

**ITEM No ...7.....**

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 23 APRIL 2018**

**REPORT ON: COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**REPORT NO: 137-2018**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Committee with an update on Community Planning and to recommend additional elected member involvement in the Dundee Partnership's Executive Boards.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) notes the adoption of local community plans by Local Community Planning Partnerships across the city;
- (ii) notes the outcome of the "Dundee Decides" participatory budgeting process;
- (iii) agrees to extend elected member involvement in the Dundee Partnership's Executive Boards as set out in paragraph 4.4 below; and
- (iv) notes that a progress report on the actions and performance targets included in the City Plan 2017-2026 is scheduled to come to Committee in Autumn 2018.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**4. MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 The City Plan for Dundee 2017-2026, Dundee's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, was approved by Committee in September 2017. The Plan was based on an analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing the Dundee Partnership in achieving its vision for the city and was shaped by extensive consultation with stakeholders. It focuses on the key strategic priorities of Fair Work and Enterprise; Children and Families; Health Care and Wellbeing; Community Safety and Justice; and Building Strong and Empowered Communities, and it spells out in detail the actions to be taken by partners to make the most impact on these priorities and the indicators by which that impact will be measured. There are realistic but ambitious improvement targets for the next one, three and ten years. Since agreeing the Plan, work has focussed on using modern methods to communicate this to staff, partners and the public, including easily accessible online information, production of short films and effective use of social media. In particular, social media on the City Plan was seen by over 64,000 people in the first week and was the Council's first example of a prolonged, video-led social media campaign.
- 4.2 The priorities in the City Plan were informed by the "Engage Dundee" process which sought the views of local citizens. This process also helped to develop the Local Community Plans which have now been adopted by Local Community Planning Partnerships across the city. Over 6,000 responses were received during "Engage Dundee", through Freepost return postcards, online and paper questionnaires, focus groups, community events, festivals, open days etc. Each of the eight Local Community Partnerships have adopted Local Community Plans, published in December 2017, that are effectively the local delivery of the City Plan priorities. These Local Community Plans are helping to make services, projects and initiatives more sensitive to the needs of all sections of local communities. They include specific actions, responding to local priorities, on issues such as:

- employment, training and volunteering opportunities
- poverty
- health and wellbeing, including mental health
- drugs misuse
- roads and road safety
- support for carers
- bus services, cycling and walking routes
- green spaces
- shopping areas
- activities for children and young people
- play areas
- crime and anti-social behaviour
- environment (eg litter, dog fouling)
- lighting
- sport and leisure
- maintenance of private rented housing
- social isolation
- community influence, empowerment and connections

- 4.3 The process of involving communities in decisions on local priorities has since been taken significantly further through the “Dundee Decides” participatory budgeting initiative. This encouraged citizens to help direct how the Council should spend its £1.2 million Community Infrastructure Fund. This was the biggest participatory budgeting exercise undertaken by any Council in Scotland in relation to its mainstream budget, and over 11,000 responses were received from citizens voting on their priorities for investment in physical infrastructure projects such as play areas, pedestrian crossings, pavements, lighting and planting. “Dundee Decides” has been widely regarded as a great success in extending public participation in decision making and there will be a full review and evaluation of the process with a view to identifying any learning and improvement.
- 4.4 In November 2016, Committee agreed a report on a revised structure for the Dundee Partnership. This established four Executive Boards to govern progress on the Partnership’s strategic priorities and to take overall responsibility for the delivery of improved outcomes. To strengthen the democratic relationship to citizens and the leadership, challenge and scrutiny roles of the Executive Boards, it was agreed to invite two elected members to join each of the four Boards, one from the Administration Group and one from the Majority Opposition Group. The Executive Boards have proved to be an effective way to bring partners together to deliver on joint improvement priorities. To reflect the current political representation on the City Council and widen elected member involvement, it is now proposed to invite the two Minority Opposition Groups to each nominate one member to join one of the Executive Boards. Since the appointment of representatives to outside bodies is a matter for the City Council, a note will be submitted to the next City Council meeting to put this proposal into effect.
- 4.5 Measuring the impact of Community Planning is vital, so the City Plan made a commitment to monitoring and reporting on progress with actions and performance indicators. The Council’s online performance management system is being used to request updates from lead officers which will feed into new performance reporting “scorecards”. The aim is to develop streamlined reporting around the key actions and indicators which will facilitate effective scrutiny and thus further drive improvement. The first progress report is scheduled to come to Committee in Autumn 2018.

## 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues.

**6. CONSULTATIONS**

The Council Management Team has been consulted in the preparation of this report and agrees with its contents.

**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

David R Martin  
Chief Executive

4 April 2018

