PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

16 DECEMBER 2015

Community Planning: Locality Planning Partnership Areas

Joint Report by Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and Depute Chief Executive, HCC (Corporate & Community Development Services) and Chief Operating Officer

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out the options for localities as a first step in implementing Local Community Planning Partnerships in Perth and Kinross.

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1.   BACKGROUND

1.1   Community Planning: the Journey over the next 5 years (report 15/535 refers) was approved by the Council on 18 November 2015 and set out recommended changes to the governance and delivery arrangements for the Community Plan 2013-23 at both a strategic and local level. These changes were subsequently approved by Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on 4 December 2015.

1.2   The Council approved the recommendations and instructed the Senior Depute Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive to complete consultation with ward members on locality areas by December 2015 and to report back to the next meeting of the Council on 16 December 2015.

1.3   This report sets out the options that emerged from the consultation process with members about defining locality areas within which the CPP can implement locality working. In addition to consultation with elected members, the CPP Executive Officer Group also discussed the options for locality boundaries at its meeting on 20 November 2015.

2.   PRINCIPLES OF LOCALITY WORKING

2.1   The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a new statutory duty on CPPs to tackle inequalities and specifically it creates a new statutory duty on CPPs to develop, publish and implement Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIP) setting out how CP partners will tackle stubborn inequalities across the CPP area. The LOIP will, in effect, be the Community Plan/SOA which sets out the high level strategic outcomes for the CPP area as a whole. A review of the current Community Plan/SOA will be undertaken in early 2016 to refresh it in line with new statutory duties for CPPs. Necessarily, these new duties mean defining geographic localities. The Act requires that action to be taken by the CPP within localities must be set out in a Locality Plan, linked to the LOIP (i.e. the Community Plan/SOA).

In order to maintain this 'golden thread' between the strategic outcomes set out in the Community Plan/SOA and Locality Plans, these key components must be in place:

(a) **Local Community Planning Partnerships** (LCPP's) which oversee the development and delivery of Locality Plans to tackle inequalities, for which they are accountable to the CPP Board.
(b) **Shared principles for local delivery**, which all CPP partners understand and sign up to.
(c) **Locality areas** within which local public services can plan and operate effectively.
(d) **Integrated local delivery teams**, capable of delivering Locality Plans.
(e) **Local data profiles ('Stories of Place')** which provide a strong evidence base about local assets, public service resources, priorities, and needs.
(f) **Effective community engagement** which supports a shift to active participation by citizens in local public service design, delivery and scrutiny.

2.2   There is no 'ideal' definition of localities which will be co-terminus with the administrative boundaries already used by the Council and other CP partners; the aim is to agree a starting place for us to begin to implement local community planning. We anticipate that these will **evolve** over time as we learn more about the locality priorities and local community planning becomes more sophisticated.

2.3   As report 15/535 set out, Community Planning at locality level is not about imposing rigid 'one size fits all' structures across all localities in Perth and Kinross. Experience in locality working across the CPP area has highlighted that key success factors include:

(a) Planning and delivery at a manageable scale that takes into account economies of scale and the different needs of communities within localities, which will over time build up stronger understanding of needs and priorities at more detailed (streets, neighbourhoods) level and strengthen the locality focus overall.
(b) Engaging communities alongside public services so that the latter are well informed by local intelligence about priorities and needs and linking with existing community-led partnerships, forums and networks.
(c) Promoting flexibility and a 'can do' mind-set, and delegating authority to front line workers, to work together with the community to develop local solutions; and
(d) Promoting joint resourcing arrangements, to allow public money, skills, time, buildings and other assets to be pooled and aligned to local needs and priorities. Joint resourcing will be increasingly critical as public finances are reduced over the next 5 years.

3. DEFINING LOCALITIES

3.1 Since the Special Council meeting on 18th November 2015 a further 5 workshops have been held with 18 elected members to consult on the most meaningful locality boundaries within which the new CPP delivery arrangements can operate effectively. Arrangements were also made with individual elected members who requested one to one discussions regarding this. The following key points were raised during discussions:

(a) Elected members recognised that defining localities required a starting point and existing ward boundaries provided this. There was no perfect solution and arrangements **need to evolve** over time.

(b) Locality boundaries needed to be flexible, for example where school catchment areas covered a number of ward boundaries.

(c) Cross locality boundary working is inevitable due to the numerous ways in which public services are configured across the council area and also due to capacity. There should be a principle of being a "good neighbour" to support locality working in other LCPP's.

(d) The LCPPs need to have a strong understanding of their areas via the stories of place and identify key priorities at a neighbourhood level and develop appropriate responses.

(e) Defining the groupings of localities using the road network and natural topography could be a useful indicator.

(f) There should be careful consideration of shared economic needs and relationships between Perth city and major urban areas outwith Perth and Kinross.

(g) Economies of scale are important to ensure elected members and others are not being asked to attend too many LCPPs, and that the LCPPs, in line with the recommendations in report 15/535, are of sufficient scale to enable locality working to be delivered effectively whilst not diluting a clear focus on different community priorities and needs.

In addition a wide range of issues and suggestions relating to implementation were identified. These are summarised at **Appendix 2** and will be addressed in the draft implementation and engagement plan which is being prepared prior to implementation of the new CPP governance and delivery arrangements starting in 2016. The implementation plan will include a strong focus on engaging with wider community-led networks and forums as well as CPP partners to ensure the delivery arrangements for localities are well informed by different perspectives. The implementation and engagement plan will be presented to the Modernising Governance Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) and CPP Board in the New Year.

4. OPTIONS FOR LOCALITY BOUNDARIES

4.1 The starting point for discussions with elected members on the configuration of locality boundaries was based on existing ward boundaries with a preferred number of between 4 and 6 localities. **Appendix 1** provides a map of the ward boundaries for reference. Four possible options were suggested by elected members in the five workshops, though views in each workshops were not always unanimous:

Option 1: 4 localities.	
Carse of Gowrie (ward 1) Strathmore (ward 2) Almond and Earn (ward 9)	**Pros** • Perth city treated as one urban centre. • Commonality in groupings with regards rurality, local economics and inter relationships. **Cons** • Divides Blairgowrie from Coupar Angus. • Grouping of wards 6, 7 and 8 questioned due to size and lack of commonality of wards 6 + 8. • Locality of wards 3, 4, 5 too large a geography.
Strathearn (ward 6) Strathallan (ward 7) Kinross-shire (ward 8)	
Blairgowrie and the Glens (ward 3) Highland (ward 4) Strathtay (ward 5)	
Perth City South (ward 10) Perth City North (ward 11) Perth City Centre (ward 12)	
This was the most popular option from workshop 1 for wards 1, 2 and 3.	
Option 2: 5 localities.	
Carse of Gowrie (ward 1) Strathmore (ward 2) Blairgowrie and the Glens (ward 3)	**Pros** • **Takes into account natural topography and road network with A9 combining wards 4 and 5 and the A85 combining wards 6 and 9.** • Perth city treated as one urban centre. • Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus are grouped in same locality. • Commonality in groupings with regards rurality, local economics and inter relationships. • Groups 7 and 8 due to similarities in semi-rural commuter communities who may access services or employment outside of Perth and Kinross.
Highland (ward 4) Strathtay (ward 5)	
Strathearn (ward 6) Almond and Earn (ward 9)	
Strathallan (ward 7) Kinross-shire (ward 8)	
Perth City South (ward 10) Perth City North (ward 11) Perth City Centre (ward 12)	
This was the most popular option from workshops 2, 4 and 5 for wards 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.	

Option 3: 5 localities.	
Carse of Gowrie (ward 1) Strathmore (ward 2) Blairgowrie and the Glens (ward 3)	**Pros** • Perth city treated as one urban centre. • Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus are grouped in same locality. • Commonality in groupings with regards rurality, local economics and inter relationships. **Cons** • Combines wards 8 and 9, which was seen as undesirable by elected members from that area due to significant differences between the areas.
Highland (ward 4) Strathtay (ward 5)	
Strathearn (ward 6) Strathallan (ward 7)	
Kinross-shire (ward 8) Almond and Earn (ward 9)	
Perth City South (ward 10) Perth City North (ward 11) Perth City Centre (ward 12)	
This was the most popular option from workshop 3 for wards 6 + 7.	

An alternative locality model suggested in workshop 4 (comprising of elected members from wards 8 and 9) is as follows:

Option 4: 5 localities.	
Strathmore (ward 2) Blairgowrie and the Glens (ward 3)	**Pros** • Takes into account some natural topography and road network with A9 combining wards 4 and 5. • Perth city treated as one urban centre. • Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus are grouped in same locality. • Commonality in groupings with regards rurality, local economics and inter relationships. **Cons** • Grouping of wards 6, 7 and 8 questioned due to size and commonality of wards 6 and 8.
Highland (ward 4) Strathtay (ward 5)	
Carse of Gowrie (ward 1) Almond and Earn (ward 9)	
Strathearn (ward 6) Strathallan (ward 7) Kinross-shire (ward 8)	
Perth City South (ward 10) Perth City North (ward 11) Perth City Centre (ward 12)	
This was set out as an alternative option from workshop 4 for wards 8 and 9.	

4.2   Ward 5 Strathtay presented a challenge in that the southern settlements looked towards Perth for services and leisure, whilst the northern areas had a stronger relationship with Highland Perthshire. This was similar to other communities who perhaps looked towards settlements outside of their ward or major urban areas, such as Dundee and Dunblane. Ward members reflected these complexities in their discussions and requested that flexibility be applied to the locality working arrangements.

5. **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 This report sets out the principles of defining localities and provides a summary of discussions with elected members, the options discussed and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Option 2 appeared to be acceptable to a majority of members at 3 of the workshops; however there was no clear majority opinion across all the workshops. .

It is recommended that the Council:

(a) Consider the options presented in Section 4 of the report and determine the most appropriate way to develop locality planning in Perth and Kinross.
(b) Instruct the Senior Depute Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive to develop the implementation and engagement plans and provide the Modernising Governance MOWG with regular updates during 2016.

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
John Fyffe	Senior Depute Chief Executive	3 December 2015
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1. **IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	**Yes**
Corporate Plan	**Yes**
Resource Implications	
Financial	**None**
Workforce	**None**
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	**None**
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	**None**
Strategic Environmental Assessment	**None**
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	**None**
Legal and Governance	**None**
Risk	**None**
Consultation	
Internal	**Yes**
External	**Yes**
Communication	
Communications Plan	**No**

1. **Strategic Implications**

    Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This report relates to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement.

     Corporate Plan

1.2 This report relates to the achievement of all the Council's Corporate Plan

2. **Resource Implications**

    Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

     Workforce

2.2 All CP Partners will need to be fully involved in the new community planning arrangements.

     Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no asset management implications arising from this report.

3. Assessments

3.1 The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

(i) Not applicable for the purposes of EqIA.

<u>Strategic Environmental Assessment</u>

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Act and no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

<u>Sustainability</u>

3.3 N/A

<u>Legal and Governance</u>

3.4 There are governance issues arising from this report, as set out in **section 4**.

<u>Risk</u>

3.5 The key risks associated with the recommendations in this report are:

Risk	Mitigation
Lack of staff engagement	Early and frequent engagement with staff on implications of the Community Empowerment Act Regular opportunities for staff to offer their views and shape progress, and receive recognition for achievements. Support for staff to develop their practice in joint planning with partners, and in engaging communities
Lack of CPP partner buy-in	Early and frequent engagement with CPP Board on implications of the Community Empowerment Act Policy support to CPP partner organisations in developing their responses to provisions of the Act

| Lack of elected member buy-in | Early engagement with elected members on the Community Empowerment Act and their role |
	Clear definition of elected members' role in local leadership
	Elected member involvement in all levels of proposed CPP Governance Framework

4. Consultation

4.1 <u>External</u>

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership Board
- Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership Executive Officer Group.

Appendix 1: Map of Perth and Kinross Multi-Member Wards
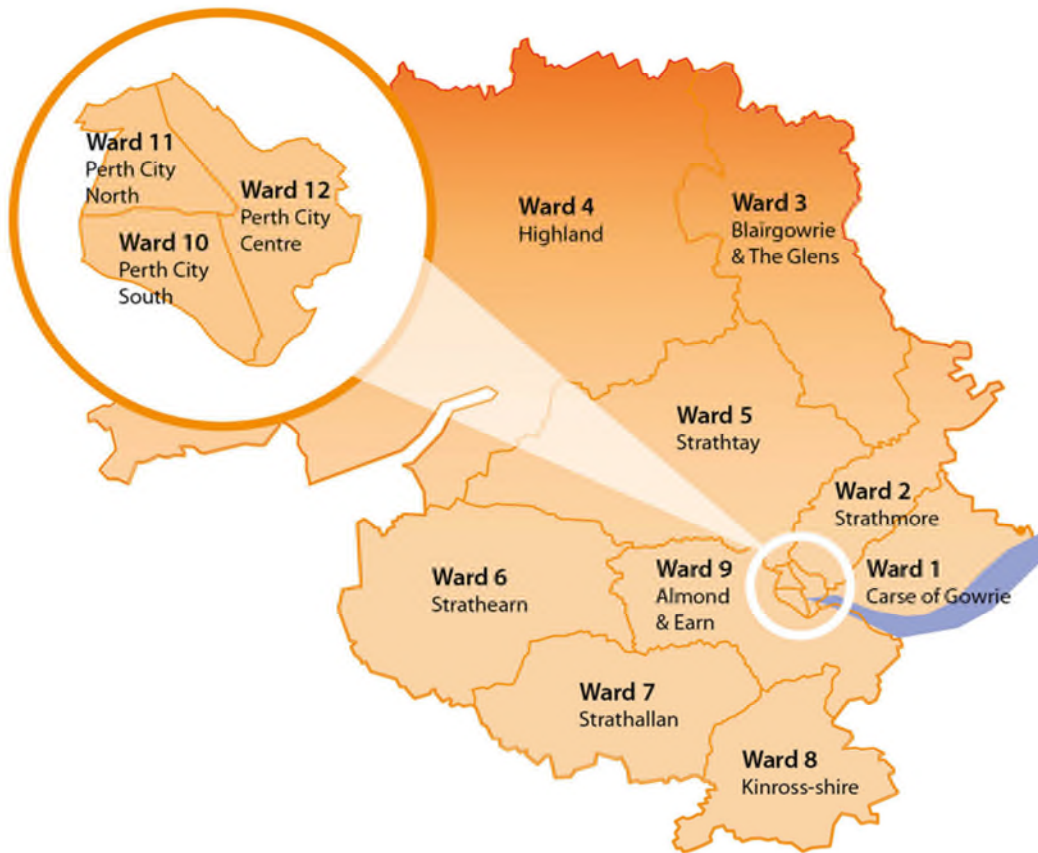
Appendix 2. Implementation issues raised by elected members at consultation workshops.

We will be bringing forward a draft implementation and engagement plan to the Modernising Governance MOWG and CPP Board in the New Year.

Issue No.	Issue Description
1.	LCPP Board Membership Nominations
2.	LCPP Board Chair Nominations and length of term.
3.	Frequency of LCPP meetings.
4.	Role of Democratic Services - Agree level of involvement in / support required for Locality CPPs and ODGs
5.	LCPP links to strategic CPP structures
6.	LCPP link to existing Partnerships and group structures
7.	Workforce and volunteer development
8.	Communication with the public - Engagement plan
9.	Venues for LCCP meetings
10.	Constitution of LCPP
11.	Lead Officer for LCPP – nominations, decision making, role.
12.	Define a process for communities to engage and correspond with officers on the potential for asset transfer.