

**The Highland Council**  
**Lochaber Area Committee**  
**26 August 2014**

Agenda Item	<b>10</b>
Report No	<b>LA/27/14</b>

## **Communities Panel Development**

### **Report by Head of Policy and Reform**

#### **Summary**

The report summarises the approach to developing the Council's new Communities Panel. Members are asked to note the report and suggest any other groups that should be invited to be part of the Communities Panel.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 It was agreed at the Council meeting on 8 May 2014, that a Communities Panel would be created. This panel would exist alongside the Citizens' Panel and be available for responding to survey based consultations.
- 1.2 The intention is that the Communities Panel be comprised of community groups across the Highlands. The approach for creating the Panel is outlined below.

#### **2. Communities Panel Approach**

- 2.1 The Communities Panel will be comprised of organisations across Highland. The following criteria are to be used when creating the Panel to ensure that the groups on the Panel represent a range of community interests across Highland communities:
  - All organisations must be community based, located within Highland and be constituted groups.
  - The majority of members of the group should consist of members of that community (that could be community of interest or geography).
  - Membership of the group should be open to any member of that community.
  - Any surplus funds or assets of the group are to be applied for the benefit of that community.
- 2.2 The groups invited to participate in the Panel will be asked to nominate a contact who will receive and respond to surveys on the group's behalf. Groups will be asked to consider how best to engage their membership when compiling any response.
- 2.3 There are a range of core organisations with which the Council currently engages and the intention is to write and invite each of these groups to be part of the Communities Panel. These are:
  - Community Councils
  - Parent Councils
  - Tenant Participation groups

- Representative equalities groups

In addition to the above, services have been contacted and requested to provide any additional nominations.

- 2.4 A further step has been to contact the Highland Third Sector Interface. They hold a database of community based organisational contacts and while they are unable to give us these contact details they will assist in distributing the invitation list to their contacts on our behalf.
- 2.5 Community Planning Partners have also been contacted for advice on groups to include. They will also be able to utilise the Communities Panel for consultation and engagement in the future.

### **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 An initial draft list of groups to invite to be part of the Panel within the Lochaber area is outlined at appendix 1. This includes groups specifically local to this area but also Highland wide groups that cover Lochaber. Members are asked to consider the list and provide details of any additional organisations you feel should be invited to participate in the panel. There will also be an opportunity to discuss this at Ward Business Meetings. The Panel is expected to grow over time as more groups participate and new community groups form.
- 3.2 The first focus for the Communities Panel will be responding to the second phase of the Council's Budget Consultation. This will consist of a survey based approach developed largely from the consultation responses to stage one and will have a focus on specific proposals. This second consultation phase will begin towards the end of September until November to enable firm budget proposals to be considered by Members from December 2014 onwards.
- 3.3 Although the Communities Panel will be used in the first instance for consultation on the budget setting process, the Panel will provide a useful tool for ongoing consultation and engagement with communities across Highland both on a pan-Highland but also local level for area-based consultations. It would also be available for CPP partner use and will be constructed with that in mind, i.e. data sharing/protection clarity.

### **4. Implications**

- 4.1 Resource – The Panel will be managed from within existing resources.
- 4.2 Legal – Appropriate consents in relation to data sharing will be obtained when constructing the panel.
- 4.3 Equalities – Organisations representing equalities groups will be invited to participate in the Panel and this will contribute to the Duty on the Council to advance equality (Equality Act 2010).
- 4.4 Rural – Groups will be invited from across the Highland area to ensure representation from remote and rural communities.
- 4.5 Climate Change/Carbon Clever – Environmental groups are amongst those to be invited to participate in the Panel.

4.6 Risk – Care will be taken to ensure that the Panel is representative of the Highland community.

4.7 Gaelic – groups with a focus on Gaelic will be invited to participate in the panel

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- Note the approach to developing the Communities Panel outlined at section 2.
- Consider and suggest additional representative groups to be included in the draft invitation list provided at Appendix 1.

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 11-8-14

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## Communities Panel Invitation List

Appendix 1

### Groups that cover Lochaber

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area / Ward indication</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area / Ward indication</b>
Lochaber Community Councils	Lochaber	Nevis Radio	Lochaber
Lochaber Parent Councils	Lochaber	Shopmobility Lochaber	Lochaber
Lochaber Village Hall Associations	Lochaber	SportLochaber	Lochaber
Lochaber Church Groups	Lochaber	Care Lochaber (Handyperson Scheme)	Lochaber
Lochaber Faith Groups	Lochaber	Voluntary Action Lochaber	Lochaber
Lochaber Local Amenities Groups	Lochaber	West Highland Museum	Lochaber
Development Trusts – various - tbc	Lochaber	The Highland Mountain Culture Association Ltd	Lochaber
Lochaber Pupil Councils (secondary schools) – to be arranged	Lochaber	Lochaber Friendship Group for the Visually Impaired	Lochaber
Lochaber CAB	Lochaber		
Lochaber Environment Group	Lochaber	Ealan nan Eilean/Island Arts	12
Lochaber Housing Association	Lochaber	Eigg Heritage Trust	12
Lochaber Geopark Association	Lochaber	Caol Regeneration Company	12
Lochaber Hope	Lochaber	Glenfinnan Museum	12
Lochaber Rural Education Trust	Lochaber	Isle of Muck Community Enterprise	12
Lochaber Transport Forum	Lochaber	Isle of Rum Community Trust	12
Lochaber Action on Disability	Lochaber	Kilmallie Hall	12
Action for Children Lochaber	Lochaber	Kilmallie Playgroup	12
Lochaber Community Car Scheme	Lochaber	Knoydart Foundation	12
Lochaber Deaf Care	Lochaber	Mallaig and District Community Transport Association	12
Lochaber Disability Access Panel	Lochaber	Morar Community Trust	12
		Spean Bridge Play Park and Amenities Group	12

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area / Ward indication</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area / Ward indication</b>
Abernethy Trust	22	Morvern Community Development Company	22
Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust	22	Morvern Community Transport Association	22
Ballachulish Community Association	22	Nevis Partnership	22
Feis nan Garbh Chriochan	22	Plantation Community Association	22
Kilchoan Community Centre Ltd	22	Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners	22
Kinlochleven Community Bus	22	Sustainable Ardgour	22
Kinlochleven Community Trust	22	Upper Achintore Regeneration Group	22
Linnhe Leisure Ltd	22	West Ardnamurchan Community Development Company	22
Lochleven Community Minibus Association	22		

### Highland wide groups that cover Lochaber – H

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area</b>
Advocacy Highland	H	Highland Skate Club	H
Age Concern Scotland	H	Highland Society for the Deaf	H
Albyn HA	H	Highland Youth Voice	H
Alzheimer Scotland (Regional Office)	H	Highlands and Islands Equality Forum	H
Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands	H	Highlands and Islands Theatre Network	H
Autism Rights Group Highland	H	Highlands and Islands Autism Society	H
Barnardo's	H	HUG - Action for Mental Health	H
Birchwood Highland	H	Kagyü Samyé Dzong Highlands	H
Blythswood	H	Key Community Support	H
British Deaf Association Scotland	H	Lead Scotland	H

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Area</b>
Brook Highland	H	Momentum	H
Cairn HA	H	Nansen Highland	H
Chinese Association SHIMCA	H	New Start Highland	H
CHIP+	H	North Highland Initiative	H
Community Transport Association	H	North Highland Tourism	H
Community Woodlands Association	H	North of Scotland Archaeological Society	H
Connecting Carers	H	Partnerships for Wellbeing	H
Contact The Elderly	H	People First Highland	H
Creativity in Care	H	Plan B Collaborative Theatre Ltd	H
Feisean nan Gaidheal	H	Poppy Scotland	H
Forest Education Initiative	H	Promoters Arts Network	H
Friendship Services	H	Ross-shire Waste Action Network (ROWAN)	H
Headway Highland	H	Safe, Strong and Free	H
Health & Happiness	H	Scottish Huntington's Association	H
Hearing and Sight Care	H	SHIRLIE Project	H
Highland Bangladeshi Association	H	Sight Action	H
Highland Buildings Preservation Trust	H	Support in Mind Scotland	H
Highland Business Women's Club	H	Swans of Scotland	H
Highland Developmental Co-ordination Disorders Group	H	TAG Highland	H
Highland Environment Network	H	The Highland Football Academy Trust	H
Highland Homeless Trust	H	The Highland-Russia Connection	H
Highland Indian Association	H	The National Autistic Society	H
Highland Islamic Education and Community Centre	H	Waverley Care	H
Highland LGBT Forum	H	Women@Work Project	H
Highland Multicultural Friends	H	Women's Aid	H
Highland Rainbow Folk	H	Youth Highland	H
Highland Senior Citizens Network	H	Highland Skate Club	