

ABERDEENSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE REVIEW

1 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board: -

1.1 Agree the proposed Community Planning Partnership governance arrangements.

2 Discussion

- 2.1 The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership current governance arrangements have been in place for several years and in March 2016 this Board agreed to a review of the arrangements (current arrangements attached at appendix 3) in recognition that the role of the Community Planning Partnership is changing. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the Act) supersedes all other legislation, guidance or statements of ambition in relation to community planning. Community planning now has a clear statutory purpose focused on improving outcomes. It is explicitly about how public bodies work together, and with the local community, to plan for, resource and provide services which improve local outcomes in the local authority area, all with a view to reducing inequalities.
- 2.2 The Act specifically requires the CPP 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); and
 - review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.
- 2.3 A cross-partner review group has undertaken a range of work over the past 12 months, exploring current community planning arrangements, experience and expectations locally and nationally and considering good practice elsewhere within other CPPs. The views of a range of stakeholders were captured via surveys, focus groups and interviews. The work undertaken with the Board by What Works Scotland was also taken into consideration.
- 2.4 In summary, the persistent themes were lack of connection between strategic/ Board and local community planning/delivery; ability for Board to influence/ understand local challenges and opportunities (and vice versa); too many

groups for partners to effectively support and take active participation; and perceived pace of change and demonstrable impact.

- 2.5 Further to discussion by the Board in March and June 2017, it is proposed to structure the governance arrangements for the CPP and community planning in Aberdeenshire primarily on the legislative requirements of the Act. This will ensure the CPP is focused on reducing inequality by adding value to the specific partnership arrangements that are best placed to deliver improvements in relation to the evidenced based outcomes identified in the LOIP and through the locality planning arrangements. The proposed structure is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.6 The structure encompasses a Board, an Executive of Chief Officers from those partners with a defined statutory lead for ensuring the CPP carries out the functions as defined by the Act as well as the Third Sector Interface (Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action) and a strategic lead partnership group for each of the three LOIP priorities.
- 2.7 Previously CPP Partners and the Board have expressed a preference to avoid creating new partnership groups to lead or deliver on the LOIP priorities where feasible in appreciation of the existing range of formal and informal partnership working arrangements in place across Aberdeenshire that will have governance arrangements that may currently include an accountability or reporting link through to the CPP Board. Suggested strategic partnership groups that could be considered to lead the delivery of the LOIP priorities are:

Priority	Proposed Strategic Lead Partnership
Changing Aberdeenshire's Relationship with Alcohol	Aberdeenshire Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP)
Reducing Child Poverty	Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Group
Connected & Cohesive Communities	Aberdeenshire Learning Communities Partnership

- 2.8 The remit of the Strategic Lead Partnership would be to:
- Monitor progress on delivery of the improvement actions;
 - Prevent and address barriers to enable collective partnership support and resource for the LOIP priority;
 - Provide advice, guidance and direction as appropriate to support delivery of the actions; and
 - Review the actions and outcomes associated with the LOIP priority periodically and agree amendments as appropriate;
- 2.9 The Chair of each Strategic Lead Partnership (or delegated as appropriate) would be an advisor to the CPP Executive. Through the Chair, the Strategic Lead Partnership would also present regular performance monitoring reports to the CPP Board.
- 2.10 If endorsed by the Board, further discussion would be undertaken with the Chair of each proposed Strategic Lead Partnership to confirm agreement and further develop existing membership and terms of reference as appropriate.

- 2.11 The proposed structure connects strategic and regional direction directly with very local needs and aspirations, primarily through the Connected & Cohesive Communities priority within the proposed Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. There is an expectation that the CPP has a strong understanding of its local areas, including differing needs, circumstances and opportunities for communities (geographical and communities of interest) within its area and that this understanding is built on appropriate data and evidence from partners and community perspectives flowing from effective community engagement. The strategic lead group for this priority will have a remit to fulfil this understanding and it is anticipated this will be supported by local community planning arrangements that will enable partners to continue to come together, as required, to identify, understand and respond to local issues.
- 2.12 Reflecting the decision by the Board in March 2017 to undertake a locality planning approach in Banff & Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead initially, there will be locality partnership groups aligned to the Connected & Cohesive Communities priority to support and facilitate the locality planning arrangements.
- 2.13 It is recognised that working in partnership does not necessarily need to be 'badged' as 'community planning' or be mandated through the Community Planning Partnership structure to provide a legitimacy to the partnership or the delivery of the priorities it is working towards. Whilst the Scottish Government rightly advocates the spirit of partnership that the CPP engenders, it does not require all partnership working that involves any of the CPP partners to be governed through the CPP. Evidence shows that partnerships work best when non-mandated and can develop and deliver through the right level of governance and accountability.
- 2.14 Partnership working has been embedded in Aberdeenshire for a long time and it enables progress towards delivery of the key outcomes and priorities that agencies, singly and together, are looking to achieve with and for communities. By recognising that partnership working is the norm within Aberdeenshire and enabling partnerships to come together formally or informally for the short, medium or long-term residents and communities will continue to see a focus for the public, private and third sector to work towards the aspiration of achieving the "best quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire". The diversity of partnership working is highlighted at Appendix 2. Although not exhaustive the 'constellation' demonstrates a breadth of partnerships with a range of appropriate governance arrangements - effectively community planning in action.
- 2.15 To provide assurance to the Board that the proposed governance arrangements, if agreed, would not be outwith the expectations of Scottish Government, an informal discussion has taken place with the Community planning & Empowerment Unit. The proposals were favourably received with an indication that progressive CPPs are moving towards an executive leadership approach, reflecting the principles of Christie and the sharp focus of the Board, LOIP and the proposed arrangements are a positive reflection of the strong partnership arrangements in Aberdeenshire.

- 2.16 The intention would be to introduce the arrangements immediately on approval with any necessary development support and guidance offered to enable active governance at each level.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Board can take a decision on this item in terms of Section P in Part 2A of Aberdeenshire Council's Scheme of Governance as the committee responsible for conducting the process of community planning in the area.

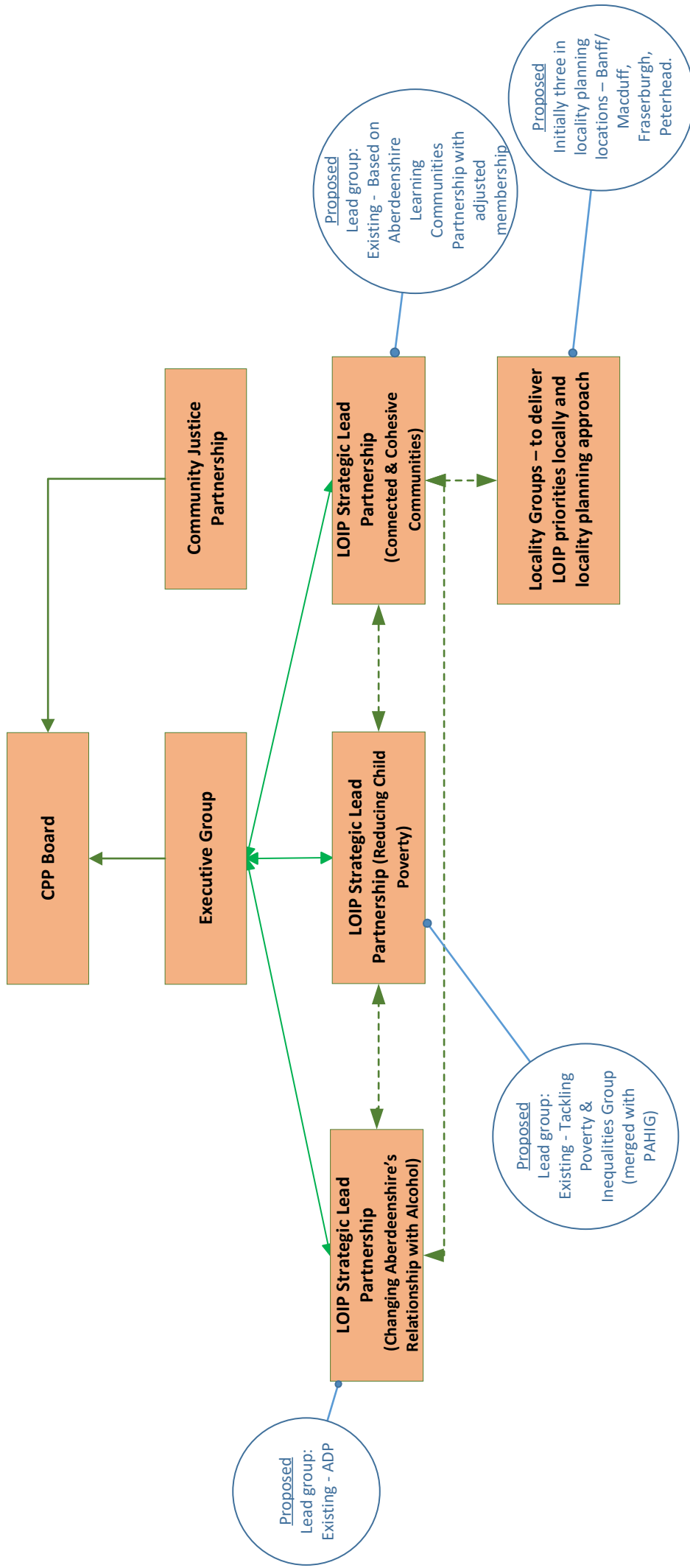
4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken on the proposed governance arrangements and there is not a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no specific staffing or resource implications arising directly from this report.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:
- Working with other organisations (e.g. supply chains, outsourcing and partnership working) mitigated through the Partnership Policy & Partnership Risk Registers; and
 - Social risk (e.g. population changes, demographic changes, crime, anti-social behaviour) mitigated through the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and CPP arrangements.

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4 September 2017
CPPReviewReportToCPPBoardSeptember2017



Locality Groups

A range of locality groups currently exist:

- Local Community Planning Groups (6)
- Local Community Safety Groups (7)
- Regeneration Partnerships (4)
- Local Community Learning Partnerships (17)
- GIRFEC local groups (17)

It is proposed to enable local partnership groups, for example the LCPGs, to continue in an arrangement that works locally without needing the formal governance structure of CPP to support or direct.

For the purposes of locality planning (as defined by the Act) there will initially be three locality groups. These ideally could be based existing locality groups – for example the Local Community Planning Group, Local Community Learning Partnerships, enhanced with partners as required, as this would allow other locality groups (as required through compliance with the Act to have locality plans in any localities where outcomes are poorer than other parts of Aberdeenshire or Scotland) to come on stream as required without necessarily creating new groups. It is also suggested that the Regeneration Partnerships have a relationship with the Connected & Cohesive Communities LOIP Lead Group as these regeneration partnerships are integral to the locality planning approach in the three locality planning areas of Banff/Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

The Locality groups will be supported through the Connected & Cohesive Communities Strategic Lead Partnership and the Chairs of the locality groups being advisors to the Executive. There will be reporting directly to the Board. There will also be a relationship to the all LOIP Strategic Lead Partnership groups to enable both the local and strategic arrangements to direct, and be directed by, effectively. Chairs of locality groups should ideally be Chief Officer or Service Manager equivalent.

LOIP Strategic Lead Partnership

These groups are existing groups albeit (for Connected & Cohesive) with adjustments to membership as required. The groups will be governed by the Executive with Chairs of the groups being advisors to the Executive. The groups will report directly to the Board. Chair should be Chief officer equivalent (Head of Service equiv)

Currently the Community Safety Partnership has a reporting relationship with the Board in relation to a lead role for a SOA priority. It is suggested that a review of the governance arrangements for the Community Safety Partnership should be undertaken to confirm future governance arrangements.

Executive

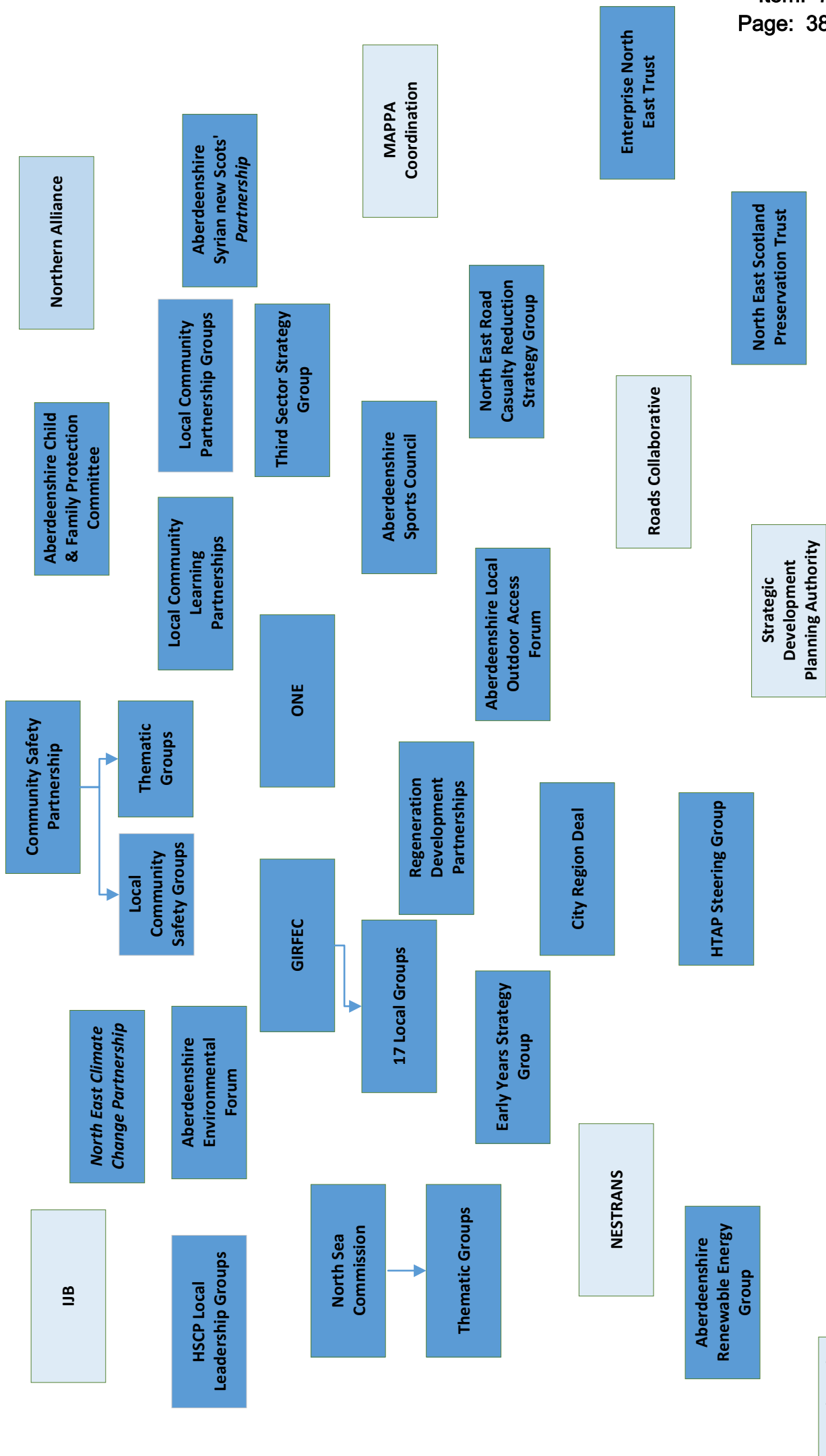
It is proposed this is a Chief Officer level group with the five lead statutory partners and third sector interface represented. Rotate Chair over 2 year period.

Board

It is proposed this has representation from the relevant Board governing the partner or the most senior paid officer in the area (to allow for national partners to be effectively represented) The Executive will advise the Board. The Board will primarily meet as the five lead statutory partners and third sector interface with all other statutory partners invited and attending as appropriate.

Partnership constellation – any of these partnerships can link through to a LOIP priority group as required to highlight opportunities or potential future

Partnerships 'Constellation' - excludes any groupings suggested as leading LOIP priorities
Not exhaustive



Legislatively defined

Locally defined

Appendix 3

