

**To:** Johnstone and Villages Local Area Committee

**On:** 15 March 2018

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**Report by:** Chief Executive

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**Heading:** Review of community level governance arrangements

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 In 2017, a review of Local Area Committee arrangements was carried out. The aim of the review was to assess the Local Area Committees as a model of community level governance, and make recommendations for future models.
- 1.2 A number of proposals for a future model of community level governance have been developed, which are detailed in the consultation paper attached at Appendix A.
- 1.3 In December, Council agreed that a consultation could start on the proposals. The consultation is now open and will be live until 15th April 2018.
- 1.4 Following consultation, detailed proposals for a new model will be brought back to Council for approval. It should be noted that as formal committees of the Council, Council will be asked to make any relevant amendments to the Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation.
- 1.5 Any new model developed would then be implemented over 2018/19 following relevant Council approvals. In the meantime, a number of

process improvements will be implemented to improve the efficiency of the Local Area Committee grants process for 2018/19.

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## **2. Recommendations**

### **2.1 Members are asked to:**

- Note the proposals which have been developed
  - Note the consultation period on these proposals is open until 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018
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## **3. Background**

3.1 In 2016, Council agreed changes to the governance arrangements for the Community Planning Partnership, and as part of this work it was agreed that a review of the Local Area Committees (LACs) would be carried out.

3.2 The aim of the review is to assess the Local Area Committees as a model of community level governance, and make recommendations for a future model. The review included the form and function of Local Area Committees, along with the Local Area Committee grant funding.

### **3.3 Process and key activities:**

- Benchmarking has been undertaken to assess the range of models across other Scottish local authorities.
- Engagement activities have been undertaken throughout the review, including: presentations at Local Area Committee meetings, a survey, a series of focus groups and individual interviews with organisations. This has included a range of people regularly involved in Local Area Committee meetings, alongside organisations who have been both successful and unsuccessful in gaining grant funding from Local Area Committees, and a number of organisations from the wider third sector who are not currently engaged with LACs.
- A Community Council Local Area Committee sub-group was also set up.
- Analysis of grant funding applications and awards across all five Local Area Committees for the last three years

3.4 In December 2017, a paper was taken to Council outlining the key findings from the Local Area Committee review (and engagement

activities) and Council agreed that consultation could commence on the proposals detailed at Appendix A.

#### **4. Consultation arrangements**

- 4.1 The consultation duration is 12 weeks, starting from late January 2017 until the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- 4.2 The consultation will focus on engaging the wider community in addition to those who are engaged in the current local area committee system.
- 4.3 The consultation will involve a range of methodologies to seek views from a range of stakeholders. This will include traditional consultation questions which can be answered online or on paper, along with a range of open consultation events in community locations across Renfrewshire and specific consultation sessions facilitated by community led organisations.

#### **5. Local Area Committee grants for 2018/19**

- 5.1 Any proposals to amend the Local Area Committee grant processes would not be implemented until 2019/2020.
- 5.2 It was, however, agreed by Council in December 2017 that administrative and process improvements would be explored for the 2018/19 round of grant funding, in order to help the process run more smoothly and efficiently.

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### **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** - It is possible that the administration of new arrangements could have financial implications for the Council. These will be developed and presented as part of any changed proposals presented to future Council meeting.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - There are no HR implications arising from this report. There may be organisational development implications for a future model, as it is possible that there will be training requirements for officers as part of the transition to any new model.
- 3. **Community/Council Planning –**

**Community Plan - Our Renfrewshire is well** – This priority of the Community Plan explicitly refers to the review of community level governance, and in particular that communities are best place to support themselves and articulate their own needs.

**Council Plan - Building strong, safe and resilient communities** – A key priority within the Council plan is to ‘Strengthen existing community networks and empowering local people to become more involved in their area and the services delivered there.’

4. **Legal** - Any future change to Local Area Committee arrangements would be likely to have governance implications for the Council. These will be developed and presented as part of any changed proposals presented to future Council meeting.
5. **Property/Assets** - Not applicable
6. **Information Technology** - Not applicable
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The proposals discussed within the paper should improve participation and representation of communities and enable groups to have more voice and influence in the shaping and scrutiny of public services.
8. **Health & Safety** - Any health and safety implications would be considered in the delivery of the consultation, and moving forward in any new arrangements developed.
9. **Procurement** – Not applicable.
10. **Risk** - Not applicable
11. **Privacy Impact** - Not applicable
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – Not applicable

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