

EAST AYRSHIRE

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD: 14 March 2024

COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW UPDATE: EMERGING PRIORITIES

Report by the Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide an update on the progress of the CP Review and to present for consideration the emerging issues which have been identified within the review process, and which will inform the partnership work programme for 2024-2027.

BACKGROUND

2. CPP Board Members will be aware that community planning in East Ayrshire is based on a three yearly review cycle, and that a Community Plan review is currently being undertaken to inform development of a new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and thematic Delivery Plans for 2024-27.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

3. A range of engagement has taken place with stakeholders over recent months, to inform the review process. A public consultation was led by colleagues in East Ayrshire Council in November-December 2023, to inform the Council's budget setting process as well as the CP review. This consultation took the form of an online survey and a number of in person engagement sessions in communities across East Ayrshire. Separate sessions were also held to gather views from the East Ayrshire Equalities Forum, the Children and Young People's Cabinet and local Elected Members.
4. The three thematic Delivery Plan Working Groups, led by the Strategic Lead Officers, have also been meeting to consider their continuing and emerging priorities for 2024-27; and came together for a joint session in December 2023. This provided an opportunity for each of the Strategic Leads to share their Group's emerging thematic priorities and to receive feedback from colleagues across the partnership. It also, importantly, provided an opportunity for identification and consideration of those cross cutting issues that are reflected across the three themes.
5. On 12 January 2024 a follow up session was convened with the three Strategic Leads, to discuss the feedback from the joint meeting and ensure that this was reflected in the emerging draft Delivery Plans. There was particular discussion of the Partnership's strategic priorities for 2024-2027 and the cross cutting themes that require to be addressed across the three Plans.
6. An Executive Officers' Group Budget Session was also convened in January 2024. This provided an opportunity for focussed discussion of the financial challenges facing all partner agencies, and the implications for the deliverability of partnership priorities over the next three years and beyond.

THE PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2024-2027

Priority Areas of Work

7. Analysis of the feedback from the recent consultation and engagement activity has been undertaken and the following priority areas of work identified for consideration by the CPP Board as a focus for partnership activity over the next three year period, to be taken forward across the three Delivery Plan Working Groups:
- **Growth**
 - **Wellbeing**
 - **Fairness and**
 - **Sustainability.**

8. **Growth:** We know that sustained economic growth remains central to the achievement of our Community Planning Vision and that this can only be achieved through partnership working (within and beyond the boundaries of East Ayrshire).

In practical terms this is reflected through the emerging Delivery Plans as follows:

- Supporting inclusive economic growth through implementation of the Regional Ayrshire Economic Strategy
- Growing the future workforce through skills and education reform
- Community wealth building

9. **Wellbeing:** We recognise that population health is fundamental to the achievement of our ambitions for East Ayrshire.

Over the next three years will work in partnership to take a holistic view of health and wellbeing across the life cycle:

- Starting Well - Ensuring that all children and young people in East Ayrshire get the best start in life
- Living Well – Supporting local people to live healthy lives with access to the services that they need close to home.
- Aging Well – Embedding a human-rights approach to supporting adults and older people
- Dying Well - Ensuring people are cared for with dignity, respect and compassion through palliative and end of life care

10. **Fairness:** While we recognise that there will be continuing and long term impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic, and that the subsequent cost of living crisis continues to bring hardship to people across our communities, stakeholders have expressed a wish to set a more forward looking and positive framework for the work to address these challenges. Community Planning is at its heart about addressing inequalities, but the flip side of this is wanting to build a more equitable society where everyone has a chance in life.

In practical terms over the next three years this will involve:

- Tackling poverty
- Promoting equity and inclusion across the life cycle

- Tackling Crime and Anti-social behaviour
- Protecting people and supporting the most vulnerable

11. **Sustainability:** Sustainability is the key theme that has recurred under various guises in the recent consultation activity. Environmental sustainability remains a headline priority, particularly for the children and young people who engage with us; the sustainability of our communities in the face of significant projected demographic change is an area of emerging concern; and finally, as CPP Board Members are aware, action needs to be taken to ensure the fundamental sustainability of the services that we deliver as a partnership, in the face of reducing public sector budgets and increasing demand.

In practical terms over the next three years this will involve:

- Supporting environmental sustainability
 - Building resilience across our communities
 - Innovating to ensure sustainability in partnership services
 - Assessing and responding to the impact of demographic change
12. As is so often the case, the headline areas of work identified above are interlinked; for example economic growth will drive the fairness and sustainability of our communities; and addressing health inequalities will address wider issues relating to poverty and community resilience. In all cases the issues identified are significant and will require concerted partnership action across the three thematic Delivery Plan Working Groups and our wider stakeholders.

Strategic Priorities

13. In each three year planning cycle since 2015, the CPP Board and Elected Members of East Ayrshire Council have identified 2-3 high level strategic priorities, in addition to the identified priority workstreams. For 2021-2024, these were identified as i) The Caring for Ayrshire Transformational Change Programme; and ii) The Ayrshire Growth Deal.
14. The Caring for Ayrshire ethos of the right care, in the right place, at the right time remains central to our partnership ambitions for East Ayrshire, and will continue to be reflected in the Wellbeing work taken forward in 2024-2027; and equally, the Ayrshire Growth Deal will continue to be implemented as part of the wider Regional Economic Strategy. Updates on the progress of these programmes over the last three year period will be presented as part of the final annual reporting materials on the current (2021-24) LOIP in September 2024.
15. CPP Board Members are now invited to consider their approach to strategic priorities for 2024-2027. Having engaged with stakeholders in recent months, real concerns have emerged about the resource pressures being felt across partnership agencies, and it is recognised that there is a need to streamline and focus partnership activity. Consequently it is suggested that it may now be appropriate to move away from an additional layer of 'strategic priorities' and for the available partnership resource to be focused on the key areas that have been identified through the review process and summarised above as Growth; Wellbeing; Fairness; and Sustainability.
16. CPP Board Members are also invited to consider their business programme for 2024/25, to ensure that the meeting programme reflects the Board's immediate priority agenda for the

next year, and there will be an opportunity during the Board meeting on 14 March 2024 for further discussion of this.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. The Community Planning Partnership Board is requested to:
- i) note the update provided in relation to consultation and engagement activity undertaken over the course of the Review;
 - ii) consider and provide comment on the outline priority areas of work identified at paragraphs 7-12 above;
 - iii) give consideration to their approach to strategic priorities for 2024-2027 and the immediate CPP Board business programme for 2024/25; and
 - iv) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Eddie Fraser
Chief Executive
East Ayrshire Council
7 March 2024