

REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL ON 7 JULY 2010

SUBJECT: ALIGNMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING & COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Full Council is asked to approve the proposal to align the community planning partnership and council committee structures.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to committee structures.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Full Council is asked to approve the proposal to align the community planning partnership and council committee structures.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The current community planning structure has been in operation since 2008. The structure reflects 5 national themes as well as community engagement. The main community planning remit centre around the priorities within the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).
- 3.2 The committee remits are much wider than the SOA however within the revised performance management framework service committees have a responsibility for implementing and monitoring SOA priorities for the council. Therefore when mapping the decision making structure of community planning and making links back to the council committee structure there is a natural overlap within the SOA priorities between the two structures.
- 3.3 However at the moment the community planning structure is sitting outside the committee structure as illustrated in the attached diagram. **(Appendix 1)** This overlap can then make the decision making process between the two structures confusing for officers and members.
- 3.4 By aligning the structure as illustrated in the second diagram it would allow clearer accountability by all partners to measure progress against the SOA. **(Appendix 2)**

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The aligned structure creates a single reporting and scrutiny mechanism beneficial to the council across all priorities whether council driven or partnership led to enable it to manage its resources as efficiently as possible. At the moment many partnership initiatives do not report back to committee or to the partnership. With the aligned structure it enables the council to have an overall perspective on how priorities are progressing and the resources involved in delivering them.
- 4.2 In addition the benefit of this proposal to the Community Planning Partnership is that it strengthens interagency scrutiny, provides a clearer decision making structure while reducing duplication.
- 4.3 It is proposed to align the two structures from cycle starting in September. Two meetings will take place on the same day dealing with SOA issues related to the relevant community planning strategic theme group followed by the relevant service committee to deal with council business. The community planning meeting will remain at quarterly meetings which means that every other council committee meeting day is aligned with the partnership.
- 4.4 The remits for alignment will be based around the key actions within the SOA for the community planning meetings. This will then be followed by council committee business as usual.
- 4.5 The Community Planning Board agreed to webcast their partnership meetings as part of this alignment. This will give the public the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the partnership and the contribution of the partners to the SOA process.
- 4.6 To strengthen the remit of the theme groups and the subsequent Committee remit, it is proposed that many of the operational groups supporting key actions be disbanded to enable the theme groups to approve the related strategies and monitor progress more actively rather than having this work undertaken away from the theme group.

5. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 5.1 It is not recommended to make major changes to the governance of the committees at this time. However potential changes are recognised such as the need to realign the theme group representatives with the elected member representation on committee. There may also be committee remits which will require to be adjusted within the Scheme of Administration. This will be carried out over time to enable the structures to bed in before major adjustments are made.

- 5.2 The alignment is recommended for the:
- Safer and Stronger theme/Communities Committee;
 - Healthier theme/Health and Social Care Committees;
 - Smarter theme/Children and Young Peoples Committee; and
 - Greener theme/Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.
- 5.3 The Community Planning Board and Policy and Resources Committee will not be aligned but continue to meet separately. The Wealthier and Fairer theme group will meet separately 1 week prior to Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee to enable it to feed into that Committee but it is not possible to hold both Wealthier and Fairer and Greener theme group meetings on the same day as Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.
- 5.4 In addition it is proposed to temporarily disband the Community Engagement Group to enable the remit to be aligned to the Community Planning Board. At the moment there are operational sub groups developing the major issues such as Community Engagement Framework and overseeing the Better Community Engagement Pilot project. The membership of the sub groups include the relevant partners and community representatives. The main Community Planning partners attend the Community Planning Board and therefore it would enable these sub groups to report directly to the Board. The Community Engagement Group can be re-constituted as needed and if so the membership of the Community Engagement Group can be looked at to enable proper representation.
- 5.5 Community Engagement will continue to be reported to Communities Committee and the timing of the Community Planning Board and Communities Committee are close enough to enable issues to be easily referred on to the Committee as required.
- 5.6 To summarise, the changes to the structures are as follows:-
- (i) Equalities will be moved from the Community Planning Board to Safer and Stronger to align better with the Communities Committee;
 - (ii) All Protection issues (Child, Adult and Domestic Abuse) will be reported to Safer and Stronger theme and Communities Committee. This is a change to the Healthier remit where currently Adult Protection sits and to the Health and Social Care Services Committee where Adult Protection and Domestic Abuse sit;
 - (iii) Youth Justice will remain under the Smarter theme but will be reported to Children and Young Peoples Services Committee rather than Health and Social Care Services Committee;
 - (iv) Road accidents is strongly linked to Anti Social Behaviour issues and therefore sits better under the Safer and Stronger theme but would have to be reported to the Communities Committee who

- already receive Anti Social Behaviour matters and not to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee;
- (v) Alcohol related offences currently reporting to both Healthier and Safer and Stronger theme groups will only be reported to Healthier theme to link with the Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership and to reduce duplication; and
 - (vi) 3 key actions have been agreed to be dropped by the Community Planning Statutory Partners as they only relate to Council activities and not partnership ones. These key actions are:
 - Flood Alleviation,
 - Sustainable Procurement
 - Apprentice Scheme.

A copy of the specific remits are attached (**Appendix 3**).

- 5.7 If approved by Full Council the first joint meeting will be held on in September. A draft timetable is attached. (**Appendix 4**).

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THEME GROUPS/COMMITTEES

- 6.1 To enable a better alignment of the theme groups and Committee members, some small adjustments to membership of the theme groups needs to be considered.

7. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**
Improvement to the Community Planning structure is in keeping with local priority on efficiencies and the national priority 15 in which “our public services are high quality continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs”.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
There is no policy or legal requirement in relation to the structure of community planning.
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**
This proposal may provide a mechanism to streamline the decision making process while eliminating duplication.
- (d) **Consultations**
Consultations have taken place with the Community Planning Board who have agreed in principle to the alignment of the two structures. Details of the structures have been agreed by the Community Planning statutory partners and Corporate Management Team for consideration by Full Council. However, it should be noted that the Community Planning Statutory Partners wanted the Protection service (Adult, Child and Domestic Abuse) and GIRFEC key actions to be located within

the Smarter theme rather than the Safer and Stronger theme as proposed in the report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Mapping out of the remits and decision making across council committees and community planning structures have identified the potential to align the two structures. Therefore Full Council is asked to consider the alignment of the two structures with the revised remits beginning in September with the meeting of Full Council and Community Planning Board.**

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Background Papers:
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