

**Glasgow Community Planning Partnership****Calton Area Partnership****Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services****Contact: Lawrence O'Neill****Tel: 0141 287 4109****SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENAGAGEMENT – TRAINING PROPOSAL****Purpose of Report:**

This report sets out a proposal to provide a facilitated workshop for members of the Area Partnerships in the North East of Glasgow. This will examine approaches to community engagement, in particular around deliberative dialogue. In turn, this will support members to fulfill their role to facilitate consultation and wider involvement in the development of the Neighbourhood Management Action Plans and the North East Implementation Plan.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

1. note the contents of the report;
2. consider the proposal to provide a facilitated workshop in partnership with the remaining 5 Area Partnerships in the North East; and
3. advise of any specific elements/issues that it requests should be included as part of this session.

Ward No(s): 9,17,18,19,20 and 21 Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the establishment of the revised community planning structures, a training programme was proposed for Area Partnerships. This sought to ensure that appropriate training and development opportunities are made available to members. A draft outline programme was approved in April/May 2013 as a recommended list of possible training. It was agreed that each Area Partnership could identify further training and development needs as it considered appropriate.
- 1.2 The initial programme included a proposal to undertake training on community engagement. In particular this sought to examine the 'purpose and function of community engagement and what this means in practice, demonstrating how community engagement can help influence and shape service delivery'.
- 1.3 The Area Partnerships in the North East have the opportunity to undertake tailored training around participatory practices in community engagement. It is intended that this can then be used to facilitate the wider involvement of North East residents in the development of both the Neighbourhood Management Action Plans and the various elements of the Implementation Plan.

2. Delivering Support for Community Engagement

- 2.1 The Glasgow Learning Partnership has recently allocated some limited funding to the CPP Community Engagement Stakeholders Group. This funding is specifically to provide Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities that will develop skills and expertise in participatory practice within community planning partners across the city. This opportunity is part of a Community Learning and Development (CLD) workforce development programme funded by Education Scotland and will be delivered in conjunction with Glasgow Life.
- 2.2 A fundamental part of the revised approach to community engagement is to ensure community planning partners can develop and sustain approaches that support meaningful engagement.
- 2.3 The new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) guidance on community engagement and community capacity building advised the new SOAs should demonstrate that:
 - Activity on community engagement, and on building the capacity of communities to engage and deliver for themselves SOAs, is properly planned, resourced, integrated and measured;
 - Key staff has the skills and knowledge required to engage effectively with communities.

2.4 This CPD approach aims to consistently help prepare and support community planning partners to develop new skills and approaches to identifying local needs through a process of deliberative dialogue.

2.5 This term describes an ever growing range of methods for community planning partners to engage with and learn from communities. Participatory practices offer opportunities to go beyond consultation and promote the active participation of communities in the issues and interventions that shape their lives. In particular the CPD will focus on:

Deliberative Methods - these aim to involve the public in decision-making in meaningful ways. They provide opportunities for citizens to find out more about issues that matter to them; consider relevant evidence, discuss this evidence with other participants, present their views, and influence public policy decisions. Examples include: deliberative polls, citizen juries, community mapping and consensus conferences.

2.6 Advantages of Deliberative Methods

- Provide a platform for specialists and lay people to discuss and debate issues together;
- Provide opportunities for the public to consider different options and make more informed decisions than is possible from traditional consultation methods;
- Help the public engage with the more complex issues;
- Attempt to recruit representative groups of the public. They have the potential to gain insight from a more considered group of citizens than traditional consultation methods – which tend to attract the already politically engaged;
- Provide more detailed understanding than conventional surveys;
- Can create dialogue/engagement with citizens over a long period of time;
- Can provide policy makers with an understanding about how the public might change their opinion and/or behaviours if provided with relevant information.

2.7 These methods can however be time consuming and resource intensive and are partly dependent upon the information from policymakers being communicated clearly and in a manner that will not bias the outcome.

2.8 This CPD seeks to achieve a number of key outputs. These are:

- Provide one workshop on public dialogue and deliberation in each of the 3 sector CPPs for managers and practitioners. We aim to involve a minimum of 50 participants across the 3 sector.
- Follow this up by providing 2 x half day skills training sessions for practitioners and community representatives from the 3 sector CPP and identified Area Partnerships.
- We aim to involve a minimum of 15 participants (5 from each sector)

- Evaluate the impact of the sessions and use this to inform future CPD plans to support effective community engagement in community planning.
- Make learning materials and feedback from the session accessible on the national CLD platform [i-develop](#)

2.9 By delivering on these outputs, it is intended that the following outcomes will be achieved:

- Community planning partners gain understanding of and experience of deliberative approaches to engagement;
- Partners are better placed to implement these approaches in order to support the objective of engaging in dialogue with communities;
- Community planning partners are better placed to contribute to the CPP's community engagement strategy.

3. North East Proposal

3.1 It is proposed that a joint workshop is held for all members of each of the six Area Partnerships in the North East (output 1). This will raise awareness and understanding across the Area Partnerships of the methodologies utilised in deliberative dialogue. It will enable members to consider how best they can use these to assist them to achieve their individual Area Partnership and organisational work plans and to influence at a Sector and city Partnership level.

3.2 Officers have begun to scope out potential options for the delivery of this workshop. This includes facilitation by leading practitioners in this field. However, in order to ensure that this opportunity is as useful as possible, input from Area Partnerships is sought to finalise the content.

3.3 Members are therefore requested to discuss and feed back their views on this proposal and on any specific issues/approaches that they wish to include.

3.4 It is proposed that this workshop session will take place in late September / early October 2014. This will allow time for the detail of the workshop to be finalized following input from all six of the North East Area Partnerships.

3.5 The North West Area Partnerships are piloting this approach in June 2014 and we will then follow this pilot in the North East following any feedback as per 3.3 above and the recommendations below.

4. Council Strategic Plan Implications

Economic Impact: None

Sustainability: None

Financial: None

Legal: None

Personnel: None

Sustainable Procurement and Article 19: None

5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested to

- (1) note the contents of the report;
- (2) consider the proposal to provide a facilitated workshop in partnership with the remaining 5 Area Partnerships in the North East; and
- (3) advise of any specific elements/issues to be included as part of this facilitated workshop.