



Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing & planning Committee Community Planning Inquiry

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only: England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee's inquiry into Community Planning is seeking views. The inquiry forms part of the Committee's scrutiny of the Community Empowerment Act 2015. In particular the inquiry is exploring what the impact of Part 2 of the Act has been on Community Planning, and how Community Planning Partnerships respond to significant events such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis.

You can respond to the inquiry by visiting:

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/lghp/community-planning-inquiry/>

There are two different ways to respond, both live until 30 December 2022.

The call for views is aimed at members of Community Planning Partnerships (organisations or individuals) and asks a number of detailed questions about how partnerships operate:

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/lghp/1b154968/>

The survey is shorter and is aimed at other organisations or individuals who have an interest

in community planning:

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/lghp/7160f5f4/>

1.0 Introduction

The aim of Community Planning, is to improve how organisations such as local government, health boards and the police work together with other partners to improve local outcomes in an area. Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) can be found in every local authority and look to identify priorities and share resources to deliver services for people.

The introduction of [Part 2 of the Community Empowerment Act \(2015\)](#) changed how community planning is delivered by CPPs. The 2015 Act 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)
- review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.

The purpose of this inquiry is to examine the impact of the Act on Community Planning and how CPPs respond to significant events such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the current cost of living crisis.

2.0 Call for View Questions

The call for view questions are outlined below:

1. What action has been taken at a local level to improve community participation and collaboration between partners since the requirements of the 2015 Act came into force? Can you provide examples of success?
2. What progress has your CPP made in tackling inequalities since the 2015 Act? To what extent has your CPP adopted a preventative approach in seeking to tackle inequalities? Can you provide examples of success? How are you responding to the current cost-of-living crisis?
3. How have Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and locality plans reduced inequalities? Can you provide examples?
4. What are the challenges faced by CPPs to the effective planning and delivery of their outcomes? How has the Act changed how community planning partners deliver their services?
5. What role did your CPP have in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic? What has the legacy of the pandemic been to approaches to community planning?
6. Does the existing guidance for Community Planning Partnerships need to be updated?
7. How does community planning align with other strategies and planning requirements?
8. Do partners in your CPP contribute resources to enable the delivery of outcomes?
9. Whether inclusion as a planning partner has changed the way your organisation works, spends its budget and makes decisions?
10. Does the statutory membership of Community Planning Partnerships need revisiting?

3.0 Shorter Survey Questions

The shorter survey questions are outlined below:

If you are not familiar with Community Planning Partnerships you will be asked:

- What are the biggest challenges facing your local area and how are public bodies, including your local authority, addressing these?
- How well does your local authority work with your community to improve services and the local area more generally?
- How would you describe public services in your local area compared to 10 years ago?

If you are familiar with Community Planning Partnerships you will be asked:

- Have you been involved in the work of your local Community planning Partnership? If yes, what has been your experience of participating?
- Are you aware of your area's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans? If yes, what impact do you think the Plans have had?
- In your view, do locality plans focus on and support those areas in your council area needing the most support?
- What involvement has the broader community had in developing Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and locality plans?
- Have opportunities to engage with community planning partnerships improved in recent years?
- Has community planning contributed to a reduction in inequalities in your local area in recent years?
- Are you aware of any data sources which allow you to see whether outcomes in your local area have improved over time?
- What are the biggest challenges facing your local area and how are public bodies, including your local authority, addressing these?

4.0 APSE Comment

APSE encourages our members to respond to the above Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee's inquiry into community planning. This will ensure that local authorities' opinions and experiences are taken into consideration as part of the collated views into the impact of the Act and the response by CPPs in relation to Covid-19 and the current cost of living crisis. The deadline for responding is 30 December 2022, so please make sure to submit your responses by then.

Through our training suite, advisory groups, research programmes and benchmarking service, membership of APSE can bring significant benefits to those who work in local government – from officers to directors to elected members to chief executives – by helping them comprehensively get to grips with the latest policy and technological developments. Not a member? [Sign up today!](#)

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