Community Planning Update

Committee  Strategy & Programmes

Date of meeting  28 March 2014  Date of report  4 March 2014

Report by  Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

1. Object of report

To inform the Committee of recent further advice to Community Planning Partnerships, on the Scottish Government and COSLA Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing. The letter is attached at Appendix 1 for information.

2. Background

2.1 Members will recall that at its meeting on 11 October 2013\(^1\) a report was submitted noting the publication of a Scottish Government and COSLA Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing. The Agreement places expectations on Community Planning Partners, including Regional Transport Partnerships, to share budget and resource planning assumptions and deploy resources towards jointly agreed SOA priorities. In particular, Community Planning Partners would be required to:

- Ensure the SOA is the focal point for planning and deployment of resources;
- Share budget, investment and resource planning information at an early stage in the decision-making process;
- Agree how total resources can most effectively be deployed and aligned between partners to achieve SOA outcomes; and,
- Demonstrate commitment and adherence to the Agreement with CPPs through final budget documents, delivery plans and accountability arrangements.

2.2 The Agreement does not replace or override formal governance and accountability arrangements such as those of SPT. At the time of the Agreement, the Scottish Government indicated it would provide further guidance on implementing the Agreement.

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\(^1\) See http://www.spt.co.uk/corporate/about/minutes-agendas/strategy-programmes-committee
3. Outline of proposals

3.1 The Chair of the National Community Planning Group (NCPG) has subsequently written to Chairs of Community Planning Partnerships on 17 January 2014 providing further advice from the NCPG on the roll-out of the Agreement.

3.2 In the letter, the NCPG calls for substantial further progress in the years ahead to align resources towards SOA priorities and requests that officials should examine the barriers to progress highlighted by some CPPs.

3.3 In particular, the NCPG highlight the challenge of disaggregating partner resources against particular outcomes, priorities and/or geographical areas. It agreed that this kind of detailed technical work can add value but the NCPG did not want CPPs to get tied up or slowed down in an overly technical approach which seeks to identify and attribute every “pound, shilling and pence”.

3.4 As noted in the report to Committee of 11 October 2013, SPT Transport Outcome Reports (TORs) provide a robust framework to meet the requirements of the Agreement. TORs provide a breakdown of SPT’s financial resource allocation for each local authority area linked to SOA outcomes.

3.5 SPT will continue to work with CPPs as appropriate processes are developed in line with the Agreement on Joint Resourcing and will reflect this in refreshed TORs for 2014/15.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The Scottish Government and COSLA’s Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning places expectations on CPPs, local government, the NHS and public bodies, including RTPs, to share budget and resource planning assumptions and work together to deploy resources towards agreed SOA priorities. In the recent letter attached at Appendix 1 however, the NCPG make clear that this should not involve CPPs adopting an overly-technical approach to this process.

4.2 SPT officers will continue to work with CPPs as the Agreement is progressed and will reflect this in TORs for 2014/15. Further updates will be provided to the Committee as this process develops.

5. Committee action

The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

6. Consequences

Policy consequences  SPT’s policies and plans require to align with the respective SOAs across the SPT area.

Legal consequences  SPT has a statutory requirement to participate in and support Community Planning.

Financial consequences  SPT resources are required to demonstrate alignment with SOA outcomes.

Personnel consequences  None

Social Inclusion consequences  SPT supports the outcomes of CPPs’ SOAs.
Risk consequences

SPT has a statutory obligation to support Community Planning and must demonstrate an evidence based approach to meeting SOA outcomes.

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Title  Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)  Title  Chief Executive

For further information, please contact Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy and Planning on 0141 333 3740.
To: Chairs of Community Planning Partnerships

Copy: Members of the National Community Planning Group
Local authority and NHS Chief Executives
CPP Leads

Dear Colleagues

As we enter 2014 I thought it would be helpful to take stock of our collective progress on community planning over the last year and to update you on the most recent meeting of the National Community Planning Group.

I am sure you will agree that 2013 was an extremely busy and productive year on the community planning front. I know that all CPPs and their partner organisations have put considerable time and effort into making progress on the Statement of Ambition and would like to thank you for that work. I believe it is beginning to pay dividends in terms of partners’ commitment to joint working; the development and delivery of new Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) and associated Development Plans; lessons from the Accounts Commission’s audit of CPPs; and progress on the Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing.

At our meeting on 11 December 2013 the National Group discussed joint resourcing and the 3rd sector’s role in community planning. The papers for that meeting can be found here and a note of the meeting will be put on the website over the next few weeks.

The Group was grateful for the updates on joint resourcing provided by each CPP and encouraged by the examples of progress they provided. Nonetheless, the Group expects CPPs to make substantial further progress for 2015-16 and emphasised that even once budgets for 2014-15 have been set there is further work that CPPs and their partners should do in-year to align resources towards SOA priorities. In terms of action, the Group therefore agreed that:

- Officials should examine the barriers to progress highlighted by some CPPs; and that
A small number of senior officials from across partners/CPPs should help define some key practical milestones for implementation of the Agreement by CPPs in 2014-15 and future years.

The Group also discussed the challenge, highlighted by some CPPs, of disaggregating partner resources against particular outcomes, priorities and/or areas. It agreed that this kind of detailed technical work can add value but did not want CPPs to get tied up or slowed down in an overly technical approach which seeks to identify and attribute every pound, shilling and pence.

On the role of the third sector, the Group agreed that there were three broad areas where Government, CPPs, individual partners and the Third Sector should focus national and local improvement efforts:

- enhancing the role of the Third Sector in helping to shape and influence community planning priorities and actions;
- enabling small community and voluntary groups to thrive and contribute – and connecting people and services with those groups; and
- improving approaches to commissioning and procurement.

I encourage you to consider these issues from your own CPP’s perspective. For its part, the National Group has asked officials to look in detail at the current state of play across those three areas and the key characteristics of good practice with a view to identifying how the Group, Government, CPPs and individual partners can help maximise the potential of the third sector to improve people’s lives.

I trust this update is useful and look forward to working with you over the coming year.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter to members of your CPP.

Yours sincerely

Pat Watters, CBE
Chair, National Community Planning Group