

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- 14 January 2002**

**REPORT ON: GIVING VOICE TO COMMUNITIES: DEVELOPING COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION IN DUNDEE**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 22-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report addresses the issues of community representation in Dundee, looks at the findings of the Giving Voice To Communities Seminar of 27 October 2001 and details proposals for the proposed development of community representation in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

2.1.1 A new Draft Scheme of Operations For Community Councils is prepared for Committee approval with the aim of implementing the Scheme by May 2002.

2.1.2 Consultation with existing community councils, all groups participating in the "Giving Voice To Communities" Seminar and the general public is carried out prior to the preparation of a new Draft Scheme of Operations for Community Councils.

2.2 A draft Dundee City Council policy on Neighbourhood Representative Structures (including community councils) is prepared for Committee approval.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All costs can be met within the Department's existing Revenue Budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Report and its recommendations addresses the Key Theme: "All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision-making".

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Progress on increasing the scale of community representation in Dundee will assist the development of a diversity of citizens becoming involved in matters affecting their communities whether geographic or communities of interest.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Dundee City Council Plan 1999-2002 affirms the council's commitment to listening to citizens and acting on what they say. The Council demonstrates this commitment by promoting a broad range of consultative and participative mechanisms such as a range of household surveys, customer satisfaction surveys, local neighbourhood forums, public meetings and special events. The Council also supports and engages with a range of groups that seek to represent local neighbourhoods or communities of interest. The main neighbourhood representative groups which relate to the Council are listed in Appendix 1.

Only one of the range of neighbourhood representative groups, community councils, is formally recognised by the City Council as organisations set up to represent the interests of all residents within a delineated geographic area. Community councils are unique in that while they are voluntary organisations they operate within a statutory framework. They do not have statutory duties or powers but are bound only by the constitutions they adopt and are therefore able to take on a wide-ranging role, complementary to that of local authorities. They are intended to act as a voice for their local communities.

"In addition to any other purpose which a community council may pursue, the general purpose of a community council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to such matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable".

Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

Dundee City Council's Scheme of Operations for Community Councils has provision for seventeen community councils. Only four are currently in existence. All four were elected without the need for a poll. This situation has been recognised as unsatisfactory.

A joint working group of Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department staff and representatives of the existing community councils identified the underlying issues as low public interest and/or awareness in opportunities to participate and a need for communities to be given a voice in matters affecting them. A joint planning group organised a city-wide seminar open to all known groups which considered themselves to be representative of a community.

The seminar "Giving Voice to Communities" was held on Saturday 27 October 2001. Thirty-four participating groups (Appendix 2) signed up for the seminar which had a total attendance of 57.

The seminar looked at

- Why people do or don't get involved
- The role of the City Council
- Representativeness
- Why do we need representative structures
- What are the characteristics of an effective neighbourhood structure.

The outcomes of the seminar are detailed in a separate conference report distributed to all participants.

The seminar recognised the need for further work to develop the findings. Twenty-four participants volunteered to further explore and take forward development. It is planned that a number of small task groups will be formed to enable these volunteers to participate in the development process.

7.0 RELATED DEVELOPMENTS: DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

- 7.1 The Dundee Partnership has formed a Task Group to develop a Community Involvement Strategy to guide the community planning process in Dundee. Dundee City Council does not yet have a Community Involvement Strategy or a policy on neighbourhood representative structures. There are many, varied groups which relate to the Council, through various Departments and there is a need to clarify the level of support and recognition accorded to representative groups across the city.

8.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 8.1 The present Scheme of Operations for Community Councils does not have adequate support or recognition from local people. It is proposed that the present Scheme is reviewed and revamped to take into account the views of the existing community councils, the findings of the "Giving Voice To Communities" seminar and representations invited from the general public.

It is further proposed that a new Draft Scheme of Operations for Community Councils be prepared for Committee approval with the aim of implementing the said Scheme by May 2002.

- 8.2 A Dundee City Council policy on Neighbourhood Representative Structures (including community councils) should be developed.
- 8.3 It is intended to explore the possibility of enabling a wider range of representative groupings to take on the formal functions of community councils. To this end advice will be sought from the Scottish Executive before reporting to Committee in April 2002.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 The following background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

"Giving Voice To Communities" Seminar Report, December 2001.

Dundee City Council Plan 1999-2002

Dundee City Council Scheme of Operations for Community Councils

"Local Authorities and Community Council – Enhancing The Relationship", The Scottish Office October 1998.

Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development _____

Date _____

AUDIT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES

AREA 1 Dundee North West	
Community Councils	None
Tenants/Residents Groups	Good coverage of Tenants and Residents Groups (BARA; CADRA; HARATA; MATARA; MAKRAG) St Mary's Tenants/Residents Group; BBCDE (Ardler Multies Group)
Action Groups	Kirkton Community Issues Group (an umbrella group for community organisations in Kirkton); Ardler Steering Group (again acts as a community co-ordinating structure for Ardler); Kirkton Tackle Crime Group
Locally-managed projects	Ardler Complex; Kirkton Neighbourhood Centre (no group at present); Kirkton Community Lounge; Haldane Athletic; St Columba's Youth Club; Funtime in Kirkton; Happy Hours Out of School Care - Ardler
SIP Groups	Kirkton Local Community Co-ordinating Group; Ardler SIP Sub Group (of ASG)
Others	Ardler New Housing Partnership (multi-agency partnership incl community); Ardler Village Trust Steering Group (embryonic with community intention); Kirkton Early Years Network; Ardler Early Years Network (Pending mid-February); Beacon Management Group
AREA 2 Dundee West	
Community Councils	None
Tenants/Residents Groups	Ancrum/Burnside Tenants Group; Adamson/Elders Tenants Group; Caledonian Court Residents Group; Dryburgh Association of Residents and Tenants

Action Groups	<p>Charleston Action Group (This group is recognised as a Tenants Group by Housing Dept);</p> <p>Menzieshill Action Group (This group is recognised as a Tenants Group by Housing Dept);</p> <p>Kingsway West Information Group (concerned primarily with retail development at Kingsway - This group borders NST Area 2 and NST Area 5);</p> <p>South Road Action Group</p>
Locally-managed projects	<p>Charleston Neighbourhood Centre & Library;</p> <p>Menzieshill Community Centre & Library;</p> <p>Beechwood Housing Co-operative Management Group</p>
SIP groups	Although Charleston is a SIP2 area, there is no resident group
Others	Nil
	AREA 3 Dundee South West
Community Councils	West-End Community Council
Tenants and Residents Groups	Logie Tenants & Residents Assoc
Action Groups	No collective community structure for organisations other than the Community Council
Single issues groups	There are literally hundreds of community groups. There are very strong churches, and there are a number of Residents Groups, for example Cleghorn Residents Association
Locally-managed projects	Menzieshill Neighbourhood Centre
SIP groups	None
Others	Student Representatives' Council - Dundee SRC
	AREA 4 Dundee North East
Community Councils	<p>Whitfield Community Council (exists in name only);</p> <p>Fintry Community Council (relatively strong and has played a consistent presence)</p>

Tenants and Residents Groups	<p>Nine local Tenants Assocs; Whitfield Area Forum of Tenants Groups (WAFT); Mill O'Mains Residents Assoc; Fintry North Residents Assoc; One Parent Families Scotland; Dundee Sitter Service; Finmill Community Safety Panel; Whitfield Community Safety Panel</p>
Action Groups	<p>Whitfield Local Network Group (WING) (currently organised through a steering group. This organisation has aspirations to become the successor to the Whitfield Partnership Steering Group and Whitfield Partnership itself)</p>
Single issues groups	<p>Middleton Woodland Action Groups (Whitfield); Disability Group (Whitfield); Fusion 2 Youth Group (Whitfield); Breakfast Club (Whitfield); Whitfield Playscheme Association; Alzheimer Group (Whitfield Parish Church); Day Care Group (Whitfield Parish Church)</p>
Locally managed projects	<p>Ormiston Community Lounge; Whitfield Activity Complex; Fintry Neighbourhood Centre Management Group;</p>
Others	<p>Whitfield Partnership has recently been the subject of a review and there is an urgent need to agree the future means by which statutory agencies and community organisations meet to talk about issues in this area of Dundee</p>
	<p>AREA 5 Dundee Central</p>
Community Councils	<p>Hilltown Community Council</p>
Tenants and Residents Groups	<p>Butterburn/Bucklemaker Tenants Assoc Dalfield Tenants Assoc Maxwelltown/Hilltown Tenants Assoc</p>
Action Groups	<p>Stobswell Action Group (Manhattan Court)</p>
Single issues groups	<p>Boomerang Project Rosebank After School Care Project</p>
Locally managed projects	<p>Maxwelltown Information Centre; Hilltown Childcare Initiative; Grey Lodge Settlement; Highwayman Youth & Community Association Boomerang Project Rosebank After School Care Project</p>

SIP groups	Hilltown SIP Group
Others	Bangladeshi Assoc; Bhartiya Ashram; Ethnic Minority Information Group; Scottish Islamic & Cultural Centre; Strong ecumenical group through Rev Jane Barron, Stobswell Parish Church
Neighbourhood Forums	Youth Work Issues Group - Stobswell; Environmental Issues Group - Stobswell; There are a number of active forum task groups
	AREA 6 Dundee South East
Community Councils	None
Tenants and Residents Groups	Balmoral Residents Assoc (Douglas)
Action Groups	Douglas Task Group
Single Issues Groups	Mid Craigie Festival Group Mid Craigie and Linlathen Over 50's Group Mid Craigie and Linlathen Volunteer Issues Group Mid Craigie and Linlathen Community Safety Panel Dighty Group Balerno Group Fourways Newsletter Group Alive and Kicking Newsletter Group Mid Craigie and Linlathen Youth Forum Mid Craigie and Linlathen Summer Project
Locally managed projects	The Hub/Brooksbank Neighbourhood Centres; Mid Craigie Parish Church Project; Mid Craigie and Linlathen Under 12's Project; Community Volunteering Project Douglas Community Centre & Library Management Group
SIP groups	Mid Craigie SIP Group Mid Craigie and Linlathen Community Co-ordinating Group

	AREA 7 Dundee East
Community Councils	Broughty Ferry Community Council
Tenants and Residents Groups	Barnhill Tenants and Residents Group
Action Groups	Broughty Ferry Environmental Project; Strong network of churches which anchor community provision and, in particular, which support a range of community care and voluntary youth organisations
Single issues groups	None
Locally managed projects	Broughty Ferry YMCA; Barnhill Youth and Community Assoc; Broughty Ferry Education & Recreation Association (BERA)
SIP groups	None

Giving Voice To Communities Seminar - Distribution of Participating Groups



PARTICIPATING GROUPS			
Ardler 50+ Group	Dryburgh Lounge Committee	Kirkton SIP	Whitfield Area Semis Tenants Association
Ardler SIP	Dundee Community Safety Partnership	Logie Residents Association	Whitfield Community Safety Panel WING
Ardler Steering Group	Finmill Community Safety Panel	Menzieshill Community Action Group	
Balerno Activity Centre	Fintry Community Council	Maxwelltown Information Centre	
Balgowan Helmsdale Residents Association	Highwayman	Maxwelltown/Hilltown Tenants Association	
Boots/Lawton Tenants Association	Friends of Mills Observatory	Mill O' Mains Residents Association	
Broughty Ferry Community Council	Grey Lodge	One Parents Families Scotland	
Broughty Ferry Environmental Project	Hilltown Community Council	Stobswell Environmental Issues Group	
Charleston Credit Union/A Group	Hilltown SIP	The Web Project	
Dalfield Multis Tenants Association	Kirkton Community Lounge	West End Community Council	
Dighty Environmental Group			

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL WARDS					
1.	Ninewells	11.	Longhaugh	21.	Tay Bridges
2.	Camperdown	12.	Pitkerro	22.	Logie
3.	Balgay	13.	Douglas	23.	Law
4.	Lochee West	14.	Barnhill	24.	Eas Port
5.	Riverside	15.	Balgillo	25.	Baxter Park
6.	Brackens	16.	Broughty Ferry	26.	Hilltown
7.	Ardler	17.	West Ferry	27.	Bowbridge
8.	Balgowan	18.	Craigiebank	28.	Stobswell
9.	Claverhouse	19.	Strathmartine	29.	Fairmuir
10.	Whitfield	20.	Lochee East		