

Strategy -

3e Community Planning in Aberdeen City

- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on proposed amendments to the arrangements and structures for Community Planning in Aberdeen City.

- Background

Nestrans are a Member of the Aberdeen City Alliance (TACA), Aberdeen City's Community Planning Partnership. Being a member of TACA permits Nestrans to fulfil its statutory functions in relation to Community Planning in Aberdeen City.

TACA have for some time been considering its structures and ways of operating. There has been concern that TACA has a large membership and that meetings needed to be reviewed to improve decision making. There has also been consideration of the structures feeding into the TACA process, the Challenge forums, of which NETCF has been the Transport and Connections Forum.

- Discussion

TACA had commissioned a report from EKOS to examine their structures and methods of operation. This report made a number of recommendations, principal of which was to streamline TACA itself to try and ensure that decision making was simplified and that the Board was attended by the appropriate people to assist in this decision making and taking back those decisions to the appropriate partners.

This report had recommended that TACA be replaced by a smaller board which would be called the Strategic Co-ordinating Group consisting of the following members:

The Leader of Aberdeen City Council
The Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council
The Chief Executive of NHS Grampian
The Chief Constable
The Chief Fire Officer
The Chief Executive of Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations
A representative from economic development (to be agreed by ACSEF)
The Chair of Aberdeen Civic Forum

Nestrans, with support from Scottish Enterprise and the Alcohol and Drugs partnership raised the issue that if this Strategic Co-ordinating Group was to replace TACA then there was no mechanism that would allow Nestrans to fulfil its statutory duty to participate in Community Planning. There was some discussion on this with concern from other non-statutory Community Planning partners about their ability to influence the decisions of the new Strategic Co-ordinating Group.

Nestrans had expressed some sympathy with the objectives of the report in trying to produce a simpler more focussed Board where decisions would be easier to make and simpler to implement and suggested that if the members of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group were responsible for including views of the statutory partners in their sphere of

operations (in Nestrans case the economic development representative) as part of their agreement to be members of the group this might satisfy the requirement to participate in Community Planning and also maintain Nestrans ability to comment on and influence decisions of the Strategic Co-ordinating Steering Group.

TACA had agreed to form the Strategic Co-ordinating Steering Group and ask it to consider these issues and to report back to a subsequent TACA meeting before final decisions would be taken. The Group met on 16 May 2011 and decided:

The Strategic Group resolved:-

- (i) to support the retention of the wider body (currently the Alliance) with the status of Community Planning Partnership; that this be renamed "Community Planning Aberdeen" and should meet 2 or 3 times per year, with the following streamlined membership:-*
 - *The eight members of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group;*
 - *The three partners with a statutory duty – Nestrans, Scottish Enterprise, and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership;*
 - *A business representative from the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce;*
 - *Aberdeen University;*
 - *Robert Gordon University;*
 - *Aberdeen College;*
 - *Two Aberdeen City Councillors; and*
 - *One community representative; and**that the operation of Community Planning Aberdeen be reviewed after one year;*
- (ii) in line with resolution (i) above, that that Aberdeen City Community Planning Strategic Co-ordinating Group be renamed "Community Planning Aberdeen Board"*
- (iii) that Community Planning Aberdeen be the Community Planning Partnership for the city and that the Community Planning Aberdeen Board be located structurally underneath this, however that it be requested that the Partnership delegate authority to the Board to progress the priorities and make decisions on a more frequent basis and that the constitution of the Partnership be drafted on this basis;*
- (iv) to support the proposed structure detailed at (4) above, and demonstrated diagrammatically in the appendix to the minute, subject to the inclusion of the decisions detailed above; that the groups focusing on the 5 priorities be called thematic groups and not Challenge Forums; and that officers contact the existing Challenge Forums to ask them to indicate where they could add value under the five themed priorities, and to discuss their future;*
- (v) to agree that on the basis of the establishment of the above structure, the concerns from the three statutory partners not on the Strategic Co-ordinating Group were removed;*
- (vi) to support the proposal that the arrangements for the Fairer Scotland Fund continue as at present and that the delegation of power to the Fairer Scotland Fund Board be included in the draft constitution; and*
- (vii) to request officers to prepare a report presenting the structure and detailing the remit, role and responsibilities of each of the layers within the structure and the lines of communication between each for consideration at the Community Planning Aberdeen Board and also at the Alliance meeting on 23 June, 2011; and that thereafter a constitution be drafted on that basis, and further information on the operation of the thematic groups be developed in conjunction with the existing Challenge Forums.***

Therefore the proposal now has Nestrans as a member of the Community Planning Partnership (now titled Community Planning Aberdeen) with a voice to the actioning group the Community Planning Aberdeen Board through the economic development representative who will have a duty to consult with Nestrans.

- Recommendation

The Board is recommended to note the discussions at TACA and agree that Nestrans accepts the proposed changes at the TACA meeting on 23 June 2011.

RGM/20 May 2011