

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth
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AGENDA ITEM 3



Community Planning Conference attendee

January 2008

Dear colleague

COMMUNITY PLANNING CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 2007 – FOLLOW UP

"I hope that those of you who were able to attend the Community Planning, Delivering the Benefits Conference at Tulliallan at the end of November found it a worthwhile event. As we approach a busy time in developing Single Outcome Agreements, I wanted to take this opportunity to re-enforce the messages from the Conference, particularly as I know that not everyone who wished to was able to attend. Key points from the day from a Scottish Government perspective were:

- Work since the election on Scottish Government's overall purpose, five strategic priorities and the Strategic Spending Review, means that we now have one cohesive direction for government which signals to bodies responsible for delivery locally where resources should be directed.
- The overall purpose and strategic objectives, which should be shared by public, private and third sectors, cannot be achieved without cohesion in service delivery at the local level. Community Planning is the primary mechanism for achieving that alignment locally.
- Scottish Government has no intention that CPPs should be undermined by the move to outcome agreements. In the short term, the single-outcome agreement is necessarily with the Local Authority, giving the Parliament a framework for scrutiny. However, shared accountability for the achievement of outcomes makes it logical that the outcome agreement should be with the CPP. It is therefore essential that CPPs are involved in developing single outcome agreements from the outset and that CPP Boards endorse the agreements made between central and local government.
- Leadership at the local level is fundamental to the effectiveness of Community Planning. The Scottish Government will be looking for evidence that local relationships are being strengthened between all relevant partners, including the third sector, to allow all CPPs to take on a wider role in outcome agreements in due course.
- Engagement with communities is a pre-requisite in Community Planning, it is what allows Partnerships to improve services and be responsive to community need.
- The third sector have a vital role to play as builders of strong, dynamic, inclusive communities. They have a role both as services deliverers but particularly as advocates

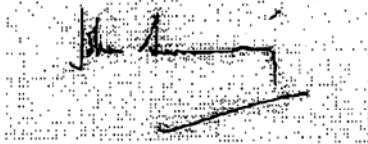
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for communities and those who are excluded or hard to reach. The third sector should be full and active participants in Community Planning.

You can access papers from the Conference and the resources that were available on the day on the Community Planning website at www.improvementservice.org.uk/community-planning/conference-27/11/2007.html

I look forward to working with you as we make progress on this agenda."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Swinney', is centered on a background of a fine grid pattern.

JOHN SWINNEY