

**REPORT TO SOUTH AYRSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM
OF 24th June 2009**

SUBJECT: Community Planning Partnership update

1. Purpose.

To inform the Sustainability Forum of relevant business arising from the Community Planning Implementation Group, and the Community Planning Conference, and to highlight issues and actions for the Forum arising from these

2. Background.

The Community Planning Implementation Group (CPIG) is the forum where members of the CP Board meet with lead officers of the Theme Groups to progress implementation of the Community Plan, and to make recommendations. The Community Planning Conference is the annual event where the CP partners report back to Community Group representatives, highlight and discuss current issues and initiatives, and seek views on development of the partnership

3. Considerations

a) Community Planning Implementation Group

At its meeting of 14th May the CPIG considered a paper identifying a range of improvement issues and requirements for the Community Planning Partnership, with possible options to address those and progress to date.

b) Community Planning Conference

The Annual Community Planning Conference took place on Thursday 11th June at County Hall. The principal aim of the day was to launch the Single Outcome Agreement, and further develop the action planning with groups attending the conference. There was also an opportunity for theme groups to highlight their activities and develop further links with community representatives.

Other significant elements of the day included the launch of a new compact to develop joint working with Community and Voluntary Sector partners (the so-called Third Sector), an electronic vote on a number of key service delivery questions, and a panel session at which key members of the CP Board answered questions from the floor.

4. Analysis

While an approved minute of the CPIG meeting and a formal report of the Community Planning Conference are not yet available, the following initial observations are submitted for information and comment of Forum partners

In respect of the CPP Improvement Plan, the attached paper sets out the various issues considered by the CPIG, the current position, and a perspective on where the Sustainability Forum currently sits with respect to them.

With regard to the CP Conference, in terms of the Environmental theme and the Sustainability Forum there were a number of issues of note. With reference to the Environmental theme of the SOA, many delegates appeared more interested in what the Forum partners could do for them, rather than how they could support and help to deliver the outcomes. This particularly related to Outdoor Access and energy Efficiency issues. Participants were reluctant to think outside their core interests, although when invited to do so they readily acknowledged areas and activities where they had a current or potential contribution to make. There is a real need and opportunity to develop this approach more systematically, and this ought to be a priority for cross theme working. While Community, Health and Social Inclusion/Housing groups “dropped in” on the SOA session, there was little input from young people or the business sector, and more proactive work requires to be done to engage them.

The Sustainability Theme activity session highlighted the work of the Energy Agency, Waste Awareness and Recycling, Biodiversity, Fairtrade, and Outdoor Access. The interactive question responses had indicated an impressive majority (>70%) of participants willing to support separate food waste collections, and this was reflected in a high level of interest in the food waste element of the activity session. Similarly, there was keen interest in Outdoor Access issues, particularly around widening user access to specific locations where appropriate (disabled, cyclist, equestrian). A number of key individual contacts were established with Beautiful Ballantrae, The Ark youth group, Care and Repair, Troon Community Council, Prestwick North Community Council, South Ayrshire Simon Community, West of Scotland Housing Association, and the Stranraer to Ayr Line Support Association.

5. Recommendations.

Partners are invited to consider the issues set out in this report with respect to the feedback from the CP conference and the attached CPIG paper and comment and make recommendations as appropriate.

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