

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 3 JULY 2008

SUBJECT: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE THE MORAY COUNCIL

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to allow the Community Engagement Group to discuss and consider their role in the development of the 2009-2010 Single Outcome Agreement.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group considers and discusses their role in the monitoring of the existing Single Outcome Agreement and in the development of the 2009-10 Single Outcome Agreement.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its last meeting on 13th March 2008 the Community Planning Steering Group agreed (*para 6 of the minute refers*) to the revised structures of Community Planning in Moray. This included the establishment of a Community Planning Board to replace the Steering Group and a Community Engagement Strategic group to sit alongside the Board. That meeting also noted the introduction of the new framework of joint accountability between local and national Government was being developed through Single Outcome Agreement process
- 3.2 The Community Engagement Group will have to consider how it can assist the Partnership achieve its actions under National Outcome 15 "Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs".
- 3.3 Community Planning Strategic Theme groups will have a key role in monitoring and developing the SOA. Their actions will be determined by detailed Strategic Assessments which will be provided to each of the Strategic Theme groups and will contain evidence based information from the SOA and priorities from previous theme groups. There will be a consultation on the strategic assessments and this group needs to consider and advise the Partnership on how best this process can be carried out.
- 3.4 As part of an evidenced based approach to monitoring and to the development of the SOA, it is essential to use local contextual information with the views of both geographic and needs based

communities and to take account of the views of users. However partners need to discuss and agree its role in gathering and reporting that information.

- 3.5 The membership of the Community Engagement group will allow for the views of Community Councils, area forums, the voluntary sector and the business community to be heard directly however arrangements to gather intelligence from the wider community and service users need to be agreed by this group. The Citizens Panel, which is the subject of another paper to this meeting, provides one method of gathering the views of the public.
- 3.6 At the Community Planning Board on the 29 May 2008 it was agreed to appoint an Analyst for the Partnership funded through the Fairer Scotland Fund (*para 7 of the minute refers*). This post will assist the Partnership in monitoring the Single Outcome Agreement, the Fairer Scotland Fund and developing Strategic Assessments for the themes. This post will play a crucial role in bringing together quantitative data and the more qualitative information from the community engagement process to assist the partnership develop a more accurate picture of community issues, needs and priorities.
- 3.7 There are a number of questions that this group needs to address in order to ensure that the Partnership has an accurate picture of community issues, needs and priorities and that they are reflected in the SOA:
- What is the group's role in monitoring the SOA and how will this be carried out?
 - How will the group identify the needs and priorities of the Community?
 - When and how will this group report its findings to the Partnership and to its thematic groups?

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partners Plans

The Council in conjunction with its Community Planning Partners agreed to produce an SOA by the end of June 2008. The SOA agrees priorities for the Council and the Partnership. It is envisaged that the 2009 to 2010 SOA will be signed off by the Community Planning Partnership. The Community Engagement Group will have a key role in ensuring that the views of the Communities of Moray advise and influence the content of that SOA.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires that the Partnership engage with community bodies as part of the Community Planning Process. Developing Community

Engagement will contribute to the entire Single Outcome Agreement. It will contribute directly to meeting National Indicator 15 “Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs and directly to National Outcome 11 “We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.”

(c) Resources (financial, staffing and risks)

Resources to deliver against the SOA will be addressed through the theme groups, the partners and the Council. The Community Engagement group will assist in providing information to assist the monitoring of the existing SOA and will have a key role to produce an SOA in 2009-10. The risk of not providing accurate contextual information provided by communities and users could result in inefficient delivery of services.

(d) Consultations

The Community Planning Partnership at the meeting of the Board on 29 May 2008 noted the progress of the SOA process agreed the Community Planning Structure, which included the establishment of the Community Engagement Group.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The future development of the Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2010 will need to be based on the analysis of local contextual information that includes the needs, views and priorities of Communities and service users. The Community Engagement group will have to consider how best it can assist the Partnership in monitoring the current SOA and in developing the 209-2010 SOA.

Author of Report: John Ferguson Community Planning & Development
Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: