

The Single Midlothian Plan Half Year Performance Report 2019-20

Report by Dr Grace Vickers Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to draw to elected members attention the half year performance report of Midlothian Community Planning Partnership. It is a statutory duty for the partnership to publish performance reports.

2 Background

2.1 Part 2 of the Community Empowerment Act 2015 sets out clear expectations for what the purpose of community planning is, and how it is to operate.

2.2 Statutory Guidance flowing from the 2015 Act makes clear that community planning is about “how public bodies work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide or secure the provision of services which improve local outcomes in a local authority area, with a view to reducing inequalities”.

2.3 Effective community planning brings together the collective talents and resources of local public services and communities to drive positive change locally. Local statutory community planning partners (The Council, Police, Fire, National Health Service and Scottish Enterprise) are expected to provide strong shared leadership for community planning, so that the CPP sets an ambitious vision for local communities and ensures that is delivered.

The voices of communities themselves, especially those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, are expected to be integral to successful community planning. Their needs and aspirations, and their own capacity to make change happen (with support where needed), should be reflected in the local priorities the CPP sets, in how community planning partners shape services and direct resources, and in how the CPP reviews progress made.

2.4 The Guidance further makes clear that “effective community planning focuses on where partners ‘collective efforts’, can add most value for their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequalities”. The CPP is expected to have a clear and ambitious vision for its local area. Community planning should focus on a small number of local priorities where the CPP will add most value as a partnership – in particular by improving outcomes for its most vulnerable communities and moderating future demand for crisis services. The CPP should be clear about the improvements it wishes to make locally on these priorities, and be committed to prevention and early intervention as a way to contribute to these improvements

2.5 Effective community planning is expected to be committed to achieving its ambitions and striving for continuous improvement. The CPP is expected to be committed to delivering on its ambitions for communities in its area. The Guidance states “CPP’s must understand how well they’re performing, and act nimbly wherever appropriate to improve performance. There should be genuine challenge and scrutiny in community planning, built on mutual trust, a shared and ambitious commitment to continuous improvement, and a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners”. The CPP is expected to be organised to provide a strong platform which supports and encourages vibrant strategic decision-making and action locally. Finally “the CPP must be transparent in demonstrating to its communities the progress it is making to improve outcomes”.

2.6 The 2015 Act specifically requires CPPs to:

- prepare and publish a local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement
- identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes, and prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities (the outcomes prioritised for improvement in a locality plan may differ from those in the local outcomes improvement plan).

In Midlothian these areas have been defined by the CPP as the Mayfield/Easthouses, Gorebridge and Dalkeith Central/Woodburn communities. Neighbourhood (locality) plans are in place in each area and performance of these will be reported separately.

- review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.

2.7 The CPP Board has an established annual planning and performance cycle which culminates in approval of its annual performance reports in April 2020 or financial year 2019-20. 2 six monthly reports are produced each year. The first, attached to this covering report as appendix 1, covers the period 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019.

2.8 The Council agreed in 2013 to adopt the partnership’s shared plan as the strategic plan for the Council. This reduced the number of strategic planning documents in place at that time from 3 to 1 and committed the Council as a core partner to the shared goals of the CPP Board, chaired by the Council leader. All Council service plans are now expected to show connections to this strategic plan, known as the “Single Midlothian Plan”, which meets the statutory requirement for a local outcomes improvement plan for Midlothian.

2.9 The Community Empowerment Act’s statutory guidance requires CPP’s to set 3 year outcomes and to show one year measurable actions towards these. The top priorities of the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP) for the period 2019-22 are to reduce the outcomes gaps in health, learning and economic circumstances.

- 2.10** The SMP encompasses 5 themes of work, identified through public engagement as main areas in which the public expected partners to make improvements. These are summarised as Adult Health and Care, Community Safety, Sustainable Growth, Improving Opportunities and Getting it Right for every Midlothian Child. Performance against the outcomes in each of these areas is set out in the attached report which has been approved by the Community Planning Partnership Board at its meeting of 16 January. This was a delayed date for the planned December 2019 Board meeting held back due to the UK General election. The CPP Board includes all party elected member representation with a seat at the Board for the leaders of each of the 3 political party groups from Midlothian Council.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The planning cycle of the SMP provides information for resource planning processes, with annual priority actions being agreed in November each year with the explicit intention of influencing the budget setting of partners, including the Council, for the following financial year.

3.2 Risk

Failure to publicly report progress against the SMP is a breach of law. The Council is a core partner in the community planning partnership and has adopted the SMP as its corporate strategy, failure to report progress would therefore also impact negatively on the Council's performance management system.

3.3 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
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Performance is tracked using the "Pentana" performance management software system. This system is used by over 50% of Scottish Local Councils. Before each table of results there is a summary of successes and challenges for the year providing a brief narrative account of progress.

Care is required in interpreting numeric results, as being "off target" may reflect an ambitious target where good progress has been made, whilst "on target" may similarly reflect an underestimate of the improvement that could be achieved in performance.

The six month performance report (appendix 1) identifies:

- **Adult Health and Care** has 25 indicators; all measures devised by the Integration Joint Board as part of the adult health and care strategic plan. 17 are on target , 6 are off target , one is a tracking measure without a defined target and for one no data is yet available as it is collected annually
- **Community Safety and Justice** has 25 indicators, all measures devised by the Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board. 7 are on target, 5 off target, 3 are tracking measures without targets, and 10 had no data available at the half year. The CPP Board noted that the removal of the community safety team within the Council has created a gap in supporting data collection, reporting and planning for community safety as part of the wider Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board function. The CPP Board reviewed options for dealing with this at the 16 January Board meeting which will now be taken forward in partnership.
- **Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child (GIRFEMC)** has 38 indicators, devised by the GIRFEMC Board to meet the legal duty to deliver an integrated children and young people plan. 6 indicators are on target, 13 off target, 5 are tracking data only, and there are 4 where no data was available at half year point.
- **Improving Opportunities** has 45 indicators , 25 on target , 19 off target , 1 tracking data only, and 0 where no data was available at half year point
- **Sustainable Growth** had 39 indicators , 30 on target , 7 Off target, 1 tracking data only and one data not known at the half year point
- **Equalities** actions are included across the 5 themes, but in addition there are 5 indicators that relate to cross cutting work. Of these 2 were on target, 2 off target and one no data is available at half year point.

The performance report template sets out a summary of the successes and challenges of the first half of 2019-20 financial year by the five themes of the Single Midlothian Plan. The narrative within the template against each action identifies blocks to progress and planned mitigation actions where these have been agreed. Where it is the case, the narrative may note that targets are likely to be achieved by the end of year, this is based on progress to date and other known factors.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The CPP is committed to adopting a 'Preventive approach'. Preventive work takes place at a universal service level- for example teaching reading to all children or immunisation of babies; at an early intervention level where an issue is emerging- for example mentoring young people at risk of offending or adapting houses to reduce risk of falls for older residents and at a targeted level- for example behavioural change programmes targeting men already involved in domestic violence.

3.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The core of community planning is partnership working practice, both between agencies in the public, private and voluntary sector and with the communities of place and interest that make up Midlothian. The publication of performance reports is an essential part of informing citizens, as well as demonstrating collective accountability amongst the partners.

3.6 Ensuring Equalities

The SMP is subject to an equality impact assessment process. Key priorities established by the partnership focus on reducing inequalities.

3.7 Supporting Sustainable Development

The theme of sustainable growth commits the CPP to achieving a balance between economic growth, environmental sustainability and meeting housing demand. This connects physical development planning and community planning ambitions. Given the scale of physical development taking place and planned, this theme presents a significant challenge to all partner agencies to ensure new and established communities connect, services, facilities and employment opportunities keep pace with population growth and the natural environment is protected and enhanced. The CPP Board held its annual community planning development day in November 2019, attended by a cross section of public, third sector, private sector partners, elected members and community representatives which focussed on the theme of Sustainable Midlothian. Recommendations from this event and the public and stakeholder engagement processes that led up to it will form part of the new SMP 2020-21. The CPP Board in January welcomed the Council declaration of a climate emergency and committed to support this as a partnership.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues

4 Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Notes the content of the attached performance report

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Background Papers

Appendix 1 Single Midlothian Plan performance H1 2019/20