

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 FEBRUARY 2004

REPORT ON: SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS – TRANSITION TO DUNDEE
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING) AND
HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 120-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a briefing on arrangements for the integration of Social Inclusion Partnerships into the Community Planning Partnership for the City (1).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note the guidelines issued by Communities Scotland for the integration of Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs) into Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).
- 2.2 approve the progress made in preparing a “Statement of Readiness”.
- 2.3 note the timetable for transition.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 In the current financial year the indicative level of grant funding made available by the Scottish Executive to each of Dundee’s Social Inclusion Partnerships is as follows.

3.2

SIP1	
Core Grant	£2,347,621
Drugs Misuse	74,972
Empowering Communities	60,000

Total £2,482,593

3.3

SIP 2	
Core Grant	£209,000
Drugs Misuse	81,151
Empowering Communities	£60,000

Total £350,151

3.4 **SIP3 – Xplore** £451,217

3.5 **SIP4 – Young Carers** £111,997

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Social Inclusion partnerships address numerous Agenda 21 targets. In particular, the Geographic Social Inclusion Partnerships aim to benefit the environment of the neighbourhoods on which they are targeted. Meeting needs locally is a central focus for the geographic Social Inclusion Partnerships.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The resources made available through the Social Inclusion Partnership Fund are to be targeted on those geographies which were within the most disadvantaged 10% of enumeration districts at the time of the 1991 census. The thematic Social Inclusion Partnerships are also established to address inequality – both are intended to have the effect of equalling opportunities.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 Dundee City Council has acted as the lead agency for the bid preparation and overall management of 4 separate Social Inclusion Partnerships.

6.2 These are:

- SIP 1 – Geographic Social Inclusion Partnership covering Ardler, Kirkton, Mid Craige/Linlathen and the Hilltown.
- SIP 2 – Geographic Social Inclusion Partnership covering dispersed communities across Dundee (identified on the basis of 2001 Census Indicators).
- The Xplore Partnership – A SIP focused on assisting young people from the ages from 11 – 18 years to make effective transitions from primary to secondary school and from secondary school to adult life.
- The Young Carers SIP – A SIP focused on identifying and assisting the Partners to respond better to the needs of young people who carry significant caring responsibilities within their household.

6.3 In June 2002 the Scottish Executive presented a vision for closing the opportunity gap between better off and disadvantaged communities – “Better Communities in Scotland”; “Closing the Gap” (2).

6.4 This strategy document indicated that it was the Executive’s intention to place responsibility on Community Planning Partners to provide an overarching framework for the linking up of strategies and the joining up of services that address Social Inclusion, Community Regeneration and other cross-cutting issues.

6.5 Communities Scotland was given responsibility, through a stakeholder group, for the production of guidelines to assist the transition of Social Inclusion Partnerships into Community Planning Partnerships. Dundee City Council was represented on this stakeholder group.

6.6 Across Scotland the annual budget of the 48 Social Inclusion Partnerships (34 area-based and 14 thematic) was around £60 Million (2003-2004). The Partnerships have played a major role in bringing together public voluntary sector and in some areas private sector Partners with the community to tackle issues such as social inclusion unemployment, poverty, quality of local services and the building up of confidence and capacity on the part of communities to influence the development of services and to engage with decision makers.

6.7 The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and associated guidance put engagement with communities at the heart of the community planning process and highlighted that the integration of SIPS into Community Planning Partnerships was intended to take this further forward.

7.0 THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

7.1 Communities Scotland's guidelines for the integration of Social Inclusion Partnerships into Community Planning Partnerships sets out a three stage process.

7.2 Stage 1 – The Assessment of Readiness

Community Planning Partnerships are required to submit to Communities Scotland a "Statement of Readiness" showing that they have a clear and targeted approach (both area-based and thematic) to closing the opportunity gap and to addressing social inclusion within the area they are responsible for. The Statement of Readiness requires to demonstrate progress in:

- focus on disadvantage
- developing genuine and effective partnership working.
- engaging with communities, including arrangements for engaging with "difficult to reach" groups.
- setting up effective systems for monitoring and evaluating outputs and outcomes under the regeneration outcome agreement.

Dundee's Statement of Readiness was endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership at its Management Meeting held on 23 January 2004 (Appendix 1).

7.3 Stage 2 - The Allocation of SIP Funding

Subject to Communities Scotland being satisfied that a Community Planning Partnership has complied with other requirements they will become responsible for Social Inclusion Partnership funding from 1 April 2004. This responsibility will run initially for a 3 year period up to 2007/2008.

From 2005/2006 the allocation of SIP funding will be based on the Index of Deprivation which is to be published in the Spring of this year (2004). It will also be subject to the outcome of the 2004 spending review and any subsequent updates of the Index.

Where the new Index shows a reduction (or increase) in need of one area relative to others across Scotland, SIP funding will be reduced (or increased). These changes are intended to be tapered on a gradual basis.

Community Planning Partnerships are expected to maintain a greater part of SIP funding for spending on existing SIP areas and themes.

Although allocation of SIP funds will be based on the 2004 Index of Deprivation, Communities Scotland will be developing through a short life working group key principles and criteria for recognising effective approaches to regeneration, with the focus on the achievement of outcomes from resources allocated. Their guidelines place emphasis on the extent to which additional resources lever or "bend" the mainstream expenditure of local government and its partners. Additional funding may be offered, on a phased basis from 2006-2007, to encourage this approach.

The Scottish Executive will require Community Planning Partnerships to confirm the “accountable body” which will be held responsible for the management and stewardship of Social Inclusion Partnership funding. In Dundee’s case, this is likely to continue to be the City Council.

7.4 **Stage 3 – Regeneration Outcome Agreement**

Community Planning Partnerships are required to submit to Communities Scotland a Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) setting out – within a strategic framework – a clear statement of outcomes (both area-based and thematic) aimed at closing the gap between disadvantaged communities and better off communities. The ROA will be modelled on the one already developed for the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund and should include statements covering:

- the strategic objectives of the CPP for community regeneration.
- an overview of how key strategies, mainstream services and expenditure support these strategic objectives.
- key baseline information about the areas/groups targeted and the rationale for selection.

- clear, measurable and time-bound outcomes to be achieved from targeted funding and outputs and actions to be delivered by specific agencies.
- robust baselines against which to monitor progress.
- evidence of “bending mainstream expenditure” towards target groups and priorities.
- evidence of community involvement in setting outcomes and ongoing monitoring.

8.0 **PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 8.1 Under the auspices of the Dundee Community Planning Partnership a working group comprising of representatives of the staff and chairs of each of the Social Inclusion Partnerships in Dundee and Communities Scotland have been supporting implementation of this process.
- 8.2 Seminars were held on 9 September 2003 and 12 November 2003 with a further one planned for 23 February 2004.
- 8.3 The Statement of Readiness has been circulated widely and submitted to Communities Scotland with the approval of all local agencies (Appendix 1).
- 8.4 An interim Regeneration Outcome Agreement for the first year is in an advanced stage of development and will cover the tasks involved in integrating Dundee’s Social Inclusion Partnerships into the Community Planning Partnership over the 12 months April 2004 to March 2005.
- 8.5 During this period a final Regeneration Outcome Agreement will be developed and will be submitted to Communities Scotland for the subsequent 2 year period April 2005 to March 2007.
- 8.6 All Partners have agreed that during the transition year the status quo would be maintained and that any decisions regarding changes to the allocation of resources to geographical areas or to thematic SIPS would be made collaboratively.

- 8.7 The key challenge facing the SIPS and the Dundee Community Planning Partnership itself is to be able to integrate the existing Social Inclusion Partnerships without losing the commitment and enthusiasm of the existing partners, particularly the community representatives into the more strategic and mainstream processes of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 8.8 All parties are anxious to ensure that both staff and service users who currently depend on Social Inclusion Partnership funding as a means of sustaining their projects are kept fully informed of this process and that decisions are taken in good time and with care.
- 8.9 As the grant recipient, Dundee City Council will continue to be asked to endorse decisions made during the next financial year by the Social Inclusion Partnership groups which will now operate under the auspices of the Community Planning Partnership.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services).
- 9.2 The Statement of Readiness for Integration (Appendix 1) has been the subject of extensive consultation with Social Inclusion Partnership Boards and the Dundee Community Planning Partnership Management Group.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The following background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.
- (1) Guidance on Integrating SIPS and Community Planning Partnerships, Communities Scotland, August 2003
<http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/communities/upload/SIPsCPPs.pdf>
 - (2) Better Communities in Scotland; Closing the Gap, Scottish Executive, 2002
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/bcis-00.asp>
 - (3) Community Regeneration Statement; Implementation of Action Plan, Scottish Executive, 2002
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/crsi-00.asp>
 - (4) Social Inclusion; Key Activities and Good Practices of Scottish Councils, CoSLA June 2000
<http://www.cosla.gov.uk/attachments/execgroups/mg/mgsjkeyacts.doc>

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2 February 2004

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The Dundee Partnership

Social Inclusion Partnership Integration

Statement of Readiness

January 2004



Dundee Partnership: Social Inclusion Partnership Integration

Statement of Readiness, January 2004

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Dundee has long been a home for partnership. For almost twenty years, the Dundee Partnership in its numerous incarnations has been transforming the fortunes of the city. It has achieved this through the creation of a culture of collaboration between communities and service providers, citizens and visitors, investors and employees.

1.2 At the same time, Dundee is a city of contrasts. The shopping centres and booming bio-tech and media clusters suggest a city riding on a wave of wealth and innovation while in communities across Dundee levels of deprivation exist which are second only to Glasgow in Scotland.

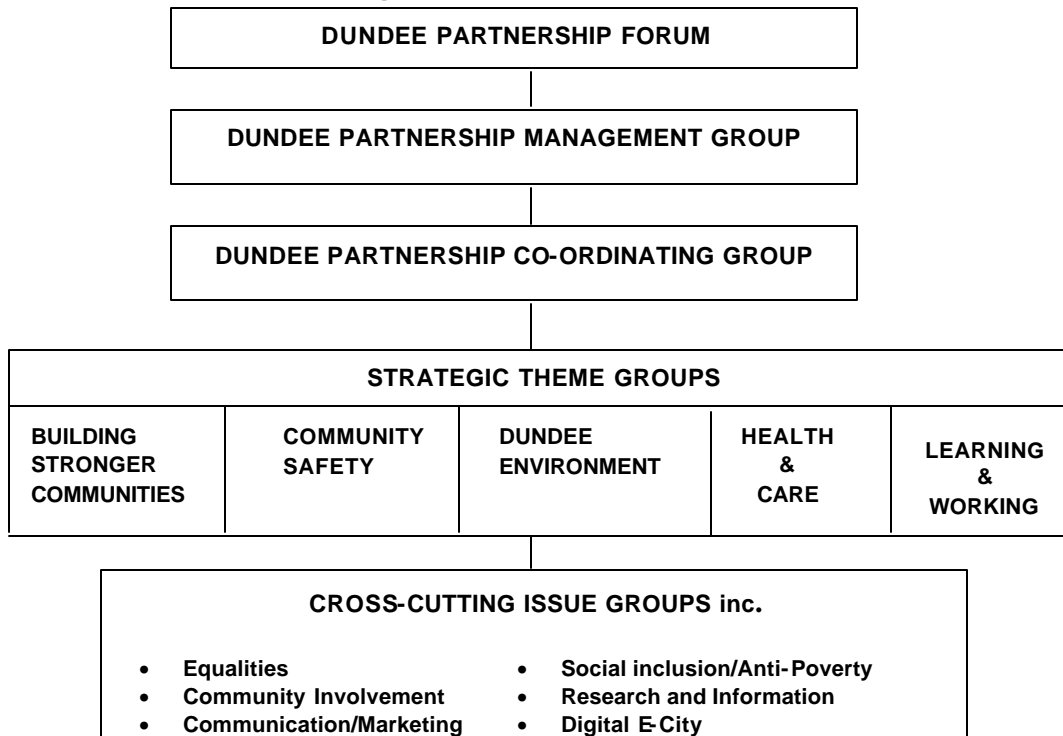
1.3 This is the context which faces the Dundee Partnership as it embraces its role at the heart of community planning, a process which offers new, expansive opportunities to achieve its vision of a Dundee which will

- be a **vibrant and attractive city** with an excellent quality of life where people choose to live, learn, work and visit
- offer **real choice and opportunity** in a city that has tackled the root causes of social and economic exclusion, creating a community which is healthy, safe, confident, educated and empowered
- have a **strong and sustainable city economy** that will provide jobs for the people of Dundee, retain more of the universities graduates and make the city a magnet for new talent

1.4 **The Dundee Partnership continues to evolve. Over the past two years its members have acknowledged the breadth of the community planning agenda and are acquiring the information, expertise and processes necessary to fully meet the challenges which face the city. Great progress has been made in a very short time, and further developmental objectives have been set.**

The new Dundee Partnership is now structured in a way that provides direction, makes decisions, considers thematic strategies and cross-cutting issues which affect the Partnership as a whole. See Diagram 1.

Diagram 1 - Dundee Partnership Structure



- 1.6 The Dundee Partnership's confidence in the SIP process has resulted in an agreement that for the year 2004/05 there will be no change in the process of priority setting or resource allocation. SIP Boards will be asked to continue to facilitate the allocation of SIP Core funding, Empowering Communities funding and SIP support costs. However it is recognised that any transition brings with it uncertainty. Every effort is being made to minimise the impact on SIPs, SIP funded projects and clients during this process. Early decisions will be made on the shape of long-term decision making regarding SIPs within the Dundee Partnership.
- 1.7 There are many lessons to be learned locally from the Social Inclusion Partnership process in Dundee. This has proved critical in tackling poverty and disadvantage geographically initially through the creation of the Priority Partnership and Regeneration Programme Areas, and latterly, through thematic Social Inclusion Partnership (SIPs) meeting the needs of communities experiencing exclusion as a result of their life circumstances. SIPs in Dundee have championed the empowerment of communities and clients, giving them real influence over decisions regarding every aspect of funding, prioritising and service delivery.
- 1.8 The potential which can be realised through the integration of SIPs into community planning is fully appreciated by members of the Dundee Partnership. This provides an excellent opportunity to maximise the Partnership's efforts to close the opportunity gap which is all too obvious in Dundee, and to place consideration of social inclusion even closer to the heart of the Partnership.
- 1.9 This paper will demonstrate that the Dundee Partnership is ideally placed to integrate SIP structures into the community planning framework in 2004/2005. It will do this by setting out the strengths which exist in relation to the four readiness criteria. Examples will be given which highlight the strengths of key aspects of partnership working. Finally, a timetable for the coming year will set out the key decisions and activities which will lead the way towards the production of the 3 year Regeneration Outcome Agreement and the conclusion of the integration process. It will also identify those areas where further progress is required and the actions which are proposed to address these.

2. STRATEGIC APPROACH/FOCUS ON DISADVANTAGE

"Dundee will ensure that everyone has a chance to play a full part in the life of the city regardless of social or economic background"

The Community Plan for Dundee 2001-2006

- 2.1 From the outset, the Dundee Partnership identified Social Inclusion as a key strategic priority for the city and this was established in detail in Dundee's first Community Plan. The Plan evidenced the extent and impact of deprivation and set priorities for action based on the five target groups described in the Social Justice Policy for Scotland. Following further consultation, it was agreed that addressing disadvantage was rightly the responsibility of every arm of the Partnership and social inclusion was instead adopted as a 'guiding principle' along with sustainability and active citizenship. Commitment to this is articulated in the Partnership Agreement for Dundee which commits members to "Promote the values of social inclusion..... within community planning". (Dundee Community Plan Page 6)
- 2.2 Closing the Gap is therefore addressed within each of the five strategic themes of the community plan - Building Stronger Communities, Community Safety, Dundee Environment, Health & Care and Learning and Working.
- 2.3 Any examination of social exclusion will inevitably focus on poverty. In 1999 Dundee City Council adopted an Anti-Poverty Strategy with a framework based on three main areas: meeting need, improving economic position and social inclusion. Immediately it became clear that although it had not been conceived as a partnership-based strategy, the collaboration of a broad range of agencies was required to effect positive change. The revised Anti-Poverty Strategy is now being developed through a cross-cutting, multi-agency working group of the Dundee Partnership.

“ The Anti-Poverty Strategy was not designed in 1999 as a partnership and it is striking to find not simply that partners have been actively engaged in the process, but that there is a strong commitment to the Anti-Poverty Strategy. Representatives of four agencies (Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Tayside Health Board, Job Centre Plus and Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum) spoke of the Strategy in positive terms. It was described as “a very good partnership”.

The key element in the success of the implementation group was the distinctive mix of people who had been drawn to work on the Anti Poverty Strategy. One partner commented: “The group that’s round the table... really genuinely wants things done”. Some officers said that this was the only forum in which they were directly engaged with officers in some other agencies – for example, bringing together Job Centre Plus with Health.

- *Anti Poverty Strategy Review 1999-2002, Centre for Policy and Management, Robert Gordon University*

2.4 There are two main sources which provide the evidence to inform the priorities of the Dundee Partnership and the thematic action plans. The Dundee Partnership’s Monitoring Framework measures a raft of indicators which provide details of efforts to tackle disadvantage and close the gap. Movement towards targets is charted in relation to key factors indicating unemployment, average earnings, benefit receipt, school attendance and attainment, and mortality. This is augmented by the evidence presented in the Tayside Health Inequality Strategy Population Profile which establishes general information on the population of Dundee as well as data on factors which are known to impact on the health of the population and which demonstrate inequalities.

2.5 Regeneration objectives have been central to both the Dundee and the geographic Social Inclusion Partnerships. These tackle the social, physical and economic needs of priority areas and are defined in the Dundee Partnership’s Area Regeneration Strategy which supports detailed area action plans but also recognises that many issues have to be addressed on a regeneration programme-wide or city-wide basis in order to fully benefit the targeted communities. The following objectives for the strategy exemplify a holistic approach to regeneration based on Community Stability, Sustainability, Prosperity and Empowerment. These continue to inform funding decisions taken in relation to geographic priority areas.

Dundee Area Regeneration Strategy Objectives

Stability

- to ensure that targets are met for the reduction of crime and the fear of crime
- to continue to bring forward initiatives which enhance population stability through greater housing opportunities and improved physical environment
- to further enhance the provision of community support, economic and social structures

Sustainability

- to provide and promote all reasonable means of enhancing educational attainment and fulfilling the potential of the individual
- to continue to identify and promote opportunities for work
- to further identify and promote initiatives which foster community integration across all ages and develop a positive area identity, providing multi-cultural and community support
- to sustain and expand initiatives to provide a safe, attractive, clean and accessible environment

Prosperity

- to continue to develop measures within the city-wide Employment and Training framework which promote opportunities to assist people in securing employment
- to continue to encourage and engage the private sector in consultation on joint action planning
- to further progress partnership working to alleviate the symptoms and causes of poverty
- to develop affordable childcare initiatives which allow the community to take up employment, training and personal development opportunities
- to ensure comprehensive development of health measures to deal with issues ranging over needs monitoring, project programmes, education and information networking

Empowerment

- to sustain and expand the knowledge base, skills development and the community co-ordinating structures to promote the ability of communities to affect change
- to continue to build the capacity and self confidence of individuals and groups to fully participate in the community and to take advantage of opportunities
- to consolidate and expand support for existing and new community and voluntary initiatives

2.6 SIP funding in Dundee has succeeded in attracting significant levels of additional funding, from partners locally and externally. In the year 2002/03, geographic SIP funding of £2.605m drew in an additional £1.908m. Further work is required to establish the value of mainstream services which are targeted towards SIP areas and client groups.

Precise measurement of this has always been problematic, particularly for thematic SIPs. What is not in question is the significant help-in-kind offered to SIP funded initiatives. This has helped to maximise the impact of the Scottish Executive's allocation of SIP funding.

Partnership in Practice (2)

The SIP1 funded Community Development and Health Project has expanded from a core team of 2½ posts to a project employing 15 staff. Guided by a partnership based management group, a successful bid was made to the New Opportunities Fund creating the new Dundee Healthy Living Initiative which aims to challenge inequality and improve the health of individuals and families in all SIP areas and other parts of the city exhibiting disadvantage.

On an annual basis SIP funding of £49,000 now generates NOF and partner contributions of £378,000.

2.7 Action Required

2.7.1 Further analysis is required to measure the impact of SIP on mainstream activities and spend of partners.

Action: Develop and introduce specific indicator to Dundee Partnership Monitoring Framework

Action: Measure the impact of Dundee Partnership's strategic priorities on social inclusion objectives

2.7.2 While social inclusion is implicitly the concern of all Dundee Partnership groups, clearly defined "closing the gap" measures are required.

Action: The Dundee Partnership Social Inclusion and Anti-Poverty Group will establish a series of cross-cutting indicators which will be contained in the revised Community Plan and subsequent performance reports. They will include social justice targets alongside action focused objectives.

3. **PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN TACKLING DISADVANTAGE**

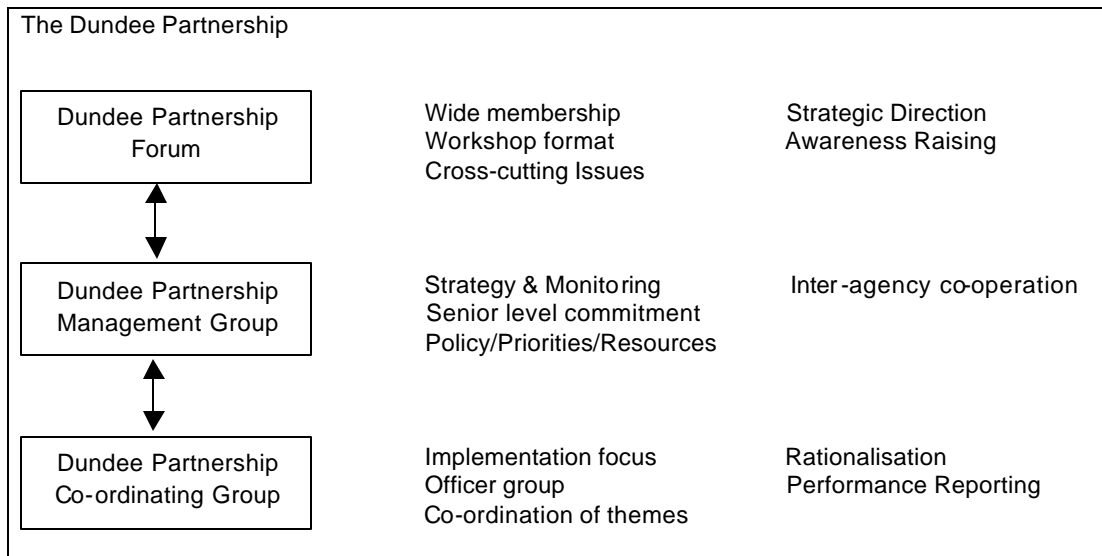
"We all agree that the way we work together and make community planning happen is as important as the community plan we produce. Working in partnership is the only way we will make a real difference in Dundee"

The Community Plan for Dundee 2001-2006

3.1 A collective commitment to collaboration is a crucial prerequisite of community planning. In Dundee, this commitment is defined in the partnership agreement (Community Plan, page 6), with references to integrating services, combining resources, sharing information, working with communities and monitoring and evaluation.

3.2 The formal management structure has evolved to accommodate the extensive range of stakeholders while maintaining an efficient system for decision making. Membership is broad and inclusive and reporting relationships are direct and clear. Diagram 2 shows the structure and remits of the Dundee Partnership umbrella bodies.

Diagram 2 Dundee Partnership – Membership and Remits

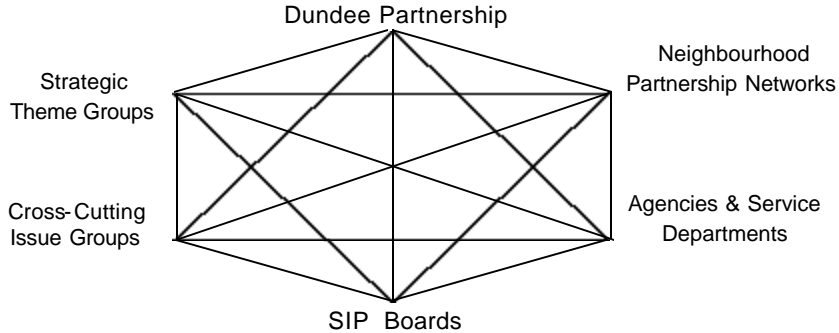


3.3 The series of reporting relationships within the Dundee Partnership is complex (see Diagram 3).

- At a thematic level, five strategic themes groups report to the Dundee Partnership Co-ordinating Group and feature broad stakeholder representation
- At a SIP level, each Social Inclusion Partnership connects to the relevant strategic theme and cross-cutting issue group
- Within the SIPs, each SIP Board comprises multi-agency membership from the key public sector partners

- At a neighbourhood level, the new local community planning process is led by Neighbourhood Partnership Networks which connect to public sector agencies, service departments and strategic theme groups

Diagram 3. Dundee Partnership Reporting Relationships



- 3.4 A number of plans currently focus on local areas including Community Learning Plans, Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) Action Plans, and Area Regeneration Action Plans for geographic SIPs. These will all be replaced by an integrated Local Community Plan which will be developed in collaboration with communities and will reflect their needs and priorities. Taken together with strategic theme plans, these local community plans will set out clear priorities for action at both the neighbourhood and city-wide levels.
- 3.5 The current shape of SIP structures and responsibilities are already comfortably integrated within the overall Partnership framework and strategic themes and will connect as appropriate with local community plans. SIP co-ordinators participate in the sponsoring strategic theme groups (see diagram 4) and Board members have been fully engaged in the SIP transition process. Geographic SIPs are represented on both the Dundee Partnership Forum and Management Group.

Diagram 4 – Relationship of SIPs to Community Planning Process and Partners



- 3.6 Decision making within the SIPs is a good model of community empowerment and advocacy achieved through partnership working. Dundee has gone further than most other SIPs in Scotland in engaging community representation and giving these representatives a clear majority in the decision-making structures. A light touch is adopted by the accountable body (the local authority) and other public sector partners. This is demonstrated most clearly in the geographic SIPS.

Partnership in Practice (3)	
<p>Consistent with the criteria set out by Communities Scotland, the SIP funding process features the active involvement of a range of stakeholders including, predominantly representatives from the community and voluntary sectors. All funding applications have been considered by the local SIP representative group in each of the geographic SIP communities, the SIPS Grants Group and endorsed by the SIP Board. In each of these groups, community and voluntary sector representatives form the majority. The decision making process is represented as follows:</p>	
<u>Stage 1</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Stage 1	Applications submitted
Stage 2	Applications screened for eligibility by SIP Team
Stage 3	Assessment of Applications by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local SIPs Groups - Neighbourhood Partnerships (i.e. BNSF) - Community and Voluntary Alliance - Dundee Partnership agencies - Council lead departments
Stage 4	SIP Grants Group makes recommendation
Stage 5	SIPs Board endorses recommendations
Stage 6	Dundee City Council ratifies recommendations as accountable body

3.7 Action Required

- 3.7.1 While community representation is in place throughout the Partnership, there is scope to extend the contribution of community representatives to the Partnership agenda

Action: Increase support and provide development opportunities to community representatives

- 3.7.2 The complexity of the series of reporting relationships in the Partnership increases the possibility of issues falling between groups

Action: Introduce formal reporting mechanisms between theme groups and Neighbourhood Partnership Networks, SIP Boards and public sector partners

- 3.7.3 Priority has been given over the past two years to the structure, membership and activity of the Partnership. Measures are now required to raise public and organisational awareness of the Partnership and its work.

Action: Implement a communication and awareness raising plan across internal and external audiences

- 3.7.4 Despite the existence of robust performance monitoring, review of the overall workings of the Dundee Partnership have taken place on an ad hoc basis

Action: Introduce annual review system informed by CPP self-assessment toolkit with summary of results reported to Dundee Partnership Management Group along with revised development objectives.

4 **EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

"Members of the Dundee Partnership have agreed to work together to enable communities to play a major role in creating solutions to the problems they face"

The Community Plan for Dundee 2001-2006

4.1 Community involvement has been the focus of considerable effort by members of the Dundee Partnership. The Community Plan included a commitment to develop a Community Involvement Strategy which was agreed in May 2002 and revised in July 2003. The strategy addresses every aspect of participation in the Partnership.

4.2 Commitment to Involvement and Consultation

In September 2003 the Dundee Partnership Forum adopted a Partnership Consultation Agreement which sets out twelve undertakings by all members making up an effective framework for consultation.

4.3 Participation in Partnership Groups

Since its inception, community representatives have been consistent in their desire to participate at the heart of the Dundee Partnership. The unique perspective which those living in communities bring to the table has been recognised and accepted by statutory partners. The partnership is mindful, however, that group membership is not an effective substitute for engaging in broader, more participatory processes and that one should never replace the other.

Partnership in Practice (4)	
<u>Dundee Partnership Group</u>	<u>Community/Voluntary Representation (Number)</u>
The Dundee Partnership Forum	SIP1 Board (2) SIP2 Platform Group (2) Association of Dundee Community Councils (1) Dundee Voluntary Action (CVS) (1) Community & Voluntary Alliance (1)
Dundee Partnership Management Group	SIP1 Board (1) SIP2 Board (1) Dundee Voluntary Action (1) Dundee Association of Community Councils (1) Community & Voluntary Alliance (1)
Building Stronger Communities Theme	SIP1 Board (1) SIP1 Co-ordinator (1)
Community Safety	5 Community Safety Groups (5) Dundee Voluntary Action (1) Dundee Federation of Tenants' Association (1) Victim Support/Witness Service (1) Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre (1) Under 18's Project (1) Dundee Equality and Diversity Partnership (1)

Environment	Dundee Voluntary Action (1) Friends of the Earth (1) One World Centre (1) Tayside Foundation for Conservation of Resources (1) Broughty Ferry Environment Project (1)
Health & Care	Dundee Voluntary Action (1) Young Carers SIP Board (1) SIP1 Co-ordinator (1)
Learning & Working	Community Learning Partnership Members (4) Xplore SIP Board (1)

4.4 Combining Consultation and Involvement Across Partners

Even though the statutory framework does not yet exist which will enable partners to fully integrate consultation on service planning, a Dundee Partnership Consultation Register is being created as a means of recording partners' activities and to make connections between agencies and consultation exercises.

4.5 Local Community Planning

As described fully above (3.4), agreement has been reached on the model for local community planning in the city. This will fulfil the commitment made in the Community Plan "... to prepare local community plans for the neighbourhood where you live. That way community planning will be able to make a difference on your own doorstep". (Community Plan, Page 7).

4.6 Involvement in the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF)

The BNSF Neighbourhood Partnership has been established which brings together members of the local community, council service managers and community planning partners with the goal of improving the co-ordination of services, increasing accountability and developing collaborative working to the overall benefit of residents. This gives community representatives a role in decision-making related to the allocation of resources and service delivery performance.

4.7 Social Inclusion Partnerships

During 2002, the management arrangements and reporting mechanisms for SIPs were reconfigured to match the revised shape of the Dundee Partnership as it assumed the community planning responsibility. This ensures that the activity of each SIP can be reviewed by, but can also influence, thematic groups and subsequently the Co-ordinating Group.

The thematic SIPs have been successful in engaging with difficult to reach groups; young people who are finding it difficult to make the transition from primary to secondary school and from secondary school to adult life; and young carers who face exclusion because of responsibility to act as the primary carer for another person. While it is unreasonable to expect such vulnerable clients to participate in formal partnership structures, their views and needs are advocated within sponsoring thematic groups.

4.8 Wider Engagement

A range of initiatives are attempting to connect with "difficult to reach" groups. These include the BNSF Postal Panel, Dialogue Youth and the innovative approaches supported by Empowering Communities allocations.

Partnership in Practice (5)

A piece of research funded through Empowering Communities was undertaken to establish the number of young carers aged 5 to 11 in the city, and the services available to them. The research identified 271 young carers in this age group affected by having a caring role. The findings have impacted on partner agencies and their service delivery.

Subsequently, it has generated a partnership initiative which brings six organisations together to produce a video and booklet on the experiences of younger carers. Carers aged 12+ are participating in the process having undertaken various forms of training.

The results of the research were presented to relevant agencies at a training day designed to encourage the extension of mainstream services to younger carers.

Partnership in Practice (6)

The Shore Internet Radio, sponsored by Xplore SIP, is a tool for promoting dialogue with young people in a manner that is exciting and innovative.

It provides a platform for young people to raise and discuss issues of relevance to them – debates, live music, drama and interviews – and enables them to develop new skills. Young people are trained as DJ's, interviewers and to provide technical support.

The Shore Radio provides young people with an outlet to say what they think without fear of identification and leads to a much more honest debate, about the services available to them.

4.9 Flexible Neighbourhood Structures and the Role of Community Councils

Engaging at a community level can be made more difficult if there is no single organisation which represents the interests of an entire area. Community Councils offer one model to achieve this but have not traditionally been well supported in areas of Dundee experiencing disadvantage. Instead, the Dundee Partnership has introduced a flexible model of community representation which extends the rights and opportunities given to Community Councils without the burdensome bureaucratic regulations to alternative representative structures such as the Ardler Village Trust and the Stobswell Forum.

4.10 Capacity Building

Support to community and voluntary participants in community planning is vital. It is currently provided to individuals and communities engaged in the SIP process (by dedicated SIP workers and individual SIP projects), the voluntary sector (by the SIP voluntary sector lead officer and the Dundee Voluntary Action Development Officer) and through mainstream Council service departments. Further support is offered through the projects funded through Empowering Communities. This activity is expected to expand through the engagement and communication strategies which will play a central role in local community planning.

4.11 Standards in Community Engagement

The Dundee Partnership has agreed to participate in the Standards in Community Engagement project funded by Communities Scotland and undertaken by the Scottish Community Development Centre. Phase two of the project will see standards tested against two specific Dundee Partnership activities which will provide an invaluable opportunity for an internal critique of community involvement

4.12 Action Required

4.12.1 Measures require further development which will enable communities to make a difference through their participation in the Dundee Partnership groups and activities.

Action: Finalise community participation in SIP decision making process

Action: Arrange Dundee Partnership community conference

Action: Adopt finalised Community Engagement Standards

Action: Review impact of Empowering Communities initiatives

Action: Review progress of Community Involvement Strategy annually

5 PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME MONITORING

"If our Community Plan is to make a difference, we have to be able to measure our progress. To do this, we have agreed a number of outcomes for each of our themes which will tell us over time whether we are succeeding or not"

The Community Plan for Dundee 2001-2006

- 5.1 The Dundee Partnership Monitoring Framework described in 2.4 above is the primary means by which baseline data is updated to assess progress towards Partnership objectives.
- 5.2 Dundee participates in the Tayside Research and Intelligence Network along with neighbouring community planning partnerships to maximise data and information sharing and to establish efficient joint working with partners with a regional remit including NHS Tayside and Tayside Police.
- 5.3 An increasingly productive relationship has been developed with the Geddes Institute of the University of Dundee which is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the geographic SIPs and therefore illuminates developments in areas of greater deprivation. It undertakes to:
- Monitor the social, economic and physical changes taking place in the SIP areas
 - Carry out qualitative research, including focus groups and interviews
 - Produce statistical and analytical reports and research papers in relation to the monitoring of the SIP strategic themes

Most recently its research findings summarised a qualitative study that was undertaken for SIP1 investigating its achievements in terms of its strategic objectives, progress towards partnership working and decision making, community involvement and participation, managing project activity and the future of the SIP. These findings will greatly inform the SIP transition process and the future SIP arrangements.

Partnership in Practice (7)

"Decision-making in SIPs

The process of decision-making appears to have changed. Community representatives 'feel' that they are bringing a more community-focused and community-informed understanding to a process which is more transparent and with which local people can identify. On the whole, there was a sense of optimism in the process by the community representatives and evidence of the development of decision-making skills. The statutory agencies, on the other hand, were more reflective and sceptical, suggesting that the quality of the decisions has been reduced due to a lack of understanding of strategic activities that take place around the SIP 1 programme and justification of policy objectives. One particular perceived threat is that the SIP1 Board ignores the bigger picture and finds itself isolated from the wider city initiatives and coalitions of influence. This is, in part, held to be due to the nature of the background material supplied at meetings. There is a recognition that the new Board arrangements require a period of learning by all concerned, both to enhance decision-making skills (by the community), and to adapt to a changing culture of working (by the 'professionals')."

Geddes Institute, University of Dundee, SIP Initiative Research Findings 2003

- 5.4 Progress reports on all strategic themes and when necessary, cross-cutting working groups, are presented quarterly to the Dundee Partnership Management Group. These are to be further developed to increase progress against measurable project outcomes and milestones.
- 5.5 The experience of the Better Neighbourhood Service Fund pilot projects is being watched closely. Its success in producing practicable local outcome agreements will be used as a starting

point in developing the outcomes included in the transitional Regeneration Outcome Agreement to be submitted following the Statement of Readiness.

5.6 Action Required

5.6.1 Outcome monitoring and reporting will be a strategic priority for the Dundee Partnership over the coming year

- Action:** Develop 3 year Regeneration Outcome Agreement
- Action:** Develop more precise outcome measures for Partnership activity and strategy development
- Action:** Consider expanding the role of the Geddes Institute to incorporate the activity of the whole Dundee Partnership
- Action:** Present performance information systematically across Partnership
- Action:** Report on progress publicity through Partnership web-site and annual public performance reports

6 MANAGING THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

6.1 Over the next twelve months the integration process will be completed through a series of measured steps which are designed to go at a pace which will allow partners, SIP Boards and SIP communities to understand and contribute to the decisions taken on the long term strategic direction and resource allocation of the Social Inclusion Partnerships.

Integration Timetable

Target Date	Integration Activity	Lead Role
January 2004	Submit Statement of Readiness and Transitional Regeneration Outcome Agreement	DP Co-ordinating Group
February 2004	Receive decision on integration	Scottish Executive
March 2004	Submit Transitional Regeneration Outcome Agreement	DP Co-ordinating Group
April/May 2004	Agreement on long-term structures, membership and processes for SIP decision-making in Dundee	DP Management Group and SIP Boards
July 2004	Analysis of Index of Deprivation Results	DP Research and Information Working Group
August 2004	Funding Allocation process begins for 2005/06	SIP Boards
September 2004	Agreement on future geographic/ thematic priorities and SIP objectives	DP Forum
November 2004	Final consultation on 3 year Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA)	DP Co-ordinating Group
December 2004	ROA formally approved by Dundee Partnership and partner agencies	DP Management Group
January 2005	Submit 3 year ROA	DP Co-ordinating Group

6.2 The Statement of Readiness has been systematically produced in partnership. At each stage of its development, community and voluntary representatives and SIP staff and Boards have been included in the process.

Partnership in Practice (8)

In August 2003, the Dundee Partnership SIP Integration Group was formed with representatives from Dundee City Council, Communities Scotland and the Chair and Co-ordinator of each SIP. The Group studied the draft integration guidance and planned the Statement of Readiness production process together with stakeholder involvement.

Following publication of the guidance, a stakeholder briefing event was held in September which introduced the guidance and Dundee Partnership's recommended approach to integration. Discussion began in workshops on the Dundee Partnership's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the readiness criteria.

The Dundee Partnership Management Group was briefed on SIP transitional arrangements at its October meeting.

It was recognised that SIP Board members and staff required a greater understanding of the structure and objectives of the Dundee Partnership and this was addressed at a further stakeholder seminar in early November. Workshop discussions considered the Dundee Partnership priorities and proposals for community engagement in the development of local community plans.

Following agreement at the SIP Integration Group, a draft Statement of Readiness was circulated to stakeholders who were invited to a follow-up seminar in mid-November at which comments were taken on the case made and the action recommended in the Statement. The guidance relating to Regeneration Outcome Agreements was explained together with the BNSF experience in working with Local Outcome Agreements.

The final draft Statement of Readiness was circulated to members of the Dundee Partnership and stakeholders in December and following amendments was endorsed by the Dundee Partnership Management Group in January 2004

Discussion regarding the transitional Regeneration Outcome Agreement are ongoing and will follow the model adopted for the Statement of Readiness.