

**To: Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group**

**On: 25 September 2018**

**Report by:**  
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

**TITLE:**  
**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT/COSLA LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW – ENGAGEMENT PHASE**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government wrote to public sector leaders on 22 June 2018 regarding engagement on its review of local governance arrangements. The Scottish Government asked for initial comments from public service organisations by the beginning of September 2018 to enable dialogue with public sector leaders, with final written evidence to be submitted by 14 December 2018.
- 1.2 Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group considered at its meeting on 22 August 2018 the letter from the Scottish Government and agreed to formulate a response, following discussion at the next meeting on 10 September. The Executive Group held on 10 September 2018 discussed the issues raised by the Scottish Government and the draft response is attached for comment and agreement by the Oversight Group, prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group:
  - (a) Agrees that the initial comments proposed by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group be submitted to the Scottish Government, subject to any changes agreed at the Oversight Group.
  - (b) Agrees that a final written submission of comments to the Scottish Government be submitted by the deadline of 14 December 2018.

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 The purpose of the Local Governance Review is to review the sharing of powers, responsibilities and resources across communities, local government and national government and is based on a commitment to subsidiarity. The review aims to set out achievements that have already been made and what else might be achieved to strengthen local, community decision-making and democratic governance.
- 3.2 The review will consist of engagement about decision making powers and responsibilities with people in local communities and dialogue with public sector leaders about how changes in governance arrangements can improve outcomes.
- 3.3 In particular, the Scottish Government has asked public sector leaders about:
- Interest in supporting or hosting community events regarding the Review.
  - Initial ideas of issues that public services in Renfrewshire would wish to discuss (by early September 2018).
  - Interest in arranging a meeting with the Scottish Government to discuss issues.
- 3.4 In preparation for discussion on 10 September, members of the Executive Group were asked to consider the following questions:
- Are there any additional powers/responsibilities that partners want to be devolved from Scottish Government?
  - Are there powers/responsibilities that partners would want devolved to other groups or organisations (e.g. community organisations)?
  - Are there any Renfrewshire examples of working across organisational boundaries that partners would wish to highlight as good practice to the Scottish Government?
  - What are arrangements within each partner organisation to respond individually to Scottish Government?
  - Are there any issues regarding powers/responsibilities that are specific to Renfrewshire that partners would want to respond to collectively as a Community Planning Partnership?

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## **Scottish Government / COSLA Local Governance Review – Engagement Phase**

### **Draft response on behalf of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership**

The following document is a summary of discussions held by the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership's Executive Group on the review of local governance. These discussions were held following the Scottish Government letter to public sector leaders sent in June requesting initial comments from public sector organisations by September to enable further dialogue during autumn/winter 2018.

#### **The Renfrewshire Picture**

Partnership working is mature in Renfrewshire, with many constructive examples of successful collaborative working between partners at different levels.

The key priority of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is driving economic growth and regeneration across Renfrewshire. Renfrewshire is closely engaged in key regional arrangements such as the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal, and City Deals have been key in recognising the role of Local Government in driving economic growth where it is felt historically this hasn't had enough focus. In Renfrewshire, national and regional collaborative working has been key to securing key investments such as the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District in Inchinnan, which will be an engine of economic growth across Renfrewshire, and the engagement of national partners such as Scottish Enterprise has been key. There is significant potential to devolve further powers to city regions to incentivise these kinds of working arrangements, and accelerate investment in the infrastructure needed to support growth.

One of the key pieces of work undertaken throughout 2017 and 2018 has been a thorough review of Renfrewshire's own Community Level Governance arrangements, with a view to bringing communities closer to the decision-making of the Community Planning Partnerships. Significant engagement and consultation has been carried out locally to understand the views and experiences of community organisations and individuals around local decision-making and influencing public sector partners, and the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership are happy to share the insights from this consultation if this would assist with the national review. The proposals for a new model are due to be considered by Council in late September, and if approved, will be implemented in late 2018.

The Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Annual Report also highlights a number of examples of successful partnership collaboration, from collaborative strategic planning such as the Paisley Partnership Board delivering the Legacy Plan and Investment Programme following Paisley's bid for City of Culture, to successful operational partnership working such as multi-agency Daily Tasking arrangements.

#### **Opportunities and challenges**

Partners also discussed the opportunities and challenges more generally, which are unlikely to be unique to Renfrewshire as a place.

- **Fiscal challenge** was a key theme arising, particularly for the local authority. Across the wider partnership, it was considered that different budget setting arrangements can be difficult to manage.
- **Incentivising collaboration** - It was recognised that in the current landscape, partnership working in a community planning partnership context is voluntary – with success based on the commitment of partners to their place. Partners felt that options such as fiscal empowerment or shared budgets have the potential to be a key incentive for collective and collaborative working.
- **Complex governance arrangements** – there was some discussion around new approaches adding another layer of governance to the existing landscape, rather than streamlining what is already there. For example, the introduction of the Integration Joint Boards. Examples were also raised around a lack of clarity of where some partners are involved at the national, regional and local levels and differing governance arrangements across partners. There was also some discussion around how national, regional and local priorities are aligned.
- **Policy disconnects** were also a theme, particularly how national policy is translated into practice across the area. It was felt there were opportunities to work with and incentivise community planning partnerships to work together to develop policy into practice, for example by introducing demonstration sites which are supported with resources.
- **Ownership of outcomes** was another theme, particularly around potential duplication of 'plans' to achieve particular outcomes for people. Discussion here focussed around the accountability and responsibility for delivering particular outcomes, and recognising multiple partners often have a different key role to play. For example, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have a role around unintentional harm and injury, but this is also largely affected by partners such as Health and Social Care Partnerships. There was discussion amongst national partners such as Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service that standalone plans such as Local Police Plans would be better as part of the partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan.