

South West Neighbourhood Partnership

7pm, Thursday, 8 November 2018

Review and Consultation on Community Planning Governance Arrangements

Item number	5.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	7 and 9
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

The Edinburgh Partnership agreed at its meeting on 30 October 2018 to progress all 17 recommendations presented. These cover a number of areas that have a direct impact on local community planning. This decision supports the establishing of a new governance framework, at all spatial levels, that provides clarity of purpose, clear lines of accountability and facilitates the delivery of joint action to achieve the Edinburgh Partnership's ambitions across the City, and specifically to create locality community planning partnerships for each Edinburgh locality.

Review and Consultation on Community Planning Governance Arrangements

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The South West Neighbourhood Partnership agrees,
 - 1.1.1 To note anticipated changes to local community planning in Edinburgh in line with a new approach to community participation and partnership structures.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting in December 2017 the Edinburgh Partnership (EP) Board agreed to conduct a review and consultation on community planning governance arrangements across the City. This involved two phases, an initial review of current arrangements followed by a formal consultation on changes, which ran from July to September 2018. The EP received options for a revised community planning structure on 30 October 2018.
- 2.2 The purpose of the review was to establish a new governance framework providing clarity of purpose, clear lines of accountability and facilitating the delivery of joint actions across Edinburgh's community planning partners. It provided the opportunity to revise community planning structures in line with the new Edinburgh community plan and the four locality improvement plans, to ensure decisions are taken at the correct level and by those partners with the appropriate authority. In addition to streamlined governance structures providing greater clarity of purpose, it was recognised new arrangements need to maximise stakeholder participation, and provide greater accountability and transparency.
- 2.3 The Locality and Neighbourhood section of the consultation proved the most complex with a diverse range of views and issues being raised. The desire to streamline the community planning arrangements meant more support for establishing locality-level community planning partnerships, which could replace the locality leadership teams, work stream groups and neighbourhood partnerships. Feedback highlighted a need to balance locality specific approaches with citywide consistency, and avoiding burdensome and complex structures by developing more creative approaches to community involvement.

3. Main report

- 3.1 In the 30 October 2018 meeting the EP agreed to move forward in a number of areas that have a direct impact on local community planning.
- 3.2 Based on the analysis provided through the consultation, the EP decided to develop a streamlined approach to partnership structures at city-wide and local levels. This will involve four locality community planning partnerships supported by neighbourhood networks. Locality community planning partnerships will exercise some or all of the functions currently held by the Locality Leadership teams, with the neighbourhood networks identifying the priorities and outcomes for community planning through building effective and meaningful community participation. To compliment this, the EP agreed to develop a communications approach for the Edinburgh Partnership, as well as a new community participation strategy designed to place communities at the heart of community planning decisions.
- 3.3 The EP recognised that future partnership structures and ways of working may have significant resource implications for partners, both in support from statutory community planning partners, but also time and effort from community volunteers and representatives. As such the EP agreed to continue to provide support at current levels, and to consider what support will be required in future given new partnership structures and processes.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The establishment of new governance and partnership working arrangements.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Delivery costs will be met from within existing resources with partners being expected to contribute. The resource implications of implementing a new model of governance and partnership working will require to be identified and considered as part of the development processes.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The key risks associated with the programmes of work relate to stakeholder involvement and expectations. These will be managed through taking a collaborative approach.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Community planning activity contributes to the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 general duties of advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.
- 7.2 An Integrated Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the development processes.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no adverse impacts arising from this report.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The work has been and will continue to be a collaborative process involving community planning stakeholders in the city. The governance and partnership working consultation is being carried out in accordance with the Council's agreed consultation framework. The framework is based on established best practice from across the UK and was developed with specialist advice and support from the Consultation Institute. Activity will also be informed by the National Standards for Community Engagement.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Culture and Communities Committee, [Edinburgh Partnership Review and Consultation of Governance Arrangements](#), 11 October 2018

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11. Appendices

N/A