Item 4

14th February 2023

Strategic Partnership

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Governance framework: Review of Sector Partnerships

Purpose of Report:

To update the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Strategic Partnership on work undertaken in relation to the review of the Sector Partnerships and discussions that have taken place with each of the Sector Partnerships at their recent meetings held on 19 and 20 January 2023.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Strategic Partnership:

(i) notes the further work undertaken in relation to the review of the Sector Partnerships;
(ii) agrees to an amendment to the GCPP Governance Framework whereby the Sector Partnerships meet twice per year rather than quarterly;
(iii) notes that revised terms of reference and an operating proposal will be developed and presented to a future meeting of the GCPP Strategic Partnership; and
(iv) remits consideration of the viability of re-establishing Senior Officer Groups in the North West and South Sectors to the GCPP Executive Group.

Introduction.

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Strategic Partnership on work undertaken in relation to the review of the Sector Partnerships and discussions that have taken place with each of the Sector Partnerships at their recent meetings held on 19 and 20 January 2023.

Background.

2. On 7th December 2021, the Strategic Partnership approved a series of recommendations in relation to the Area and Sector Partnerships, including an agreement that further work would be undertaken to determine the future of the Sector Partnerships.

3. In September 2022, Sector Partnerships received an update on the work undertaken up to that point. The report included updates on the Social Recovery Taskforce and the development of a refreshed Community Action Plan, the findings from the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund, and a particular focus on the findings from a Smart Survey of Community Planning partners (the report and the full breakdown of responses to the Smart Survey can be found here).

4. A further report was presented to the Sector Partnerships in January 2023 providing another update on developments in relation to the Community Action Plan and the Glasgow Communities Fund. The report presented conclusions from the survey of Community Planning partners which indicated a large degree of uncertainty and unawareness in relation to the role and value of the Sector Partnerships. Based on this report and survey, three options were presented to the Sector Partnerships in January 2023 on options for the future.

Options for consideration.

5. The report to Sector Partnerships suggested that many of the revised duties proposed for Sector Partnerships in the survey could be carried out more effectively by other Community Planning structures. For example, Area Partnerships might be better placed to engage with, and understand the needs of, local communities; it was also considered that sharing information across partners and identifying opportunities for joint working might be more effectively taken forward through the Senior Officer Groups.

6. The only substantive area of responsibility for decision making by the Sector Partnerships relates to the Glasgow Communities Fund as it currently operates. Unlike its predecessor, the Integrated Grants Fund, funding decisions on the Glasgow Communities Fund are made for a three-year period, removing the need for annual consideration by the Sector Partnerships.

7. The following options were presented to the members of the Sector Partnerships for their consideration:

1) Sector Partnerships remain as part of the Glasgow community planning structures but meet less frequently. Their role could be (i) to consider any updates or monitoring information on the Glasgow Communities Fund awards for the sector; (ii) to share examples of good practice from the work of the Area Partnerships in the sector; and (iii) to consider updates and proposals from the Senior Officers Group and support joint working opportunities. Partners would be required to support the re-establishment of the Senior Officer Groups in the North West and South Sectors with the purpose of identifying opportunities for joint working, share good practice and information on service planning and delivery. The Senior Officer Groups would be chaired by a senior officer from a partner organisation and would meet 4 times per year;

2) The Sector Partnerships cease to operate with responsibility for any in-year consideration of Glasgow Communities Fund Phase 2 projects undertaken by the GCPP Strategic Partnership. Sector Partnerships could subsequently be re-established with the sole purpose of approving funding for any further rounds of the Glasgow Communities Fund and ensuring meaningful local input to the decision-making process. Partners were asked to support the re-establishment of Senior Officer Groups in the North West and South Sectors with the same remit as option 1;

3) The status quo remains in place with the Sector Partnerships continuing to meet 4 times per year, with a revised remit to be agreed following discussions with partners and drawn from the responses to the Smart Survey.

8. Following discussion, members of all 3 Sector Partnerships expressed a preference for option 1 above. Members agreed that meetings should be less frequent and more focused on finding solutions to common challenges, learning and sharing of good practice, with a commitment to reviewing the new model after one year and seeking to adjust the new terms of reference as appropriate.

9. There was also a desire expressed for the Sector Partnerships to focus more on updates from, and sharing information with, Area Partnerships especially where issues emerged that spanned ward boundaries.

10. Furthermore, decisions taken on the Glasgow Communities Fund included a request for further reports to be submitted to the Sector Partnerships on the support being provided to unsuccessful applicants and the learning from the review of the process and implementation of the Glasgow Communities Fund – phase 2.

Senior Officer Groups.

11. The Senior Officer Groups have been an integral part of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership structure since its inception and are part of the Governance Framework. They comprise officers from across the Council family and Community Planning partners and were established to support the work of the Sector Partnerships. They are usually chaired by a senior officer from across the Sector. There is provision for three Senior Officers Groups though only one has been meeting in recent years (North East) due to a lack of capacity among

partner organisations to Chair the North West and South Sector Senior Officer Groups.

12. The North East Sector Senior Officer Group continues to meet quarterly and operates as a forum for information sharing across partner organisations and for identifying opportunities for joint working. The value of this was highlighted by members at the North East Sector Partnership meeting on 19 January.

13. The Strategic Partnership is asked to remit considerations around re-establishing the Senior Officer Groups in the North West and South to the GCPP Executive Group and to request a report on progress at a future meeting of the Strategic Partnership.

Recommendations.

14. It is recommended that the Strategic Partnership:

(i) notes the further work undertaken in relation to the review of the Sector Partnerships;
(ii) agrees to an amendment to the GCPP Governance Framework whereby the Sector Partnerships meet twice per year rather than quarterly;
(iii) notes that revised terms of reference and an operating proposal will be developed and presented to a future meeting of the GCPP Strategic Partnership; and
(iv) remits consideration of the viability of re-establishing Senior Officer Groups in the North West and South Sectors to the GCPP Executive Group.