



To: **Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities**

On: **27 January 2016**

Report by:

Chair of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

1. Summary

1.1 As reported to the last meeting of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities on 17 November 2015, Alasdair McKinlay, Head of the Community Planning and Empowerment Unit at the Scottish Government, made a presentation on the Community Empowerment Act to the meeting of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 9 December 2015.

1.2 The key points of the presentation were as follows:

- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is expected to be implemented by late summer 2016. Guidance on the Act will be issued by Scottish Government during 2016, but Community Planning Partnerships are being encouraged to act as if the legislation is already in place. This being the case, it is proposed that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities brings forward its action of arranging a local conference on assets, as agreed at the November meeting, which was originally to be scheduled after the publication of guidance on the Act.
- Marco Biagi, Minister For Local Government and Community Empowerment, has created a sounding board regarding regulations that may be required to enable partners to make necessary decisions.



- The biggest shift in the Act will be in the focus on outcomes through the Local Outcome Improvement Plans. Community Planning Partnerships may take the decision to replace the current Single Outcome Agreement with a Local Outcome Improvement Plan, which is the approach taken in Renfrewshire.
- The Local Outcome Improvement Plan will be linked to the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, which now has a statutory basis.
- The Right To Buy local land and assets has been extended to urban Scotland through the Act and includes privately-owned assets, where appropriate.
- The Scottish Community Development Foundation is leading on work to refresh the National Standards of Community Engagement on behalf of the Scottish Government. Community Planning Partnerships are encouraged to use the revised National Standards as a tool for community empowerment. Separately from Alasdair McKinlay's presentation, Renfrewshire has been chosen as a pilot area to assist in development of the revised National Standards. This work will commence early in 2016.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities:

(a) Notes the key points of the Scottish Government presentation to the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting on 9 December 2015 on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.

(b) Agrees that Engage Renfrewshire progresses organisation an event around transfer of assets, as agreed at the meeting on 17 November 2015, but that this event can be arranged before the publication of Scottish Government guidance on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act .