

Agenda Item	20
Report No	HC/35/17

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: The Highland Council

Date: 7 September 2017

Report Title: **Highland Outcome Improvement Plan – Consultation**

Report By: Acting Head of Policy

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment Act (2015) placed a new duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) to produce and publish a Local Outcome Improvement Plan. In Highland, the *Highland* Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP) will provide a long term vision for the Community Planning Partnership. It has been agreed that the HOIP will be focused and strategic in nature and targeted on activity that requires partnership action. The HOIP will not reflect everything that is done in partnership but will focus on tackling inequality and identifying areas for prevention work.
- 1.2 A draft HOIP has been produced by the CPP following engagement with communities and organisations across Highland. This document is now subject to a period of formal consultation and Members are asked for their views as part of this consultation process.
- 1.3 When reviewing the draft HOIP, Members are asked to consider the following:
- Does the plan identify the main risks, challenges and opportunities around tackling inequalities in Highland over the next 10 years?
 - Are the 5 key outcomes are the right ones to address inequality?
 - Are the cross-cutting themes the right ones to support delivery of the outcomes?
 - Are the priorities initially identified for action, the right areas in which to focus?

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- Consider and comment on the draft Highland Outcome Improvement Plan as part of the Community Planning Partnership's consultation process.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment Act (2015) placed a new duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) to produce and publish a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The LOIP will replace the current Single Outcome Agreement in each CPP area. Each LOIP will provide a vision and focus for the delivery of public services at a local level. It will be evidence based and be developed through the activity participation of communities and community bodies. Whilst the LOIP must be developed through the involvement with communities, there must be a separate period of formal consultation on the draft document.
- 3.2 It has been agreed by the CPP Board that in Highland a Highland Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP) will be developed. The HOIP is to provide a long term vision for the CPP and will be based on agreed local outcomes and provide a focus for achieving those priorities. The plan should include 10 year outcomes but also 1 year and 3 year milestones/actions to deliver against these outcomes
- 3.3 The HOIP is different from previous partnership plans. The CPP Board agreed that the HOIP will be focused and strategic in nature and targeted on activity that requires partnership action. The HOIP will not reflect everything that we do in partnership but will focus on tackling inequality and identifying areas for prevention work. The HOIP has been and will continue to be developed through the active participation of communities and community bodies.
- 3.4 Each CPP must have their LOIP in place by the beginning of October 2017.

4. Developing the HOIP

- 4.1 Early in 2017, work was undertaken to review partner activity, previous engagement work with communities and undertake further engagement with third sector organisations in order to identify key themes which would focus on tackling inequality and prevention. 5 key outcomes emerged from this work:
- Poverty – More people in Highland will live a life free from the experience of poverty
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing – People in Highland will benefit from good mental health and wellbeing
 - Transport – Fewer people in Highland experience transport as a barrier to accessing opportunities
 - Engagement – People in Highland will be more involved in decisions that affect their lives
 - Community Safety – People in Highland will benefit from living in stronger, safer and more resilient communities.
- 4.2 The CPP Board agreed to use these key outcomes to engage with communities on the development of the HOIP. Engagement would consider whether the outcomes were the right ones for Highland but also identify potential areas for action. Listening to communities on what is important to them would be crucial to developing an effective HOIP.
- 4.3 Between April and June 2017, 11 engagement workshops were held across Highland. Drawing together community groups, third sector organisations and

representatives from public sector bodies, these workshops asked participants to consider the draft outcomes agreed by the Board, what other potential outcomes should be considered and what areas for action could support the delivery of these outcomes. Alongside the workshops, a survey was distributed across the CPP network. This too sought views on the appropriateness of the proposed outcomes, the experience of people within communities and what actions could support the achievement of these outcomes. The feedback reports for each engagement workshop and the survey can be found here: www.highlandcpp.org.uk/hoip

4.4 Other agency specific work has also set to explore views on the outcomes and potential priority areas within these and this included a session with Highland Council Elected Members during June 2017.

4.5 Based upon the information gathered, a draft HOIP was developed and considered by the CPP Board in June 2017. Following this a version was agreed for formal consultation. The draft document accompanies this report.

5. The Draft HOIP

5.1 The draft HOIP has been structured to contain several key elements:

- Key outcomes
- Supporting cross-cutting themes
- Priorities for action
- Delivery Plan

The following provides a summary of each of the elements of the document.

5.2 **Key Outcomes**

The draft HOIP focuses on 5 key outcomes:

- Poverty Reduction
 - More people in Highland will live a life free from the experience of poverty
- Community Participation and Dialogue
 - People in Highland will be more involved in decisions that affect their lives
- Infrastructure
 - Fewer people in Highland experience transport and digital connectivity as a barrier to accessing opportunities
- Community Safety and Resilience
 - People in Highland will benefit from living in stronger, safer and more resilient communities
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
 - People in Highland will benefit from good mental health and wellbeing

5.3 **Cross-Cutting Themes**

These outcomes are supported by 4 cross-cutting themes, which are critical to the delivery of all 5 key outcomes:

- Employability, employment and skills development – recognising the importance of providing economic opportunities to communities as a way of addressing inequality
- Community Investment and development – promoting inclusion and building strong communities

- Digital connectivity – ensuring communities have access to digital forms of communication providing economic opportunities locally but also improved access to services
- Equality – recognising that certain groups within our communities are more likely to experience inequality than others.

5.4 **Priorities**

Feedback from the engagement process highlighted a range of issues and areas which people reported would support the delivery of the key outcomes. Based upon this feedback three or four priority areas have been suggested to support the delivery of each key outcome. Many of the areas suggested through the engagement process place communities at the heart of the solution or activity and propose a partnership approach.

5.5 **Delivery Plan**

The draft HOIP provides the overall structure and 10 year vision for the Partnership. It identifies key outcomes for the Partnership to focus on and priorities within each of these, which would support delivering the outcomes. To support the delivery of the HOIP, it has been agreed by the CPP Board that a Delivery Plan would be developed which would contain the actions and monitoring information required.

5.6 The HOIP will need to be reviewed on an annual basis to report on progress and update the short term actions. This will ensure that the plan is a live document and also ensure that the appropriate connections are made between it and the plans developed at a Community Partnership level.

6. **Next Steps**

6.1 The draft HOIP is currently out for consultation, seeking views on its direction, content and structure from communities, community organisations and partner organisations. As part of this process, Members are asked for their views on the draft plan. Members have been asked for their views individually but this is now an opportunity for the Council to provide feedback. Other partner organisations will also be doing this.

6.2 When considering feedback on the draft plan, it is suggested Members consider the following:

- Does the plan identify the main risks, challenges and opportunities around tackling inequalities in Highland over the next 10 years?
- Are the 5 key outcomes are the right ones to address inequality?
- Are the cross-cutting themes the right ones to support delivery of the outcomes?
- Are the priorities initially identified for action, the right areas in which to focus?

All feedback will be considered by the CPP when finalising the HOIP.

7. Implications

7.1 Resource – There are no direct resource implications in setting the strategic priorities for the HOIP. Changes in allocation of existing resources to deliver agreed priorities would be discussed and agreed at a later date through the development of the delivery plan.

Legal - The Council is one of the core partners responsible for leading on Community Planning.

Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - The focus of the HOIP is to tackle inequality across Highland. Equality, poverty and rural impact assessments will be undertaken on the final HOIP.

Climate Change/Carbon Clever - There are no Climate Change implications currently identified as part of the plan however one of the priority areas identified is tackling fuel poverty.

Risk – The CPP is required to produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan as outlined in the Community Empowerment Act. The Council is one of the core partners responsible for leading on Community Planning.

Gaelic - There are no Gaelic implications currently identified.

Designation: Acting Head of Policy

Date: 18-8-17

Author: Alison Clark (702512)

Background Papers: Draft Highland Outcome Improvement Plan