

# Communities and Neighbourhood Committee

10am, Tuesday 25 November 2014

## Neighbourhood Partnerships: Local Community Plans 2014-2017

Item number	7.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

### Executive summary

Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) coordinate community planning activity at a local level in Edinburgh. NPs put local people at the heart of priority setting, and provide the mechanism by which joint service delivery can be made accountable for delivering on local people's priorities. Local Community Plans support these core NP functions.

Edinburgh's third set of 12 Local Community Plans (LCPs) has recently been finalised, following extensive engagement and consultation. The LCPs set out the key priorities that local communities wish to tackle. During their three-year lifespan, the plans will provide a vital reference point for coordinating joint partner activity at a local level.

This report sets out how the 2014 -17 LCPs will be delivered through local partnership activity and, using some sample local priorities, explores how the LCPs can increasingly contribute to Edinburgh's strategic level community planning context. This report should be read in conjunction with the report entitled 'Performance Framework', also presented to this Committee meeting.

### Links

Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P33</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO23</a> , <a href="#">CO24</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO1</a> , <a href="#">SO2</a> , <a href="#">SO3</a> , <a href="#">SO4</a>

## Neighbourhood Partnerships: Local Community Plans 2014-2017

### Recommendations

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It is recommended that Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee:

- 1.1 notes and promotes the content of the report.
- 1.2 agrees to receive ongoing updates on the delivery of the plans in the context of wider and strategic community planning activity.
- 1.3 agrees to refer the report to Strategic Partnerships in Edinburgh, via the Edinburgh Partnership, for noting.

### Background

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- 2.1 Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) are now well established in Edinburgh as the city's local approach to delivering community planning. They are increasingly valued within Edinburgh's community planning framework for their role in coordinating local action between service providers, and their clear link between local input and driving forward people and place led services.
- 2.2 Local Community Plans (LCPs) are the primary means by which the twelve NP's subgroups coordinate their joint work at a local level. They set out the local priorities that have emerged following considerable consultation and engagement in each NP area, which was the subject of a report to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee at its meeting on 23 September 2014.
- 2.3 The LCPs for 2014-17 are the third suite of three-year plans produced since NPs were established. Following the process of reviewing NPs (reported to Committee in March 2014) the plans' priorities reflect how the local approach to community planning in Edinburgh has evolved and matured. They now contain clearer links to strategic outcomes, and a clearer articulation of priorities that are achievable at a local level.

### Main report

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#### **'People-led' Local Community Plans**

- 3.1 Developing LCPs is fundamentally a people and neighbourhood-led process. NP Boards have distilled local information into priorities that form the basis of each LCP following extensive engagement and consultation. This includes specific engagement activities to gather input from harder to reach groups across all NPs.

The range of activity undertaken to support the new LCP development was reported in detail to the [Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee](#) on 23 September 2014. With a focus on qualitative input, engagement activities were often developed by cross partner teams. Many of those who completed the consultation training hosted by Services for Communities that instigated the establishment of a Consultation Framework for the city.

3.2 The evidence gained from neighbourhood-led engagement provides qualitative input. When combined with local information from partners and neighbourhood based profiles on a wide range of statistical data, it represents a set of evidence with wider potential benefits beyond the development of LCPs. This intelligence can also be used to contribute to the development and refinement of strategic outcomes or priorities at a city wide or strategic level.

3.3 Feeding back to the community and specific groups on how their input has been used by the NPs in forming the LCPs is a key part of current NP activity. This is important to developing ongoing dialogue and trust.

### **Promoting the plans**

3.4 A new-look suite of printed LCPs 2014-17 has been designed with the aim of communicating each NP's priorities clearly and effectively. The design is supported by a new set of icons that help to illustrate how NP priorities are linked to, support and influence Edinburgh's Community Plan (SOA4) 2013-16 strategic outcomes:

- economy delivers investment, jobs and opportunities for all.
- children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential.
- health and wellbeing improves (with reduced inequalities in health).
- communities are safer (with improved physical and social fabric).



Diagram 1: New LCP icons

3.5 The new LCPs were launched with a week of targeted activity and promotion commencing on Monday 27 October 2014. A range of communications channels were used at a local and city wide level, including online channels and social media, stakeholder networks such as Community Council networks and voluntary sector forums, and through events including drop-in sessions and road shows. Through such activities, the launch week aimed to help increase awareness of NPs and their LCPs' priorities and increase involvement in NP led activity.

3.6 At launch events, staff who support NPs were present to talk about the new priorities and identify ways in which local people and service providers, including Council services, could get involved locally. Events included:

Monday 27 October – Annual Tenants Conference

Tuesday 28 October – Edinburgh Partnership Family Gathering

Thursday 29 October – Waverley Court drop-in session

Friday 30 October – Central Library ‘Big Draw’ event

3.7 The plans are now available to collect from local neighbourhood offices and libraries. They are available online from the Neighbourhood Partnership website [www.edinburghnp.org.uk](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk).

3.8 The new look plans are supported by a communications ‘toolkit’ that can be used by Council and partners to promote NP activities. The icons can be used in print or electronically (Diagram 1) and there are templates for email signatures, posters, plasma screen slides and presentations.

### **Development of LCP priorities**

3.9 Action to address LCP priorities is taken forward in each NP through local sub groups, action groups or forums. With the new plans now issued, partners are establishing refreshed sub groups, or refining the membership of existing groups to ensure the right service providers and stakeholders are involved, and able to work together to deliver on the NP priorities.

3.10 In most NPs, key priorities have evolved to become more clearly articulated and focussed, with a shift away from ‘thematic’ priority areas. This assists service providers operating at a local level to identify exactly how they can contribute to joint action on a priority. Examples of the ‘evolution’ of priorities include:

- In Western and Almond NPs, more generic priorities around supporting and engaging young people have become more clearly articulated to focus on providing young people with real opportunities to influence funding decisions, through the You(th) Decides Programme.
- In Leith NP, tackling health inequalities through a health and well being priority has become more focussed around local interventions to reduce social isolation, a known contributor to poorer mental health.
- In City Centre NP, pilot activity to trial the removal of A boards on two key streets has evolved into a priority to improve the accessibility of city centre streets.

Further information on the above examples can be found in the short case studies included at Appendix 1.

- 3.11 Throughout the next three years, sub groups and NP boards will be involved in a continual cycle of engagement, review and refinement, which means the action plans are live documents that evolve and respond to changing circumstances.

### **Adding value through working together**

- 3.12 With the evolution of the NP approach comes an increasing emphasis on the sub group role to identify joint activities to help tackle local priorities. It is the work of the sub groups to agree the joint activities that will address one or more priorities of the local community plan. Action plan templates are used to record actions and drive forward progress on local priorities. They also help partners and service providers to agree their joint local activities in relation to strategic outcomes. It is increasingly recognised that in many cases, joint activities can produce a greater impact or benefit than just the list of services undertaken already by each partner. In other words, they can deliver more than the sum of their parts.
- 3.13 Some newer examples are noted below. These showcase joint working approaches that deliver additional value, in addition they are provided as short case studies in Appendix 1:
- In Inverleith NP an innovation project with students from Edinburgh University, local schools and the community is to increase numbers of pupils walking or cycling to school.
  - In Liberton and Gilmerton NP, local partners have initiated joint activities including training, and a new literacy programme to address gaps identified in a local Child Protection Inspection.
  - In Almond NP, joint activities between Alzheimer Scotland, NHS Lothian, the Council and local community and businesses have led to the set up of a 'sensory' garden for dementia sufferers, their families and carers. The aim is to keep people active in their community longer.

### **Driving forward change in public sector service delivery**

- 3.14 One of the core motivations behind community planning at any level is to provide the basis for developing services that are more effective and efficient, and that meet the needs of the people (individuals or communities) that they are delivered for.
- 3.15 The new LCPs provide a number of priorities that drive forward public service delivery:
- In Portobello and Craigmillar NP, local health service providers have committed to change the way they work with young people following feedback from a Total Neighbourhood event led by young people.

- In the Almond and Western NPs, a Joint Health and Community Care sub group pilot to reduce alcohol consumption among older people is helping frontline staff in a number of services recognise where support may be required and improves the speed of signposting and referral for help.

### **NPs – coordinating other local services**

3.16 In addition to the coordination of local services to tackle community priorities, NPs are increasingly approached by citywide services or strategic initiatives to support local service development. The following examples, detailed further in Appendix 1, demonstrate an expanding role for NPs in relation to local service coordination:

- Leith NP has been approached by the Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership (working in partnership with the Alcohol Focus Scotland), to help coordinate ‘pilot’ activity between the voluntary sector, public sector and community, to tackle the negative impact of alcohol in the local area using the benefits of neighbourhood focussed profiling and community intelligence.
- In Craighentilly & Duddingston NP, a short life working group has been set up to coordinate activity to address issues around sub-let tenancies, absent landlords and difficulties coordinating shared repairs, and will report progress to the NP board.
- In Liberton and Gilmerton NP, NHS Lothian has proposed the NP coordinates work to ‘Increase local awareness of domestic abuse’ through a NP priority and subgroup. The NP will support partner services to coordinate the joint development of a local prevention programme across service providers, and set up self-help resources in schools, libraries, community centres and supermarkets.

### **Local and Strategic Outcomes – Opportunities and next steps**

- 3.17 There are opportunities for strategic partnerships to support local level activity that can have a cumulative impact on achieving Edinburgh’s SOA outcomes. The timing of the SOA cycle means that the Edinburgh Partnership and Strategic Partnerships can benefit from the breadth of grass roots input from LCPs.
- 3.18 This is underpinned by the development of a more consistent performance reporting framework developed by NPs, which relates directly to strategic outcomes. The NP Performance Framework before this Committee sets out the basis for this common ‘language’ for partnership activity at both strategic and local levels.
- 3.19 NPs are keen to share the local data and expertise gathered through the process of developing the LCPs 2014-17 with strategic partnerships. Local input will, when aggregated, help to inform the further development of SOA outcomes and strategic

level activities and priorities for Edinburgh, continuing the work to strengthen the links from local to strategic level.

- 3.20 Further reports are scheduled to come to Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee in early 2015, through which the links between local activity and the four Strategic Outcome Areas will be reported on and explored more fully.

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 Key indicators of the overall success of the NP approach across the city as measured in the Edinburgh People's survey are:
- People feel they are able to have a say on things happening or how services are run in their local area.
  - Satisfaction that people from different backgrounds can get on well together.
  - Improved satisfaction with neighbourhoods as a place to live.
  - Satisfaction with specific services e.g. community safety, environment and facilities.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 The costs associated with the delivery and development of LCP priorities are all contained within existing budgets across the Council services and partner agencies that are actively involved in delivering the local community plans.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 There are no direct adverse risks or policy impacts associated with this report.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 Local community plans and activities associated with their delivery and the work of NPs contribute to furthering the general duties of the Equalities Act 2010; both to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 There are no adverse environmental impacts associated with this report. The engagement with the wider community will have a positive impact on social justice and well being.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 The extensive consultation with local communities leading to the development of the twelve NP LCPs 2014-17 has been subject of a report to Committee on 23 September 2014.

## Background reading/external references

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N/A

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## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<a href="#">P33</a> – Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<a href="#">CO23</a> – Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community.  <a href="#">CO24</a> – The Council communicates effectively internally and externally and has an excellent reputation for customer care
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<a href="#">SO1</a> – Edinburgh’s economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all  <a href="#">SO2</a> – Edinburgh’s citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health  <a href="#">SO3</a> – Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential  <a href="#">SO4</a> – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
<b>Appendices</b>	Local Community Plan 2014-17 Priorities: Sample Case Studies

## **Local Community Plan 2014-17 Priorities: Sample Case Studies**

### **Case Study 1: Evolving Priorities - Western and Almond NPs**

In both Western and Almond NPs in the 2014-17 LCPs, priorities around supporting and engaging young people have recurred. In the 2011-14 LCPs, the ongoing development of activities in relation to this priority led to the establishment of the successful Youth Decides Participatory Budgeting pilot in Almond NP last year. This involved young people in both the application and decision-making process for use of local Community Grants Fund, in partnership with Community Learning and Development, local schools and other youth organisations. Over the next three years, joint work in Almond and Western will seek to extend and enhance the meaningful involvement of young people as this has been identified as an area for ongoing development.

### **Case Study 2: Evolving Priorities - Leith NP**

In Leith NP, a recurring priority around health and well being has been a feature of all LCPs. This year, however, in consultation with the community, some action areas under this theme were more clearly expressed, leading to a further 'Healthy Leith' priority. Early action areas identified included a local need to tackle older people's social isolation. Leith NP is not exclusive in identifying this action area; this also emerged in Liberton and Gilmerton and South Central NPs.

### **Case Study 3: Evolving Priorities - City Centre NP**

Early pilot activity identified in the first LCP was led by the Business Forum. This aimed to improve pedestrian accessibility by removing A-boards on specific pavements. Whilst the pilot was considered successful, during consultation for the 2014-17 LCP it became clear that many people were still concerned about moving around the city centre, and felt that the amount of clutter on the streets makes this difficult. Following from this, 'Working to make more streets clutter free' has been approved as a priority for the 2014-17 LCP. This NP will therefore focus on instances of street clutter, and development of the response to this will be taken forward by an NP action group.

### **Case Study 4: Added value through joint delivery - Inverleith NP**

For the 2014-17 LCP in Inverleith NP area, the priority 'Encourage walking and cycling to school' has been established as a result of feedback from the initial consultation stages. As part of the 'Edinburgh Apps' Partnership, Edinburgh University have committed to supporting the priority by engaging with the community to examine the how innovative and creative solutions might help get more students to walk or ride to

school. The students will then look at devising applications and systems that will challenge the way people think about travel.

The process is intended to deliver immediate outcomes within a short timescale and potentially longer term actions that will involve a wider range of partners to affect change. The University also engaged with the NP at its conference on 30 October 2014 to provide an overview of the process and promote any immediate results.

#### **Case Study 5: Added value through joint delivery - Liberton and Gilmerton NP**

In Liberton and Gilmerton NP, a Child Protection Inspection identified gaps in early intervention. Led by Parent and Carer Support (Children and Families), local service providers have started the process of identifying activities that will address unmet needs of vulnerable parents in the local community through the Support to Parents Action Group, established around the new priority 'Increasing support to parents', in the 2014-17 plan. Activity will include facilitating dialogue between GPs and midwives to help identify isolated families. For those workers who come into contact with parents in informal or community settings the development of new training will increase the awareness of available services. For parents, a new literacy programme will be delivered in partnership by NHS Lothian, voluntary sector, Community Learning and Development and pre-school education.

This joint approach to delivery helps contribute to the National Parenting Strategy that states that positive parenting can act as a protective factor against the negative impact of income, education and area deprivation on children's health and development.

#### **Case Study 6: Added value through joint delivery - Almond NP**

In Almond NP, key partners have come together to providing additional facilities in the community for people suffering from dementia. Concerns about the need for local support for people with dementia and their families were identified by local businesses, through discussions involving community councils and individuals in Cramond and Barnton. Alzheimer Scotland is leading on the planning and joint delivery of local interventions in partnership with NHS Lothian, the Council's Museums and Galleries Service and West Neighbourhood Team. This includes the development of a dementia-friendly 'sensory' garden within the grounds of Lauriston Castle. The garden is a place where dementia sufferers can access and interact with memorabilia and remain physically active and socially engaged.

A number of further interventions have been identified for joint delivery, and if feasible, may include converting the Lauriston Castle caretaker's cottage into an indoor drop-in facility for dementia sufferers, carers and families. These interventions aim to help keep people in active in their community longer.

### **Case Study 7: Driving forward public sector change - Portobello and Craigmillar NP**

In Portobello and Craigmillar NP, a Youth Gathering event was held as part of Total Neighbourhood. This was organised by Presenting Young People (a group of young people who came together as a planning group and who wanted to develop youth engagement activities in the local area) with the support of two officers from Libraries and Community Learning and Development Services. The young people then directly fed back their findings to the NP. Amongst the issues identified, it was suggested that local health services could be more 'youth friendly' and that additional mental health service support was needed for young people.

The NP agreed to incorporate these improvements under the local health priority and task the NP's Health and Wellbeing subgroup to work with PYP to make these improvements. The Health and Wellbeing subgroup will report back to the NP on progress to date by the end of the year. It is a positive example of how cross cutting issues that are identified in the Total Neighbourhood approach can be positively progressed through NP activity.

### **Case Study 8: Driving forward public sector change - Almond and Western NPs**

A joint Health and Community Care sub group which sits across both Almond and Western NPs aims to reduce alcohol consumption among older people. In partnership with NHS Lothian and the voluntary sector, pilot activity includes staff training sessions, and public information packs for libraries and local offices. This joint activity will focus improving the responses of number of front line staff in public services by helping them recognise where support may be required and improving the timely signposting and early detection of problems.

### **Case Study 9: NP role in coordinating other local services - Leith NP**

In partnership with Alcohol Focus Scotland, the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership (EADP) will be carrying out pilot activity under the 'Harm to Others' project. The EADP has approached Leith NP to help support the delivery of local aspects of the 'Harm to Others' pilot, which aims to help tackle the negative impact of alcohol. The NP will support local activities including work to improve data collection to build a clear picture of alcohol impact in the local area. This would also assist in identifying service providers best placed to provide 'whole population' measures to reduce harm at a local level. Partners will work with local services to improve support for people affected by someone else's drinking and support the roll out of support for local workplaces who wish to manage staff policies around alcohol and the workplace.

This is significant as Leith NP has a long standing concern about the level of alcohol related health issues in the local area. Since its first local community plan, the NP has convened special meetings and events, and coordinated the drafting of feedback on Edinburgh's Statements of Licensing Policy, to reflect this local concern.

### **Case Study 10: NP coordinating other local services - Craigentiny and Duddingston NP**

In Craigentiny and Duddingston NP, feedback from the local community plan consultation raised issues regarding sub-let tenancies, absent landlords and shared repairs. As a result, representatives from the NP held an initial meeting with relevant Council service teams. The meeting resulted in the production of a briefing note, a key contact list and a process map for resolving these issues. Progress was considered at a NP Business meeting and a decision was made to establish a short life working group to support services in improving the way these issues are responded to. This may in time result in a new NP sub group if required. This example also demonstrates how NPs can support improvements to the way in which an increased range of public services are delivered.

### **Case Study 11: NP coordinating other local services - Liberton and Gilmerton NP**

In developing the new 2014-17 Local Community Plan, Liberton and Gilmerton NP identified the priority to 'Increase awareness of domestic abuse'. Initially, this was promoted as a potential priority for the new plan by NHS Lothian as a partner with extensive local knowledge. The NP was recognised as the best vehicle to undertake key prevention work, as it has a strong and established link between partners and service providers working in the area. Part of the role for the NP in coordinating local services, is to support service providers to develop their existing services including the rollout and delivery of the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme. The other aspect of the NPs role is to raise awareness of available support in the community, by building on local networks and local trust. Actions to achieve this include establishing self-help resources in local community spaces, raising awareness of national prevention work in schools, libraries and community centres and co-ordinating awareness raising in local shops and supermarkets.