

Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee

11.20 am, Monday, 23 September 2014

Present

Councillors Lunn (Convener), Bagshaw, Child, Gardner, Bill Henderson, Keil, Robson and Walker.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of 23 June 2014 as a correct record.

2. Compact 10 - presentation

Harriet Eadie and Ian Brooke, representing the Edinburgh Third Sector Interface, presented information on the Compact 10 project. Compact 10 aimed to document and celebrate the achievements of Edinburgh Compact over the last ten years and would invite the Third Sector to come together to develop the Partnership's strategy for the next ten years. Between autumn 2014 and summer 2015, the views and opinions of the third sector would be gathered through a series of focus groups, events and surveys. In particular, Compact 10 would examine:

- Partnership activity and success to date.
- How best to capitalise on progress.
- How to articulate a public/ third sector's vision.
- Development of more effective third sector strategic impacts.
- Key joint policy and delivery opportunities.
- Wider cooperation, innovation and change opportunities.

The continuing challenges for Compact 10 were discussed including:

- How to maintain/ improve strong social fabric.
- Influence of citizens and groups in shaping service design.
- Role of volunteers.
- Examination of public services which could be, or were already, better delivered by or with the third sector.
- Examination of role for social enterprise.
- How to keep Better Outcomes ahead of Leaner Delivery (BOLD project).

Decision

- 1) To thank Harriet Eadie and Ian Brooke for their presentation.
- 2) To note the presentation and that a report including details of the Third Sector Forum would be made to committee next year.

(Reference – Compact 10 presentation, submitted.)

3. Proposal to Establish a Lothian Equality Network

The Edinburgh Equality Network (EEN) had been established to develop a network of equalities interests in the city. Recent discussions amongst partners on the EEN project team had led to proposals to establish a new Lothian Equality Network (LEN). The development of the LEN would enable public partner agencies to better meet their equality and rights legal duties, and legal duties associated with community engagement and empowerment. Initial work had been undertaken by officers across partner agencies to develop a LEN Project Team and draft Charter, and to scope out a membership recruitment drive. The views of elected members on the proposed plans to establish and develop a Lothian Equality Network were sought.

David Griffiths, ECAS, and Inspector Tom Galbraith, Police Scotland, both expressed support for the proposal to establish the LEN to help deliver national outcomes more efficiently and effectively at a local level.

During discussion, members noted:

- That while the proposals were generally welcomed, it would be essential to continue to engage with smaller groups through the wider network.
- That more specific financial details would be presented to Committee in November 2014.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note the contributions and comments from members.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

4. Council Asset Transfer Policy

The Sub-Committee had previously discussed a report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities providing a discussion paper on the development of a Council Asset Transfer policy.

Peter Watton, Acting Head of Corporate Property and Nicky Donald, Community Ownership Support Service, presented further information on progress of the Asset Transfer policy and the emerging policy principles to date.

The following points were raised:

- The balance between asset transfer to local community groups and capital receipts, and the impact of potential budget pressures arising from asset transfer.
- How local groups could find a register of available property.
- Who would have the ultimate say for a transfer to proceed and whether there was any appeal process. It was likely an officer group would consider requests with approval required from the Finance and Resources Committee thereafter.
- The Community Empowerment Bill would, among other things, allow communities to identify property for potential transfer.
- Consultation on Asset Transfer policy should be as wide as possible within communities.
- Maintenance of transferred assets and robust assessment of financial sustainability of organisations would require to be examined.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To thank Peter Watton and Nicky Donald for their contribution.
- 3) To note the contributions and comments from members.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee 23 June 2014 (minute item 2); presentation by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

5. Co-operative Capital Framework: Proposed Evaluation Tool

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee had previously considered progress on the development of the Cooperative Capital Framework and had agreed proposals on corporate social responsibility, promotion and co-production.

Nick Croft presented details of a proposed model evaluation wheel which would be used to further advance the Framework through evaluation measures. A seminar involving key partners would test the model and inform a further report to Committee in November 2014.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To thank officers for their work in developing the Cooperative Capital Evaluation Tool.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 23 June 2014 (minute item 5); presentation by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)