

**ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION**



# Community Planning Aberdeen Board

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The undernoted items are circulated in connection with the meeting of the **COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN BOARD** to be held here in the Town House on **WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2023 at 2.00 pm.**

## **B U S I N E S S**

### **STRATEGIC BUSINESS**

- 2.3     Scottish Parliament Report On Community Planning: Post-legislative Scrutiny of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (Pages 3 - 6)

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# Community Planning Aberdeen

<b>Progress Report</b>	Scottish Parliament Report on Community Planning: Post-legislative scrutiny of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Gale Beattie, Chair of the CPA Management Group and Director of Commissioning, ACC
<b>Report Author</b>	Michelle Crombie, Community Planning Manager, ACC
<b>Date of Report</b>	26 June 2023
<b>Governance Group</b>	CPA Board – 28 June 2023

## Purpose of the Report

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee following their inquiry into Community Planning launched in November 2022.

## Summary of Key Information

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In November 2022 the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee launched an inquiry into Community Planning as part of their scrutiny of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Part 2 of the Act sets out shared duties for how community planning is delivered by Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) through the development and delivery of Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and underpinning Locality Plans. The Act identifies statutory Community Planning Partners and places upon them a duty to work together, and with communities, to improve outcomes for their local area.
- 1.2 The inquiry examined the impact of the Act on community planning and how CPPs have responded to significant events such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis. The Committee invited views from a wide range of stakeholders including CPPs, communities and individuals about the impact that Community Planning Partnerships have had. A joint response to the call for views was made on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen by the deadline of 13 January 2023, as agreed at the CPA Board meeting on 30 November 2022. The response can be viewed [here](#). In addition, the Community Planning Manager gave evidence to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on 7 March.
- 1.3 The Committee's findings and recommendations have now been published on the Scottish Parliament website at [Community Planning: Post-legislative scrutiny of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 | Scottish Parliament](#)

## **2 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Community Planning Aberdeen is referenced several times within the Committee's report as we are highlighted for our outcomes focus, collaborative working with ACVO Third Sector Interface, our integrated locality planning arrangements with Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, and our community led priority neighbourhood partnerships. We are the only CPP to be mentioned in the summary of findings with a recommendation for us to be used as a case study example in revised statutory community planning guidance.
- 2.2 A complete summary of the key findings and recommendations of the Committee is provided below.
- i) The Scottish Government should ensure that its current review of the Community Empowerment Act addresses the variation in performance between CPPs. In future CPPs should have a clear and defined role in any national guidance on the local response to emergency situations (such as another pandemic). Where there are examples of CPPs demonstrating best practice the Scottish Government and Cosla should ensure that this is actively shared across CPPs to help improve standards.
  - ii) The Scottish Government should consider refreshing the Community Planning Guidance in view of the comments made in this report by stakeholders. In particular this should include future-proofing the guidance so that it reflects new national priorities such as Community Wealth Building and what CPPs' role will be in this, and also the increasing regionalisation of economic development.
  - iii) The Scottish Government should consider amending the Act to require CPPs to invite the local Third Sector Interface ('TSI') and local anchor organisations to be partners.
  - iv) The Scottish Government should consider during its review of Part 2 of the Act how CPPs can best encourage the involvement of the private sector in community planning, for example through Business Gateway which is delivered by local authorities. It should also explore how CPPs can best contribute to increasing economic regionalisation and encourage collaboration between CPPs within regions.
  - v) The Scottish Government's review of the Act should explore whether its ambitions for community planning are realistic without being backed up by direct investment. CPPs may have an important role to play in new priorities such as Community Wealth Building and the Scottish Government should ensure that they are sufficiently resourced before creating any additional statutory requirements. It should also explore further how community planning partners should best direct their own resources to underpin CPPs' work.
  - vi) The Committee believes that given the important part statutory partners other than local authorities have in community planning, Audit Scotland's routine audit of them could include the effectiveness of their participation in community planning.
  - vii) The Scottish Government should explore how the complex lines of accountability for community planning partners could best be streamlined.
  - viii) The Scottish Government should take the opportunity during its review of Part 2 of the Act to help renew CPPs' focus on the importance of empowerment and participation through identifying opportunities to drive improvement and share

- best practice. This could include increasing the funding provided to the Improvement Service.
- ix) CPPs should take proactive steps to ensure that communities of interest or identity are fully included in planning processes to avoid further marginalising key groups who are already at increased risk of inequality. Their voices should for example be clearly reflected in LOIPs and locality plans.
  - x) Community engagement requires a professional skill-set that cannot be met solely by busy CPP officers in local authorities who may lack experience. The Scottish Government should explore how it can support community planning by resourcing a network of local community engagement officers within local authorities, and by encouraging local authorities to ensure they have sufficient community planning officers.
  - xi) The Scottish Government should consider commissioning research into the impact made by CPPs in improving inequalities. This could explore how CPPs are, and should be, linking interventions with outcomes data at a local level and outlining a framework for CPPs to use.
  - xii) There is a need to better align outcomes across the public sector, from the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework through to local delivery by statutory partners. This would better underpin the delivery of improved outcomes at all levels and also enable the evidencing of those improvements. The Scottish Government's review of community planning should consider whether Aberdeen CPP's work to align objectives should be used as a case study and incorporated into the Strategic Guidance for CPPs.
  - xiii) The Scottish Government's review of the Act should consider how to foster more sharing of and continuity in CPP leadership, for example through minimum terms or rotating Chairs amongst partners. It should also explore what training is needed to enable effective leadership of CPPs and how this could be provided.
  - xiv) In its development of a Community Wealth Building Bill, the Scottish Government should give early consideration to the role of CPPs in delivering the policy ambitions, whether any legislative changes to their role would be required to facilitate that, and should ensure sufficient guidance is provided to CPPs about their role in community wealth building.
  - xv) The work that the Scottish Government and Cosla are jointly undertaking to review Local Governance in Scotland should incorporate the role that CPPs have, and any conclusions reached should provide clarity for all partners on the importance of community planning.

### **3 NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 The findings of this report and any implications for Community Planning Aberdeen will be considered by CPA Management Group on 9 August 2023. The Scottish Government and relevant Ministers will be invited to join a Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee meeting to discuss their position further after summer recess.

### Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that members of the CPA Board:

- i) Note the findings and recommendations of the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee following their inquiry into Community Planning;
- ii) Note the recommendation for the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to be included as a case study example in revised statutory community planning guidance; and
- iii) Request the CPA Management Group to consider the implications of the report for Community Planning Aberdeen and report back to a future Board meeting.

### Opportunities and Risks

The inquiry into Community Planning has provided an opportunity to reflect on the work taking place in Aberdeen and to examine what impact Community Planning Aberdeen is having on making a difference to people's lives. Our strong outcomes focus ensures that we can clearly evidence the positive impact that we are having across the City as well as the areas where we need to make further improvements.

### Consultation

Angela Scott, Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council  
Gale Beattie, Chair of CPA Management Group and Director of Commissioning, ACC

### Appendices

N/A

### Background Papers

[Community Planning: Post-legislative scrutiny of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 | Scottish Parliament](#)

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