

EX29. Community Empowerment Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on the work to ensure the Council fulfilled its obligations set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

It was expected that each community planning partnership would develop a Local Outcomes and Improvement Delivery Plan and adopt a model of locality planning. To deliver this the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership had agreed a framework for delivery of locality planning that linked the need to deliver on strategic priorities with the needs of local communities. This work had been initiated in the east area. Locality planning would be rolled out to the west area in September and then to the centre in April 2019.

A community action planning process would be carried out in the Grangemouth area, which would start with a community conference in June 2018. The conference would feed back to the community on the findings of the consultation and engagement work which had been undertaken and seek to identify issues of importance to the community going forward.

The Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership was developing integrated locality structures. It was proposed that where practicable joint community engagement and locality planning was undertaken to maximise the opportunities for communities to co-design and co-produce local activity and services.

Work was being progressed in relation to participatory budgeting, with a further report to be presented later in the year. Specific pieces of work being carried out in relation to participatory budgeting included:-

- articulating what the options for participatory budgeting in Falkirk could be in order to ensure the achievement of 1% of budget being subject to meaningful participatory budgeting prior to 2020
- determining which budgets have a locality focus and therefore could potentially be subject to some form of locality decision making. This could include budgets such as parks and open spaces maintenance, and small grants
- working up options on how to encourage communities to become involved in decision making on budgets
- identifying how other public sector partners can engage in this.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the work being undertaken on locality planning in the east and the plans to roll this out across the District;**

- (2) noted that locality planning will be aligned and undertaken where practical with the Health and Social Care Partnership to improve health and wellbeing outcomes;**
- (3) agreed that a report outlining options on the approach to Participatory Budgeting is presented later in the year and in time for any decisions to be taken at the meeting of the budget in 2019 and;**
- (4) agreed that a consultative draft Community Food Growing Strategy be presented for consideration in autumn 2018.**