

New Governance Midlothian Community Planning Partnership Board

Report by Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

This report invites the Council to approve the proposed new governance arrangements for the Community Planning Partnership Board following the passage of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The recommendations in this report have been approved by the Board subject to agreement of partners own governance structures.

2 Background

2.1 Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Community Planning Partnerships were established as statutory boards with the following duties:

- Shared Leadership
- Governance and Accountability
- Resourcing Improvement
- Effective Performance Management

2.2 The Board as currently established operates to a governance document that pre-dates the passage of the 2015 Act and clearly needs to be redesigned to meet new requirements. Coupled with this it has also been agreed by the Board that the new legislation will provide an opportunity to re-shape the ways of working for the Partnership to strengthen and facilitate effective engagement.

2.3 Five core partners are named in the legislation as responsible for the co-facilitation of the Partnership. These are – Midlothian Council, Scottish Enterprise, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue.

2.4 The Community Planning Partnership Board agreed that a short-life working group be established incorporating the five core partners to bring forward proposals to the Board in relation to governance.

In order to facilitate this in an effective way, a staged approach has been suggested as follows:

- Stage 1 – Governance structure agreed.
- Stage 2 – Review of 'terms of reference' for the Board and its key bodies.
- Stage 3 – Engage with the wider partnership to confirm the most effective method of involvement.

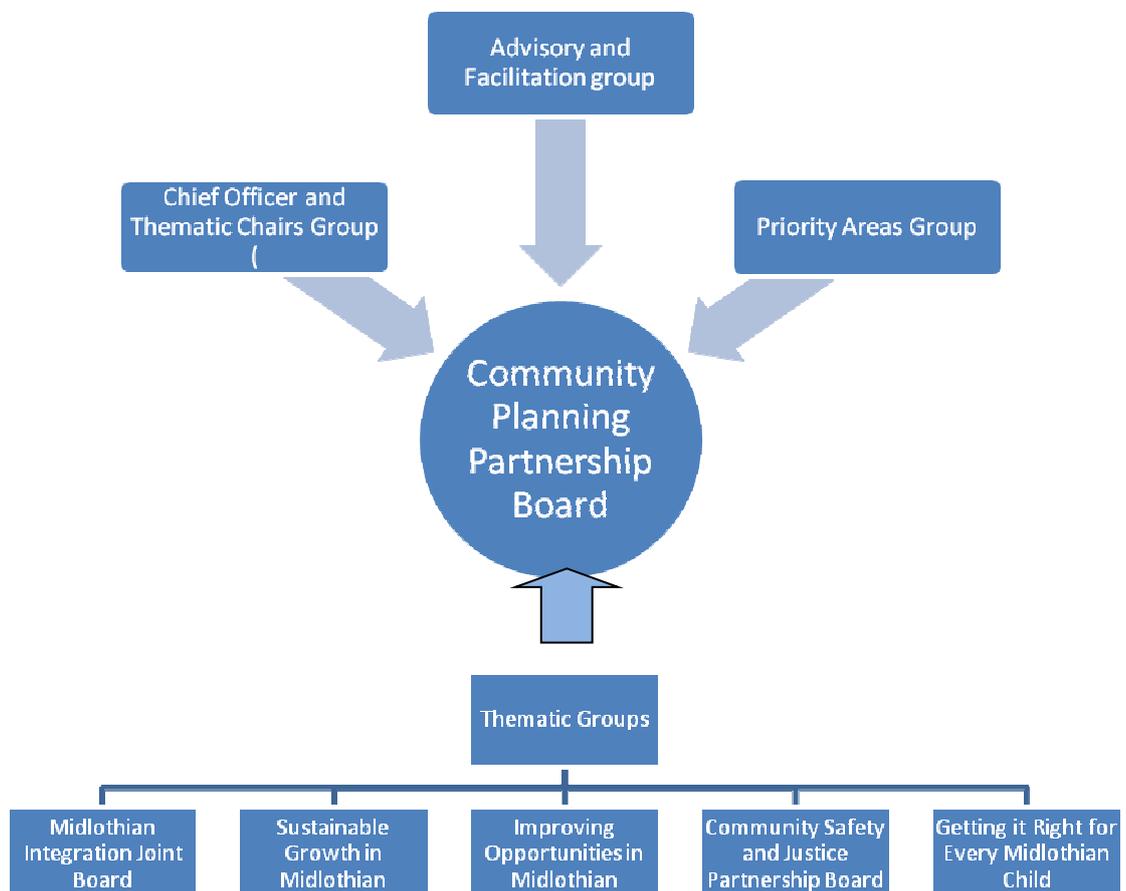
The recommendations within this report relate to stage 1.

3 Midlothian Community Planning Partnership Board

3.1 The Board is responsible for:

- Providing strategic leadership; by developing and setting out a joint vision and agreed outcomes for the area in the form of the Single Midlothian Plan, with the overall aim of improving quality of life in Midlothian for all residents and reducing inequality gaps.
- Identifying and agreeing the resources necessary to achieve these shared outcomes.
- Holding each other to account for the delivery of outcomes through constructive challenge, effective performance reporting and self evaluation.
- Ensuring the partnership operates to agreed approaches of capacity building/ co- production; preventive interventions and localising / channel shifting access to services.

Based on the discussions within the short-life working group, and having cognisance for the requirements under the 2015 Act, the proposal for the strategic governance of the work of the Board is set out below.



3.2 Group Roles

The specific remit of each of the Groups will be reviewed further in Stage 2 of the review of the governance arrangements. The following provides a high level description of the Groups and their interaction with the Community Planning Partnership Board. The aim of the Groups that support the Board is to allow the Board to act as key decision maker and have a strategic overview of community planning in Midlothian.

Thematic Groups – it was agreed by the short-life working group that the existing five thematic groups offered the best way of supporting community planning in relation to local and national priorities. These Groups will have a direct link to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

Chief Officer and Thematic Group Chairs Group– it was suggested by the short-life working group that a separate forum would be useful to include the key decision makers within the core partners and the chairs of the Thematic Groups to allow for discussion and decisions that will support the work of the Board.

Advisory and Facilitation Group – a group to support the mechanics of facilitating community planning within Midlothian and to provide expert advice to the Board in relation to legislation, policy etc.

Priority Areas Group – it was agreed by the short-life working group that a separate advisory and working group exist to support the key priority areas in Midlothian in relation to developing these communities in line with the Single Midlothian Plan.

3.3 Membership of the Board

There is a clear legal need, confirmed in both the 2003 and 2015 Acts, for local democratically elected representatives to participate in community planning. Unlike any other participants they have a unique mandate to represent the interests of local communities. As such, the recommendation within this paper is that three Elected Members (the Leader or Deputy Leader and a representative of each of the other political Groups) from Midlothian Council to sit on the Community Planning Board.

In addition members are proposed as follows:

- Appropriate representation from each of the core public sector partners - Police, Fire, Scottish Enterprise, NHS and Midlothian Council.
- A representative from Further Education.
- A representative from Higher Education.
- A representative from Skills Development Scotland.
- A representative of the Federation of Community Councils.
- A representative of the Third Sector Interface Partnership.
- A representative of Neighbourhood Planning groups.
- A representative from each local membership umbrella body for the private sector business community; namely the Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and the Federation of Small Business.
- A representative from the Department for Work and Pensions.
- A representative from the Armed Forces.
- The Scottish Government Community Planning Link Director.

It is suggested that and Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Water given their limited staffing capacity to engage with all 32 CPP's, and the need to make best use of their contributions, are invited to be partners in the sustainable growth thematic group.

3.4 It is proposed that the Council Leader or Deputy Leader will assume the Chair of the Board with the Vice Chair to be selected from the Membership of the Board.

3.5 If the Board are minded to accept the structural proposals within this paper, it is further recommended that a period of transition between the existing arrangements and the implementation of the new arrangements exists to allow the continuation of the work of the Board. Based on the work in relation to stage 2 and stage 3 of the review being completed with recommendations being approved by the Board by the end of 2017. It is therefore recommended that the full implementation of the new governance arrangements commences on 1 January 2018.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

4.2 Risk

The Board has overall responsibility for effective risk management of the partnership risks, and has delegated the operational management to the community planning working group.

Partners are expected to maintain systems of internal control and assurance covering their business affairs which includes internal check, segregation of duties and proper authorisation of key documents.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- Community safety
- Adult health, care and housing
- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth

4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The revised arrangements for the CPP Board are intended to have a positive impact on healthy inequalities, learning inequalities and Economic inequalities within Midlothian.

4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The CPP Board has a duty to publish an annual performance report which measures progress against agreed outcome indicators. Of critical importance will be those indicators which measure closing the gap in the three key priority outcomes.

4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

In keeping with the Christie Report on the future of public services, the CPP is driven by the recognition that the current model of service delivery is unsustainable. The Board has agreed to adopt prevention as a core approach.

4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Community Empowerment Act 2015 requires public and stakeholder engagement in creation of the plan, and public reporting of performance. The board has overall responsibility for ensuring that this is undertaken, and has delegated the operational management to the community planning working group.

4.8 Ensuring Equalities

An Integrated impact assessment has not been considered necessary for this report which deals with structural change and governance.

4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

An Integrated impact assessment has not been considered necessary for this report which deals with structural change and governance.

4.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

The Council is invited:-

(a) to agree the proposed revised arrangements as set out in this report.

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