum 10 required) and only 1 candidate came forward for election to Hunterhill Community Council (minimum 7 required). Finance & Resources will continue to assist residents in these two previously active areas to form viable community councils.
- 3.7 There are no active community councils in the Charleston or Craigielea community council areas. Residents who are interested in setting up community councils in these two areas are encouraged to contact the author of this report for advice and guidance.

4. Community Involvement/Engagement

- 4.1 Community councils can act as a voice for their local area by articulating the views and concerns of residents on a wide range of issues and by make representations to the Council and its community partners on matters within those agencies sphere of interest. In this way, community councils strengthen democratic representation at a local level, encourage community spirit and resilience, and engender civic pride.

Author: Anne McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer (Community Councils)
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To: **Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities**

On: **17 November 2015**

Report by:

Chair of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

Renfrewshire Forum For Communities Development Day, 30 September 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities held a development session for members on 30 September 2015.
- 1.2 The consensus at the development session was that Forum members valued participation in the Forum, considered that good progress had been made since the Forum was established in May 2013 and saw a significant role for the Forum in addressing emerging issues within the context of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 1.3 The community planning outcomes that the Forum is responsible for and the Mission Statement agreed by the Forum in May 2013 were considered to have continued relevance for the future.
- 1.4 Forum members identified a set of core issues to be addressed, but recognised that contribution to the outcomes of the other thematic Boards should also be developed. Proposals for progressing this work and developing a revised Action Plan were identified.



2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities:
- (a) Agree the key points from discussion at the Development Day on 30 September outlined below.
 - (b) Agree the list of core items for Forum business identified in paragraph 3.7.
 - (c) Agree that the Forum invite members of other Boards to a development session to discuss the contribution of the Forum to other thematic agendas.
 - (d) Agree the approach to development of the Forum Action Plan as outlined in paragraphs 3.9-3.11
 - (e) Ask the members of the Forum originally co-opted for the duration of the Advice Services review to confirm that they wish to retain their place on the Forum, following the conclusion of the review.

3. Key Points From The Development Day

- 3.1 Forum members discussed the key issues regarding its operation to date and future operation identified in Appendix 2 below.
- Mission Of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities
- 3.2 Members of the Forum agreed that the community plan outcomes and the Mission Statement identified at the first meeting in May 2013 (see Appendix 2 below) are still relevant and appropriate.
- 3.3 Members of the Forum agreed that the group had made significant progress on a number of issues since it was established in May 2013, including raising discussion of the Living Wage within the third sector, progressing the Advice Services Review and raising the Living Streets issue.
- 3.4 It was proposed that the Forum should seek to identify emerging themes and trends over the next ten years and take more issues to the Community Planning Board for discussion and action in the future. Suggestions included emerging themes in the health and social care agenda and principles for community engagement.
- 3.5 It was considered valuable in a strategic sense for the members of the Forum to be exposed to issues other than those that their organisation would normally be involved in. Events organised with partners around Social Enterprise and the Clinical Services review were regarded as examples of the value of widening learning and contacts through the community planning partnership and events that have been organised through partners.
- 3.6 Forum members present at the workshop were in agreement that they saw value for their organisation in continued membership of the Forum going forward and noted that other members may require to be recruited in response to any emerging issues. Following the conclusion of the Advice Services Review, it was agreed that members



originally invited onto the Forum for the duration of this issue (from Renfrewshire Citizens' Advice Bureau, Renfrewshire Law Centre and Linstone Housing Association be invited to remain as members of the Forum, if they wish to do so.

Key Strategic Developments

- 3.7 Members of the Forum considered the key strategic developments identified that the Forum requires to be involved in over the coming years. It was recognised that tackling poverty is the overarching issue that and that, in addressing other strategic issues, tackling poverty should always be the key consideration. The following strategic issues were identified over the coming period as forming the core of the work of the Forum and Forum members were identified as the key link(s) for each one as follows:

Strategic Issue	Forum Member
Tackling Poverty	Kay Taylor, Alan McNiven, Ian McLean
City of Culture	Alan McNiven
Community Empowerment Act	Alan McNiven
Health and Social Care	Ian McLean, Alan McNiven, Stephen Cruickshank, Stephen McLellan
Digital Participation	Alan McNiven
Children's Services Inspection	Lynne O'Brien
Community Justice	Stephen Cruickshank
Response To The Syrian Humanitarian Crisis	Alan McNiven

- 3.8 In addition to these core issues, it was recognised that the Forum should take account of the agendas of the other five Community Planning Partnership thematic boards in order to determine the third sector contribution to these agendas. It was proposed as an action that the Forum invite all other Boards to a workshop event in order to identify in a co-ordinated way how the Forum and the wider third sector be engaged in the work of the other thematic Boards.

Outcomes, Targets and Actions

- 3.9 It was recognised that the Forum's current Action Plan had been ambitious when it was developed in 2013 and now requires to be realigned with the emerging issues outlined in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7.
- 3.10 It was also proposed that actions for the Forum members and organised should be separated from those within the sphere of operation of Engage Renfrewshire only.
- 3.11 A refreshed Action Plan will be circulated to members of the Forum for comment and approval.



Appendix 1

RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

DEVELOPMENT DAY

30 SEPTEMBER 2015

KEY QUESTIONS

Review of Forum to date and Mission Statement

1. What issues do you feel that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities has achieved most on over the last two years?
2. Are there issues that you feel the Forum should be more involved in?
3. What changes, if any, do you think are required to the mission statement agreed in May 2013?

Key Strategic Developments

1. On which of the key strategic developments do think the Forum has the greatest contribution to make?
2. How should the Forum contribute to the key strategic developments?
3. Which aspects of the key strategic developments should the Forum take the lead on?
4. Are there any other developments that the Forum should play a key role on?

Outcomes, Targets and Action Plan

1. Looking at the four outcomes of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities, what does the Forum need to do to achieve these?
2. Are any changes or amendments required to the community planning targets?



3. What changes are required to the existing action plan to accommodate future priorities while being deliverable?
4. What changes, if any, are required to the targets that the Forum is responsible for achieving?

Operation of the Forum

1. Does the Forum require any additional members?
2. In addition to standing items, are there any items of business that the Forum should address over the period September 2015 to March 2017?
3. What are your views on the content of Forum meetings and communications?
4. How should the Forum involve or communicate with other organisations not currently represented on the Forum?
5. What are your views on the representation of the Forum on thematic groups and the support offered to Members?



Appendix 2

RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

MISSION STATEMENT (MAY 2013)

The members of the Forum will:

- Support the development and implementation of Renfrewshire's Forum For Empowering Communities.
- Develop and oversee the implementation of Renfrewshire's Forum For Empowering Communities.
- Raise public awareness and positively influence public opinion around key issues for the Community Planning Partnership on behalf of Renfrewshire's Forum For Empowering Communities.
- Influence and oversee the Community Planning Partnership's public outreach and education events, including lectures, workshops and Community Planning Conferences.



To: **Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities**

On: **17 November 2015**

Report by:

Chair of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 received Royal Assent in July 2015 and will now be implemented. Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities agreed at its meeting on 1 September 2015 that the Community Empowerment Act would be a standing item on the agenda until further notice.
- 1.2 At the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board meeting on 9 December 2015, the Scottish Government will make a presentation on the Community Empowerment Act, led by Alasdair McKinlay, Head of the Community Planning and Empowerment Unit at the Scottish Government. This will provide the Partnership Board with an overview of the content of the Act. Information from this presented will be reported back to the Forum at its next meeting on 27 January 2016.
- 1.3 Engage Renfrewshire organised a meeting on 20 August 2015 on the transfer of Council assets. This meeting was attended by Renfrewshire Council asset managers and third sector organisations with experience of asset transfer in Renfrewshire. Following publication of guidance by the Scottish Government on community empowerment, a wider asset transfer conference for third sector organisations in Renfrewshire will be organised early in 2016. It is intended that this conference will inform local organisations about the implications of the Community Empowerment Act and help shape dialogue with Public sector partners.



- 1.4 Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership has also convened a Property Development and Regeneration Group to consider in a strategic way management of the property portfolios of community planning partners. The membership of the group is as follows:

Joe Lynch
Alasdair Morrison
Frank Hughes
Derek Gillespie
Steve Sutton
Marcus Ross
David Alexander
Peter Thorn
Fiona Mackay
Jonathan Bryden
Paul Tanzilli
Calum Mormon
Alan McHardy
Alan McNiven

- 1.5 Scottish Community Development Centre has published a briefing paper on the Act, which is attached to this paper as an Appendix, for information.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities:
- (a) Notes that the Scottish Government will make a presentation to the Board on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 at the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting on 9 December 2015 and the proposed publication of guidelines by the end of 2015.
 - (b) Notes that Engage Renfrewshire will organise an event around transfer of assets early in 2016, following the publication of Scottish Government Guidance on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.
 - (c) Notes the publication of advice on the Community Development (Scotland) Act by the Scottish Community Development Centre.

September 2015

SCDC briefing no. 2/15

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act

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About this briefing

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent on 24 July 2015.¹ See the final version at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/section/1/enacted>

This SCDC briefing aims to explain the provisions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act and to set out some of the implications and opportunities they have for community development, community organisations and community planning. The briefing is primarily for those involved in community development, whether as community organisations, practitioners or public agencies. SCDC will publish further briefings over the coming months as the various provisions of the Act come into force, and will review in more detail the opportunities and challenges for all those involved.

The three major elements of the Act that communities should be aware of are:

- the strengthening of community planning to give communities more of a say in how public services are to be planned and provided
- new rights enabling communities to identify needs and issues and request action to be taken on these, and
- the extension of the community right to buy or otherwise have greater control over assets.

Underpinning all these provisions is a welcome intention to focus attention on disadvantage and inequality.

“This bill is a momentous step in our drive to decentralise decisions and give people a stronger voice in their communities”

(Marco Biagi MSP, Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment)

¹ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/77926.aspx>

Overview

SCDC welcomes the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act as a significant step towards communities having greater influence or control over things that matter to them. In particular we welcome the emphasis on addressing disadvantage and inequality enshrined in the Act. The Act as a whole is highly ambitious and appears to commit government and public services to engage with, listen to and respond to communities, easing the way towards communities having greater influence over how land and buildings are managed and used. Its detailed provisions set out many opportunities for communities, offering consultation on programmes and priorities, involvement in local outcomes improvement processes, reporting on progress of various kinds and, importantly, making support available to communities.

With careful consideration of the links between the Act and forthcoming supporting guidance and regulations, the principles underpinning the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014² and the recent regulations for community learning and development³, there appear to be unprecedented opportunities to position community participation more sustainably in a very wide range of local initiatives and plans.

Many communities will already be able to fully utilise the new provisions outlined in the Act but many others will need good quality information, advice and support to enable them to be confident in taking up new opportunities to influence decision making processes and priorities at local and national level. These processes include the development of Scotland's National Outcomes, the setting of community planning priorities, the content and performance of local outcomes improvement plans and the smaller scale locality plans, land and asset transfer arrangements, the development of allotments and green spaces, and the use of common good resources.

SCDC greatly welcomes the recognition in the Act that some communities will need public agencies to offer information, advice and support to enable them to make best use of the legislation. We also welcome the requirement that such support is offered or provided by all community planning agencies and not just local authorities. However, this does pose serious questions about whether and how public agencies will be able to respond. The increase in opportunities for communities to participate has to be matched by appropriate resourcing, hence the importance of the provisions that place duties on public bodies to develop and resource appropriate support arrangements. Ways will need to be found to address the serious shortfall in the capacity of public bodies and others to support community empowerment at local and national level.

The Act will help communities develop their influence and mobilise assets towards more effectively focused local policies and priorities. However, transformative change

² <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/63845.aspx>

³ <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/communitylearninganddevelopment/about/policy/regulations.asp>

depends crucially on addressing broader social and economic factors in community life and prospects. The Act reflects government priorities in promoting social justice and combating inequality, and could help stimulate work to engage in wider education for democracy. In turn, this will help to create the conditions for citizens to make more informed judgements about big issues. In this sense the Act is not a substitute for other forms of social organisation, but potentially an exciting pathway towards democratic renewal, in addition to having an instrumental value in planning and delivering better services and outcomes.

The explicit references to inequality in the Act, and how it is to be defined and addressed, have the potential to encourage a real and meaningful discussion in local planning. Although silent on how equalities issues might affect resourcing, the Act opens up opportunities for dialogue about fairness and potential actions to tackle equality issues.

Introducing the Act

Each Part of the Act is set out separately below. There is a lot of fine detail to each provision that we have not gone into at this stage. However, as the provisions are put into practice we will issue further notes and guidance on particular themes, and for specific audiences. The Scottish Government has stated that, even though Royal assent has been granted, there is still a lot of work to be done to prepare the orders, regulations and guidance that will be needed to implement the legislation. Different provisions of the Act will come into force at different times, but it is expected that most parts will be in place by the summer of 2016.

As it is a piece of legislation, the Act is written in legal terms. Some of these terms are defined within the Act, while others are open to interpretation. In particular, terms such as 'reasonable grounds' or 'good reason (not to)' leave what is, or is not, reasonable open to interpretation, ultimately by the Courts. Where possible we have tried to explain these terms, but we have also recognised that some of these terms are deliberately 'open' so they can work in different contexts. We have used inverted commas wherever language from the Act is quoted directly.

National Outcomes

Building on the Scotland Performs framework,⁴ this first Part of the Act places a duty on the Scottish Government to develop, consult on and publish a set of national outcomes for Scotland. Every five years (at least), the Government must initiate a nationwide consultation to ask the people of Scotland what they want to see achieved. It is then up to the government to revise national outcomes accordingly, which must be monitored and reported on.

When consulting on national outcomes, the government must consult “persons who represent communities when determining and reviewing the national outcomes.” This includes “communities based on common interest, identity or geography.” Statutory providers of services must have regard to the national outcomes in carrying out their work.

It is important to note that “in determining the national outcomes, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to the reduction of inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.” This is a key statement of principle that is both welcome and significant.

⁴ <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms>

Community planning

This Part of the Act formalises Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs), now requiring that they exist in every Scottish local authority and that they plan and deliver local outcomes and engage and involve communities at all stages.

The purpose of community planning is defined by the Act as “improvement in the achievement of outcomes resulting from, or contributed to by, the provision of [public] services.” Public services are a key factor in the quality of life for many people so it is important for communities to think about how they can take advantage of the new legislation and engage with public services to highlight needs and issues, participate in developing plans and proposals and, where appropriate, play a part in providing services or projects.

Designated community planning partners must now include the whole range of public services that engage and work with communities. Partners include colleges, Police Scotland, health boards, enterprise agencies such as Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Historic Environment Scotland, health and social care integration joint boards, national park authorities, regional strategic bodies in further and higher education, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Sports Council, Skills Development Scotland, regional transport partnerships and Visit Scotland.

It is now a legal requirement that local authorities and their partners participate in community planning partnerships, and they must also contribute resources (staff and funds) as required. CPPs must participate with any community bodies which the partnership considers likely to be able to contribute to community planning. There is a particular focus on involving organisations which represent disadvantaged groups, defined as “the interests of persons who experience inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.” CPPs must “take such steps as are reasonable” to enable these community bodies to take part.

What are community bodies?

The Act uses a number of terms to define the community groups, networks, organisations and interests that will be entitled to benefit from, or be involved in its provisions. ‘Community bodies’ is the term most commonly used, but there are other definitions as well, including ‘community controlled body’ and ‘community participation body’. The Act is mostly concerned with how these bodies represent and benefit communities rather than with their legal status, although in the community right to buy provisions ‘community body’ is much more tightly defined.

Community planning partnerships will be required to develop, publish and report annually on a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), which replaces the former Single Outcome Agreement. The LOIP will form the key document for setting priorities for service delivery and development. As such, it is very important for communities to be aware of the local outcomes improvement process so that they may inform and influence what is decided and what happens locally. LOIPs are expected to have a needs-led approach, that is, they should set out the 'needs and circumstances of persons residing in the area ... to which the plan relates', describe the outcomes expected, and provide both a description of proposed improvements and a timeline for delivery. The Act requires regular reviews and progress reports to be published, with an emphasis on specifying the participation of community bodies, and their contribution to the outcomes achieved.

What is a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan?

A Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) is a plan setting out the local outcomes with greatest priority, forming the agenda for action. These proposed outcomes will be described, along with a statement on how it is proposed they will be achieved, when actions will be carried out, and how the plan responds to the needs and circumstances of people in the area. In preparing a local outcomes improvement plan, a community planning partnership must consult appropriate community bodies and must take account of any representations in this way.

Locality plans are also introduced in the Act. These are not the same as LOIPs, as they are for smaller areas where there are 'significantly poorer outcomes' than elsewhere in the local authority area, or in Scotland generally. The content and review arrangements are much the same as for the LOIPs.

The provisions relating to LOIPs and locality planning appear to mark a return to an area-based focus on disadvantage. This is an opportunity for community groups and organisations in such areas to play a part in identifying the key needs and issues in the community, to be involved in defining relevant outcomes and to propose ways in which the community can draw on its local knowledge, organisation and people to shape and benefit from the process. It is also a challenge for community bodies, who

will need to familiarise themselves with the process of setting up locality plans. As with national outcomes, the Act states that CPPs ‘must act with a view to reducing inequalities of outcome’, but adds ‘unless the partnership considers that it would be inappropriate to do so.’

There are important provisions in the Act for all community planning partners to facilitate the process of ensuring that the following functions are carried out; of co-operating with others; contributing funds, staff and other resources to secure the participation of community bodies; providing information, and taking the LOIP into account in carrying out its functions.

At an early stage CPPs will need to prepare for meeting the Act’s requirements on community planning. Such preparation is likely to entail:

- conducting a membership review of the CPP to ensure that all bodies (public agencies and community bodies) are brought into the community planning process
- exploring what resources partners can and should contribute, and
- assessing what support community groups might need, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to ensure they can effectively engage in community planning and take advantage of other provisions in the Act.

Participation requests

This section of the Act is potentially of great value for communities that have identified a need, issue or opportunity to tackle inequality, to contribute to regeneration or economic development, or to improve health or wellbeing. This is because it gives communities the power to set the agenda and the way needs, issues or opportunities are understood. It also sets out a process whereby a community body can request that a service is improved, or to help improve a service, if it believes this is needed. The Act is clear that the public sector body that provides the service “must agree to the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusing it.”

In order to request to improve a service, a community organisation does not have to be a legally constituted group, but it must be community-led and most of the members must be from the community. Membership must be open to the whole community and the work of the group (including any profits generated by the group or organisation) must be for the benefit the community. Community Councils are included.

Where can participation requests be directed?

Public service providers including local authorities, colleges and universities, health boards, Scottish Enterprise, HIE, the police, the fire service, Scottish Natural Heritage, regional transport partnerships, national parks, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Arms-length external organisations (ALEOs) such as Glasgow Life are not included at present, although this may change.

Community participation requests will work as follows:

1. When a community body (or more than one body jointly) believes it can improve the outcome of a public service, it can make a participation request to the body (or bodies) that run that service.
2. In doing so, the community body will need to set out the outcomes it expects to achieve and its experience of the public service. It also needs to set out the reasons why it considers it should participate, and provide details of any relevant knowledge expertise and experience it has.
3. The authority must agree to the request unless there are reasonable grounds not to do so. In reaching a decision the authority must take into account whether the request would improve any or all of: economic development,

regeneration, public health, social wellbeing or environmental wellbeing; whether it would reduce inequalities of outcome; whether it would lead to an increase in participation in the outcome improvement process by people experiencing disadvantage; and it must encourage equal opportunities.

4. Following a decision agreeing to the request, the public service authority must issue a decision notice outlining how the outcome improvement process will work. The community body will then have 28 days to make written representations contributing to the process.
5. On completion of the process, the public service authority must, in consultation with the community bodies involved, publish a report on the process, what improvements have been achieved and how the community bodies were involved.⁵
6. The appeal process for community bodies whose request is denied is not yet clear. The Act gives Scottish ministers the power to make future regulations about appeals or reviews of decisions. The Scottish Government will keep this Part of the Act under review and bring forward an appeals mechanism if it is considered necessary.⁶

In addition, all public service authorities must report annually on the participation requests they have received, how these have progressed, what outcomes have been achieved and how participation requests have been promoted and supported. Every three years the Scottish Government will be required to produce a report on the operation of participation requests.

Provisions have been made in the Act for further regulations to cover participation requests, including “types of communities that may need additional support in order to form community participation bodies, make participation requests and participate in outcome improvement processes.”

Our view is that participation requests should not be viewed as a replacement for engagement and participation processes where they already function well, but as a framework for initiating dialogue where communities find it difficult to be recognised or heard. As such, we expect they will become especially significant in helping create a better environment for co-production or, in other words, communities and agencies working together to achieve better outcomes for people. With these rights, and with the provisions for reporting and scrutiny, it is likely that powerful institutions will find it

⁵ Adapted from Scottish Parliament (2014) *SPICe Briefing: Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill*
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-58_.pdf p12

⁶ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10020&i=91980>

much more difficult to ignore community ambitions or representations. It is a highly significant advance in the ways in which public bodies will now be expected to work constructively with communities.

Taking over assets

Extension of Community Right to Buy

This section of the Act extends the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 so that urban as well as rural communities can now take advantage of the 'right to buy' land and buildings. This essentially means that if the owner of land, or a building, decides to sell it, they have to sell it to any community organisation which can afford to pay the market value, if Scottish Ministers agree.

The types of community organisation that can buy land and buildings are now more varied. Whereas in the past the right to buy was only applicable to companies limited by guarantee, now Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO) and Community Benefit Societies (CBS) will be able to do so as well. The SCIO or CBS must have no fewer than ten members, three quarters of whom must be from the community. It must also exist for the benefit of the community and have proper financial management arrangements in place.

As was the case previously, such community bodies must demonstrate that they have sufficient support from the wider community to buy land or a building. However, now this is made easier by the relaxation of requirements in the Land Reform Act. No exact proportion of the community is now required to vote (the Land Reform Act previously specified at least half the population of a defined area) and the community body only has to show that a sufficient proportion of the community approves of the buyout. In addition, an adequate proportion of the community must be shown to have a "connection with the land" although the meaning of this phrase is not specifically defined.

Other changes are: the length of time communities have to purchase the land or building (up from six months to eight months); communities themselves being able to define their territory, replacing the previous specification that communities be defined by postcode; and changes to the "late application procedure", which means communities must demonstrate they had taken steps to register their interest before the deadline to do so had passed.

The basic Community Right to Buy process is as follows:

- The community body registers its interest in purchasing a piece of land or a building once the owner puts it up for sale. They will be required to show that community ownership is in the public interest and compatible with the achievement of sustainable development of the land.
- The Scottish Government appoints somebody external to conduct a ballot of the community in order to ascertain how much support there is for the purchase. The balloting is paid for by the Scottish Government.

- If the application is successful the owner will have to sell the land or building to the community body at market value.

Abandoned, neglected or detrimental land

An additional provision of the Act is that community bodies also have a right to buy “abandoned or neglected land”, which the owner of the land (or building) is unwilling to sell and that is being used in a way that causes direct or indirect harm to the environmental wellbeing of a community.

The process for buying abandoned, neglected or detrimental land is as follows:

- The community body must first go to efforts to solve the problem through other means. For instance, if regulators such as an environmental authority can make the owner improve the condition of the land/building, this course of action must be followed. Similarly, communities must show that it is unlikely that the harm caused by the use or management of the land or building will be “substantially removed” under its current ownership. We understand this to mean that there is no prospect of the owner making improvements in the foreseeable future.
- In addition, the community body is expected to have tried to buy the land or buildings with the consent of the landowner before involving the Scottish Government as arbitrator.
- If none of the above are possible, then the community body should submit an application to the Scottish Government to buy the land or building. They will be required to show that community ownership is in the public interest and compatible with the achievement of sustainable development of the land.
- The Scottish Government will then review the application. If the application is successful the owner will have to sell the land or building to the community body at market value.

Asset transfer requests

This section of the Act covers assets such as land and buildings that are owned by public bodies, not individuals or companies as in the community right to buy provisions outlined above. Community bodies can apply to buy, lease, manage or simply use land and buildings owned by public authorities. The request to do so must be granted unless the public authority has “reasonable grounds” not to. In addition, local authorities and other public authorities must publish and maintain a list of assets

which to the best of their knowledge is owned or leased by the authority and so can be subject to asset transfer requests.

To request ownership of an asset, a community body must be a company limited by guarantee or, alternatively, a SCIO or community benefit society with at least 20 members. However, if the body is seeking to lease, use or manage then they are simply required to be a community-controlled body.

What are community-controlled bodies?

Community-controlled bodies must have a written constitution that specifies the community to which the body relates; that the body is community-led; and that a majority of the members are from the community. Membership must be open to the whole community and the work of the group (including any profits generated by the group or organisation) must be for the benefit the community.

The process for asset transfer requests is as follows: ⁷

- The community body approaches the relevant authority requesting information about the property they are interested in, before making a formal request.
- Once an asset transfer request is made, the authority must assess the request, weighing up its economic, social and environmental benefits and any other relevant factors. Consideration must also be given to whether or not the transfer can contribute to reducing inequalities.
- The request must be granted unless the relevant authority has “reasonable grounds” not to do so.
- Where a local authority refuses a request or where a dispute exists over the terms of the agreement, the community body can seek a review of a decision by the local authority. They also have the further option of an appeal to Scottish Ministers. If the land is owned by another public authority or the Scottish Ministers, then the community body can ask for a review by Scottish Ministers of the initial decision.

⁷ Adapted from Scottish Parliament (2014) *SPICe Briefing: Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill*
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-58_.pdf p22

Common good property

Common good property is land, buildings, art and other items that have been given to, or inherited by, local councils in the past. Local authorities will have to create and maintain a publically available list of all their common good property and make sure that people in the community are told about any changes to any common good property. They will have to consult community councils and community groups before they sell or change the use of any common good property.

Other provisions

Participation in Public Decision-Making

This part of the Act gives the Scottish Government future powers to legislate for participatory approaches, including participatory budgeting. This is of great interest to those involved in community development, and potentially of great importance depending on how it develops. Advocates⁸ of participatory budgeting recommend that, in line with international best practice, it should move beyond its predominant model of allocating small pots of money to voluntary and community groups, towards consistently distributing mainstream public budgets. It is potentially a key and effective tool for addressing inequalities in service provision and resource allocation, engaging and empowering citizens in discussions on public budgets, and stimulating co-production and mutual responsibility between citizens and the state.

Allotments

The Act updates and simplifies the law regarding allotments. Local authorities will have to manage waiting lists for allotments and take reasonable steps to address high demand. For instance, people on a waiting list may be provided with a smaller plot, but they can choose to turn this offer down and wait until the standard size of plot becomes available. Councils will also have to seek permission from Scottish Ministers before they sell off land used for allotments or use it for something else. Finally, they will have to report on their allotment provision every year and specify rules for what people can and can't do on their allotments.

Delegation of Forestry Commission Functions

Here, the Act makes a change to the Forestry Act of 1967 so that community bodies can take part in forestry leasing. The National Forest Land Scheme⁹ will have to be revised before any new opportunities can be taken advantage of. This will happen after the Asset Transfer Requests provisions come into force.

Supporter Involvement in Football Clubs

Although quite highly publicised, this provision only commits to preparing later provision or regulation, which may lead towards local ownership of football clubs and control in certain circumstances by certain people, but only after further consultation.

Non-Domestic Rates

Local authorities will be able to create and fund their own localised business rate relief schemes to better reflect local needs and support communities.

⁸ <http://pbnetwork.org.uk/about/>

⁹ <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/fcfc102.pdf>

What happens next?

As we said at the beginning of this briefing, different parts of the Act are likely to come into force at different times. For some parts of the Act secondary legislation, where orders and regulations are agreed by the Scottish Parliament, will be needed. For other parts, guidance will have to be developed setting out more information about what is meant in the Act and what should be put in place. The Scottish Government is committed to involving people affected by the legislation in developing appropriate guidance and will seek the views of public agencies, non-government organisations and representatives from community organisations.

There is no timetable at the moment for the development of further regulations and guidance, but there should be plenty of opportunities to be involved in, and contribute to, the process over the next year. SCDC will provide any updates on our website and through future briefings and some of the links provided below should also be helpful. As a rough estimate, we expect most parts of the Act to come into effect by summer 2016.

What will SCDC do now?

This briefing is intended to be the first in a series produced by SCDC over the next few months. Each of these briefings will focus on different sections of the Act as it goes through its various stages of implementation, and will explore the opportunities and challenges for communities, community organisations and community planning partnerships in greater detail.

SCDC aims to take part in the development of future guidance and will work to ensure that any processes for making participation requests are open, clear, and as simple as possible. We will continue to advocate that support is given to community organisations to make participation requests and take part in improvement processes. Furthermore, we aim to make sure that community organisations can play a meaningful part in community planning and are fully supported to take part. Finally, SCDC will seek to ensure that equality principles continue to be at the core of the supporting guidance on all aspects of the legislation.

Further information and other useful links

- Read the Act at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/section/21/enacted>.
- Scottish Government frequently asked questions on the Act <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/CommunityEmpowermentBillFAQs>
- SCDC's website's [Opinion and Debate](#) section contains more briefings and responses to the Act at its various stages of development.
- [Communities Channel Scotland](#) has a page dedicated to the Community Empowerment Act, containing a brief background to the Act and further links.
- [Community Development Alliance Scotland](#) (CDAS) regularly produces updates on the Act on its website and in its monthly newsletter.
- [Development Trusts Association Scotland \(DTAS\)](#) and its [Community Ownership Support Service](#) are helpful sources of information on asset transfer and ownership.
- [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations \(SCVO\)](#) is another source of information on the Act and its implications for the third sector.

If you would like to further discuss any of the above with SCDC, please contact andrew.paterson@scdc.org.uk. Tel: 0141 222 4837

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To: **Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities**

On: **17 November, 2015**

Report by:

Lead Officer, Forum for Empowering Communities

UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities draws members from local Third Sector and community operated organisations within Renfrewshire. It has been developed to reflect organisations that have a spread of knowledge, important resources, operate as local employers and can help support general communication to a wide community of service users within the communities of Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 The Forum deploys a member to attend each of the other 5 Community Planning Partnership Thematic Board meetings. Each Forum member is supported by a member of Engage Renfrewshire staff and is required to update the Forum on the progress/activity of their respective nominated Board.
- 1.3 The updates are attached as Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities note the updates.

UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS FOR RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

NAME OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING BOARD MEETING REPRESENTING THE FORUM: Alan McNiven
NAME OF BOARD ATTENDED: Community Planning Partnership Board
DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, 23 September 2015
KEY POINTS: <p>Paper on: Welfare reform changes – proposes opportunities for Community Planning Partnership involvement and action.</p> <p>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 – with input from the community and voluntary sector.</p> <p>Paper on Tackling Poverty Strategy - arrangements for governance, consultation and monitoring and evaluation. A number of organisations are carrying out consultation sessions with their service users on the strategy Stepping Stones, Families First, Childcare First, Local Energy Action Plan, Home-Start Renfrewshire, Engage Renfrewshire, Citizens Advice Bureau, Recovery Across Mental Health, Barnardos Threads, Renfrewshire Foodbank, Renfrewshire Access Panel, Star Project, Save the Children, Foundations First (Shelter).</p> <p>Presentation on Digital Participation</p>
ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: <p>Spotlight on the Greener thematic highlighted the successful work of the Greener Communities group – tackling void sites etc. through the stalled spaces initiative.</p>
PLEASE BACK TO CAROL MACDONALD, SENIOR COMMITTEE SERVICES OFFICER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO NEXT PRE AGENDA MEETING. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF DATES PLEASE CONTACT CAROL AT carol.macdonald@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk OR PHONE 0141 618 5967

UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS FOR RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

NAME OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING BOARD MEETING REPRESENTING THE FORUM:

Stephen Cruickshank and Stuart Miller

NAME OF BOARD ATTENDED:

Safer & Stronger

DATE OF MEETING:

Wednesday 2nd September 2015.

KEY POINTS:

Presentation update on the Diversity & Equality Alliance in Renfrewshire (DEAR) by Stephen Cruickshank (Renfrewshire Access Panel) & Yasmeen Khan (Renfrewshire Council). Highlighted activities and issues discussed. They mentioned some success over the last year, such as '*walk a mile in my shoes*' and '*reclaim the night*'. Stephen spoke about the 'Improving Physical & social Accessibility' booklet that RAP have produced, and which has been distributed among Council staff. It has also been picked up by 14 other Councils.

8 young people who volunteer with Street Stuff and live in areas of multiple deprivation are to be recruited as special Police Constables and Special Wardens. This will involve 11 months on the job training with options to go onto further training to become Police Officers or Community Wardens. This will be the first time such an initiative has been carried out in Scotland. The trainees will be deployed in town centre locations

Findings and comments within Renfrewshire Poverty Commission Report have resulted in changes to the Street stuff Programme.

- Money has been secured to assist children to travel to locations where street stuff is running.
- The programme will run to more flexible hours.
- Tie in more with existing provision running in Renfrewshire Leisure Limited venues.
- Utilise school mobile catering vans at street stuff locations. This will offer the young people nutritious food. Plus opportunities to assist in stocking the van and serving.
- Expanding on the activities offered, dance, cycling, fishing, Street beat music.

Construction of the integrated control room and CCTV in the old Sheriff Court building is almost completed, with a start date during October 2015.



Families working with Women & children 1st have attended the CEDAR programme. CEDAR programme (children experiencing domestic abuse recovery).

"Cedar is a unique way of working with children, young people and their mothers recovering from living with domestic abuse. The Cedar programme takes place over 12 weeks with groups for children, young people and their mothers running in parallel.

The groups provide an opportunity to explore feelings with an emphasis on providing fun and creative activities that keep children engaged and interacting with each other. It is about creating a safe place for children and their mothers to help each other to find the best strategies to deal with their experiences and rebuild their lives. A key aim of the programme is to help mothers to support their children in their recovery."

As part of this programme it was agreed that Police Scotland would run a session to build a better understanding of how Police Scotland can assist before things reach crisis point.

ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The Serious Organised Crime Strategy For Scotland has been refreshed. Copies are available at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/3426>

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which was approved at Westminster on 12th March 2015 now places a duty on certain bodies to “*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*” Scottish Local Authorities are listed under this section. It was recommended to the Boars to note the expansion of their Prevent Group to include representation from Police Scotland, Prison Service, NHS, among others.

Stuart Miller was asked to provide a presentation to the Community Safety & Public Protection Steering Group, an auctioning group for the Safer & Stronger Board. The presentation was entitled ‘Third Sector role in diverting people from serious organised crime. (Attached).

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Community Safety & Public Protection Steering Group Thursday 17th September 2015.

Third Sector Role in Diverting People from Serious Organised Crime.

Promoting positive alternatives and contributing to
improving community resilience.

National Picture

Recent research from Lancaster University for the Home Office provides an insight into the criminal backgrounds of people who have become involved in organised crime in this country.

90% of organised crime offenders had received a criminal sanction before their first identified organised crime offence.

57% had received their first criminal sanction under the age of 18.

Troubled Families

Launched 2011

Used by 152 English local authorities.

Working Directly with families facing multiple problems.

Ending Gang & Youth Violence

Launched 2012

33 Priority areas

Involves teachers, Job Centre Plus, health services, Police and Community Groups.

Scottish Picture

'Reducing crime, particularly violent and serious organised crime' part of The Strategy For Justice In Scotland, Scottish Government, 2012.

- A priority is to work with families and children at the earliest stage in their lives to divert the vulnerable and those at high risk of offending away from crime. This is a core principle of the Building Safer Communities programme.
- we will pursue a 'public health' approach to tackling violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention

Local Picture

Safer & Stronger –

"We will continue successful youth diversionary programmes in areas of concern!"

A 15% reduction in one year reconviction frequency rate.

A 20% reduction in crimes of violence

"Most violence occurs over the weekend and is alcohol or drug related!"

(Renfrewshire Community Plan 2011-2023)

"Pro-social behaviour will be encouraged through early intervention such as successful youth & diversionary programmes." (Renfrewshire Community Plan 2011-2023)

Local Picture (contd)

"Prevent – Intervene to stop people being drawn into different types of serious and organised crime." (Serious and Organised Crime Strategy: HM Government, 2013)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Renfrewshire Street Stuff | Young people |
| • Environmental Training Team | Young people & adults |
| • Ribble | Young people |
| • Create Youth | Young people |
| • Clubs/groups/associations | Young people & adults |
| • I Am Me | Hate Crime |
| • Volunteering | Young people & adults |



Out with Renfrewshire

Fuse Youth Café Fuse Youth Café Glasgow is a charity working in East Glasgow providing a variety of services to young people of the area. The area has a high level of deprivation and the young people face the risks and challenges associated with areas of high deprivation. Fuse offers a safe place for young people with a café area, gig space and internet café.

Family Action in Rogerfield & Easterhouse (FARE) Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse first started in 1989 when a group of local people, totally frustrated by the lack of amenities in their area, decided to get together to 'enhance the lives of the local people' through the delivery of services to meet the social, emotional and physical needs of the community.



Stuart Miller

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UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS FOR RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

NAME OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING BOARD MEETING REPRESENTING THE FORUM:

I Cunningham & J Wilby

NAME OF BOARD ATTENDED:

Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board

DATE OF MEETING:

11 November 2015

KEY POINTS:

GREENER COMMUNITIES UPDATE ON PROGRESS – Greener communities sub group have now met three times and have expanded their membership and welcomed on board LEAP, Community pay back and Oskar project. Members of each organisation agreed to recruit new sign-ups for the greener pledge and to submit information to the CPP website and the quarterly newsletter.

STALLED SPACES UPDATE ON PROGRESS - Stalled spaces initiative making good progress 4 groups have received funding and are currently delivering their projects. 2 applications submitted for this round, 5 other expressions of interest are being supported at present. £8.3k approved, £5.1k submitted & £8k pending.

LOCAL GREEN NETWORK PROJECTS UPDATE – Susan Jones delivered a presentation on local green network projects which had the potential to improve the local environment and enhance open spaces, some of the projects had also secured significant levels of external funding. (Fountain gardens, Renfrew ferry riverside)

TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE – Annabelle Armstrong-Walter gave a presentation on the background of the development of the strategy and the launch of the report, highlighting the time line being followed and the key messages of the strategy and the priorities and drew special attention to fuel poverty.

RENFREWSHIRE TRANSPORT OUTCOMES REPORT UPDATE – The report summarised the SPT activities and investments delivered in 2014/15. It also provided information on the agreed SPT/Renfrewshire joint work streams for 2015/16.



CYCLING STRATEGY UPDATE – Elaine Lorimer gave a presentation relative to the cycling strategy for Renfrewshire, looking at the objectives and how the council engaged with people, defined a communications strategy and the findings of a recent survey.

GREENER HOUSING SUB GROUP UPDATE – Adele Fraser presented a video to members on energy advice to Renfrewshire residents. The video was jointly developed with the University of West of Scotland and was in direct response to the Greener Renfrewshire Housing Sub Group action plan to develop an energy advice for local residents with a clear focus linked to a greener way of living. The video is also on the 2023 website.

UWS GREENER UPDATE – Claire Roxburgh gave a presentation highlighting the green challenges facing the University; Travel, energy savings, waste disposal, community gardening scheme as well as the issues around changing behaviours of staff and students alike. Also the continuing development of their sustainability hub at the Storie street entrance.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT RENFREWSHIRE HOUSE UPDATE – A report was submitted 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 and attitudes ahead of a campaign to recruit green champions to help engage the wider staff group in energy efficient and other green measures within the workplace.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE PRESENTATION UPDATE – A Greig delivered a presentation on the advantages of electric vehicles. He advised that the great environmental benefits of electro-mobility were clearly reflected in the low carbon emissions of the vehicles. Also that cost modelling analysis showed that EV's had lower overall costs than conventionally fuelled vehicles; cheaper fuel costs and lower operational and maintenance costs. He demonstrated charging points and the quiet running of the vehicles which would be a benefit for operating in noise-restricted areas.

ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS FOR RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

NAME OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING BOARD MEETING REPRESENTING THE FORUM: Stuart Graham, Engage Renfrewshire
NAME OF BOARD ATTENDED: Jobs & Economy Board
DATE OF MEETING: 9 September 2015
KEY POINTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jobs & Economy Board will develop new targets, as current targets to 2023 have been achieved. These will be developed in line with the new SOA targets and will be with the Community Planning Partnership early in December. Members of the Jobs & Economy Boards to attend the first hour of the Children & Young People thematic board on 12 November 2015 to discuss employability opportunities and support for young people. InCube, the new business incubator for creative businesses in Paisley High Street, is now open. A shop will be established in Gilmour Street to act as a retail academy and sell the products of young businesses. Renfrewshire Council has committed £6 million to the delivery of the Council's tackling poverty action plan. The Working Matters labour market programme is being delivered through Invest In Renfrewshire as part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal. The programme started in August 2015 and will run for three years. Participants are former ESA clients who had not achieved a sustainable outcome. Work is being developed on a Renfrewshire Recruitment Incentive for the next three years.
ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
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UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS FOR RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

NAME OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING BOARD MEETING REPRESENTING THE FORUM:

J FERRIE AND S MCLELLAN PUT IN APOLOGIES

NAME OF BOARD ATTENDED:

COMMUNITY CARE, HEALTH & WELLBEING THEMATIC BOARD,

DATE OF MEETING: 8 SEPTEMBER, 2015

KEY POINTS:

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.

MY STROKE GUIDE

Officers from the Stroke Association came along and gave a presentation outlining the work they carried out and the developing strategies.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS REPORT AGAINST YEAR 1 TARGETS

The report advised that an update on progress against year 1 targets for the Board was presented to the CPP. 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.

HOUSING STRATEGY

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

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.

BRAW UPDATE

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



INTEGRATION FUND UPDATE - INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

The presentation highlighted the area based/community bids; the proposed linkages; and indicated that the projects would be based in Linwood and Johnstone .

ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

J Ferrie has provided additional information:-

There will be a Health Conversations event held in the Tannahill Centre on the morning of Friday 20 November. Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport has instigated these conversation sessions; asking the Health and Social Care Academy, based within the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland, to hold these events in partnership with the local Third Sector Interface. The event will pose three questions –

- What support do you need to live healthier lives?
- What areas of health and social care matter to you most?
- Thinking about the future of health and social care services, where should our focus be?

Whilst the Cabinet Secretary will not be in attendance, two of her advisors will be present.

Senior management at Renfrewshire's HSCP are aware of the event and are supportive.

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UPDATE FROM THEMATIC BOARDS FOR RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

NAME OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING BOARD MEETING REPRESENTING THE FORUM: Lynne O'Brien
NAME OF BOARD ATTENDED: Children & YP Thematic Board
DATE OF MEETING: Monday 31 st August 2015
KEY POINTS: <p>This meeting was a youth engagement meeting. It was held in Glennifer High school and attended by senior pupils who presented their views on key themes. Their views reflected many of the issues young people face across Renfrewshire.</p> <p>Health & Well-being- pupils highlighted how the issues of stress/ exam pressure affected their well-being. Alcohol & drugs were also highlighted as issues affecting their peers. There were discussions re progressing school counselling. The Police also offered support to pupils. Access to leisure was highlighted as a barrier to exercise and community involvement. Pupils raised the expense of both travel and also fees.</p> <p>They raised concern for single parents and families they knew who struggled financially</p> <p>Participation– the young people raised issues of accessibility of the Board. There was discussion re linking Board members to schools to increase the participation.</p> <p>Jobs & Economy – young people raised concern for peers who face sanctions at the job centre. They asked for more advice regarding Careers and additional support for work experience and volunteering. Board members were able to offer advice and would follow up- Engage/ SDS etc</p> <p>It was an insightful presentation. It was agreed that their points would be followed up,</p> <p>Annabel Armstrong Walker presented an overview of the Tacking Poverty Commission</p>
ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
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