



To: Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board

On: 11 May 2016

Report by:

David Amos, Head of Policy and Commissioning, Chief Executive's Service

Community Empowerment Act Guidance

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Government has invited consultation on a number of aspects of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) 2015 Act. The guidance that emerges following the consultation will provide the framework for Community Planning Partnerships to work within when implementing the provisions of the Act.
- 1.2 Renfrewshire Council officers will co-ordinate a partnership response to the consultation and are working with partners to contribute to this. Responses will be submitted to the Scottish Government in accordance with the timescales for each individual consultation. It is proposed that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities approve the responses to the guidance at its meeting on 1 June 2016. Community organisations will have a specific opportunity to input into the response at the daytime community planning conference event on 20 May 2016. Finalised guidance will be presented to the Partnership Board once agreed by the Scottish Government.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Partnership Board agree that:
 - (a) Renfrewshire Council co-ordinate a partnership response to the consultations on guidance regarding the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
 - (b) Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities agree the response on behalf of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership on 1 June 2016 and that finalised guidance be reported to the Partnership Board once finalised.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 provides the legal basis for participation in community planning partnerships in Scotland and sets out to empower communities to participate wherever appropriate in the planning and delivery of public services.
- 3.2 Consultation on draft guidance on different aspects of the Act was issued in March 2016, with a response sought by various dates in June 2016. The individual consultations are as follows:

Consultation	Date For Response
Consultation on secondary legislation proposals relating to Part 3a of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – the community right to buy abandoned, neglected or detrimental land as introduced by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	20 June 2016
Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Consultation on Draft Regulations	20 June 2016
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Participation Requests: Consultation on Draft Regulations	15 June 2016
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Community Planning Guidance and Regulation	13 June 2016

The full text of these consultations can be accessed at www.consult.scot.gov.uk

- 3.3 Renfrewshire Council officers are working with partners to respond to the Scottish Government consultations in accordance with the timescales set out above. As agreed at the February 2016 meeting of the Partnership Board, a community planning conference event will be held at Johnstone Town Hall on Friday 20 May 2016, which will provide a specific opportunity for community input into the response. It is proposed that the co-ordinated response to the guidance be submitted for approval to the meeting of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities scheduled to take place on Wednesday 1 June 2016.

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