

## **3c Community Empowerment/ Community Planning**

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### **o Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update Board members on the Community Empowerment Bill, its impact for Community Planning and implications for Nestrans.

### **o Background**

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill received Royal Assent in July 2015. It is thought that it is likely to come into effect around July 2016. Nestrans had agreed a joint RTP response to the Bill as it progressed through Parliament.

The Act provides a statutory framework and purpose for Community Planning focused on improving outcomes. It places Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) on a statutory footing and gives specific duties to CPP's around improving local priority outcomes and acting with a view to tackling inequalities of outcome across communities. In particular CPP's are required to:

- Prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement;
- Identify which geographical areas have communities that experience the poorest outcomes and to prepare and publish annual Locality Plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities;
- Review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and Locality Plans and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.

RTP's have an existing statutory duty to engage in Community Planning under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005.

As a regional strategic transport authority, it is anticipated that the majority of Nestrans' future input and activity will relate to its general role as a Community Planning Partner. Nestrans will have a duty to work collaboratively with other partners in carrying out Community Planning; to take account of LOIP's in carrying out its own functions; to contribute such funds, staff and other resources as the CPP considers appropriate to improve local outcomes in the LOIP; and to secure participation of community bodies in Community Planning.

These specific duties will be taken into account in the ongoing work and development of the Delivery Plan associated with the Regional Transport Strategy refresh.

### **o Presentation to Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership**

Nestrans, as a Community Planning Partner, and the Director as a Board Member, attended an Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership event which included a presentation by Colin Mair, the Director of the Improvement Service.

Whilst a significant part of the event was in the gathering of data and the use of that data in determining priorities, part of the event was in describing the new duties for CPP's and hence their partners.

There was some discussion on the development of the Local Output Improvement Plans (LOIP) with a general direction towards overall improvement, there needed to be a specific focus on the areas of the CPP which experienced poorer outcomes. This implied fewer priority outcomes, but a greater focus on achieving those outcomes.

There is also a duty on all public sector bodies to enable and resource community participation. There was some discussion on the ability of communities to participate in the re-shaping of services to meet local requirements. Interestingly, in this context the definition of “community” wasn’t limited to a geographical community but included communities of interest.

The presentation also include some advice on community control of land and buildings although as Nestrans hold none of these assets this won’t apply. Nestrans will however have to publish a list of its land and buildings; in our case a nil return.

### • **Recommendation**

The Board is recommended to:

- a) Note the passing of the Community Empowerment Act;
- b) Note the new duties placed on Nestrans taking into account Local Output Improvement Plans, once these are developed.

RGM / 19 November 2015