

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2005

REPORT ON: GIVING VOICE TO COMMUNITIES: EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO NEIGHBOURHOOD REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES IN DUNDEE

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 146-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides Committee with a progress report on the development of Neighbourhood Representative Structures following the approval of Committee Reports on 11 November 2002 and 8 March 2004.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Communities Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note that there are now eight Neighbourhood Representative Structures and Community Councils currently operating in Dundee.
- 2.2 note current development work which may result in a further seven Neighbourhood Representative Structures being established in Dundee.
- 2.3 note the dissolution of the Association of Dundee Community Councils and the establishment of the Community Neighbourhood Representative Structures.
- 2.4 instruct the Head of Communities to return to Committee in 12 months with a report detailing further progress on this strategy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Any costs arising from this report can be contained within the Communities Department Revenue Budget within the Third Party Payment Budget Allocations.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report and its recommendations address the following themes:
- all sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision-making
 - engagement in the political process and representation of interests.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The process of increasing and extending community representation in Dundee will encourage and recognise diversity and will enable a wider range of citizens to become involved in matters affecting their local neighbourhoods and communities of interest.

6.0 BACKGROUND

In approving the development of Neighbourhood Representative Structures Dundee City Council agreed:

- 6.1 the establishment of a process for extending the recognition given to Community Councils to other representative organisations.
- 6.2 the criteria for recognising other neighbourhood representative structures.

6.3 that organisations satisfying the recognition criteria, and having received formal City Council recognition, qualify for access to support, information and consultation from all Council Departments, along similar lines to those afforded to Community Councils.

7.0 EXISTING NEIGHBOURHOOD REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES/COMMUNITY COUNCILS

7.1 Neighbourhood Representative Structures continue to operate in Ardler (Ardler Village Trust) and Stobswell (Stobswell Forum).

7.2 Community Councils continue to operate in the West End, the Menzieshill/Denhead of Gray area, Hilltown, City Centre, Fintry and Broughty Ferry.

8.0 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES

8.1 Neighbourhood Representative Structures and Community Councils serving Community Regeneration priority areas have the right to be represented on Local Community Regeneration Forums, providing representatives reside within designated community regeneration priority areas.

8.2 In order to further develop community involvement in community regeneration forums, Communities Officers have been promoting the development of Neighbourhood Representative Structures and Community Councils in the following areas:

- St Mary's
- Kirkton
- Charleston
- Lochee/Beechwood
- Fairmuir
- Whitfield
- Mill O' Mains
- Mid Craigie/Linlathen
- Douglas

8.3 A Steering Group is currently working towards the development of a Neighbourhood Representative Structure for Kirkton.

8.4 The Whitfield Inclusion Network Group has confirmed their interest in becoming a recognised neighbourhood representative structure.

8.5 Discussions on the development of neighbourhood representative structures have taken place with community stakeholders in St Mary's, Fairmuir, Mill O' Mains, Douglas, Mid Craigie and Linlathen.

9.0 COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES (CNRS)

9.1 The Association of Dundee Community Councils dissolved in 2004 to make way for a new organisation called the Community Neighbourhood Representative Structure. The new organisation which received its official launch in November 2004, will bring Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures together across the city to:

- debate matters of common interest
- discuss issues and subjects which affect areas within the City of Dundee
- exchange ideas and views
- promote and develop the work of member groups.

- 9.2 All Community Councils and recognised Neighbourhood Representative Structures are represented on the new CNRS organisation.
- 9.3 A training programme is being developed with CNRS representatives based on a comprehensive training needs analysis.
- 9.4 The City Council's support of neighbourhood representative structures will be informed by the Community Engagement Standards currently being piloted by the Scottish Executive in Dundee and other selected Councils.

10.0 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Dundee City Council Management Team has been consulted on the contents of the report.
- 10.2 This report has also been discussed by the Dundee Partnership Community Involvement Strategy Group and local CNRS representatives.

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None.

**Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities**

Date: 4 March 2005