

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 27 AUGUST 2009

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP & REMIT OF STRATEGIC GROUPS

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to consider changes to membership and remit of the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group, a couple of proposed changes to membership of the groups and a review of the Community Engagement Group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to consider:

- (i) The inclusion of anti social behaviour and community safety core issues as a regular part of the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group agenda;**
- (ii) The enhancement of the Civic Military Forum membership by extending an invitation to Community Planning Partners to participate;**
- (iii) Inviting Skills Development Scotland to become an advisor of the Community Planning Board; and**
- (iv) Undertaking a review of the Community Engagement Group membership.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the special Community Planning Board meeting on 10 June 2009, it was agreed that a review of the remit for the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group be undertaken by a small group. This is now complete.

3.2 Membership of the theme groups has recently been reviewed at each of the special meetings of the theme groups. Arising from that review RAF have requested that their membership on the strategic groups is reviewed. In addition a new partner, Skills Development Scotland has requested membership at Board level. Finally, it should be noted that the only strategic group where membership has not been reviewed as part of the overall review is the Community Engagement Group.

3.3 Safer & Stronger Strategic Group – Remit

3.3.1 The current remit arising from the SOA 2009-10 focuses on Housing/Homelessness and Emergency planning. All other areas previously associated with this group have been allocated to the other theme groups in order to develop a more partnership approach to tackling those outcomes.

This has resulted in the Safer & Stronger group losing contact with anti-social behaviour and community safety issues. Without this knowledge the group may lose capacity to inform the Community Planning Partnership of future priorities of the SOA in this area.

- 3.3.2 To address the loss of this core work, it is suggested that part of the agenda at each meeting is dedicated to this core. For instance, the group will continue to receive information on the implementation of the Safer Strategy which covers anti social behaviour, violence reduction and home and fire safety and road safety but not the detailed reports on the individual issues presented to other theme groups.
- 3.3.3 These four areas are being implemented by operational groups who previously provided quarterly monitoring reports. It is proposed that quarterly monitoring from these operational groups continue to be presented to the theme group. Aspects of the work which is carried out which are reported to the other theme groups will be contained within these monitoring statements. Therefore it will provide this strategic group with an overview of the anti social behaviour and community safety issues.
- 3.3.4 For Housing/Homelessness issues it is suggested that information continues to be provided as at present.
- 3.3.5 In the area of Emergency Planning/Business Continuity the theme group will receive reports regarding the planning within services to enable all partners to have robust mechanisms in place in the event of an emergency.
- 3.3.6 The proposal to continue to receive information on the previous SOA commitments is in keeping with the agreement of the Board to review outstanding actions with the theme lead officers to agree whether the information continues to be monitored by the relevant theme groups.

3.4 Other Board Requests for Representation

- 3.4.1 Arising from the review of membership for the strategic theme groups, discussions have taken place between the two Wing Commanders at RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss in relation to their representation on the strategic groups. From these discussions they asked for consideration to be given to their representation at a higher level within the community planning partnership.
- 3.4.2 In addition the RAF and Council meet regularly at the Civic Military Forum to discuss items of mutual interest. At previous meetings it was requested that the membership of this Forum be extended to the community planning partners.
- 3.4.3 Given this it is considered that the best way to ensure the involvement of the RAF in relevant issues is to extend the membership of the Civic Military Forum to include other community planning partners.

3.4.4 Skills Development Scotland, formerly Careers Scotland, has appointed their new manager for the North East. It appears that Skills Development Scotland are represented on other community planning partners groups in the North East at the highest level except in Moray. As a result a request has been received from them for membership on the Community Planning Board.

3.5 Community Engagement Group – Membership

3.5.1 Following on from the review of membership and priorities of the strategic theme groups, many of the partners have raised concerns at the implications for them to resource the groups across the whole partnership.

3.5.2 Though there is an option to have flexible representation on the groups, this flexibility cannot be used at this early stage as many of the activities supporting the cross cutting work still needs to be developed, Therefore partners feel there is a pressure to attend all of the meetings at this time.

3.5.3 At the moment, the representation from the main partners are:

Partner	Board	Community Engagement	Greener	Healthier	Safer & Stronger	Smarter	Wealthier & Fairer
Grampian Fire & Rescue Services	E	E			E		
Grampian Police	E	E		N	E	E	N
HIE	E	E					E
HITRANS	N						N
Moray College	E	E				E	E
Moray Council	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
MVSO	E	E		N			
NHS Grampian	E	E	E	E			
RAF	N	E			P		P

“E” – existing members

“N” – new members

“P” - potential

3.5.4 As noted above all partners are represented on the Board and Community Engagement Group. In addition Grampian Police are represented on all but one group and NHS is on all but three groups. Even for partners represented only on a couple of groups their staffing numbers may make it difficult to attend this number of groups.

3.5.5 Further there are a number of groups which sit below the strategic groups increasing the demands on partners to service the whole structure. At last count there were 38 partnership groups directly below the strategic level. It has been previously suggested that these groups are reviewed to ensure that they are in line with the priorities of the key actions. However the review across the theme groups at this level will take time to undertake.

- 3.5.6 As stated above the membership of the strategic theme groups has been reviewed during the development of the local delivery action plans against the local outcomes. However one group which was not reviewed was the Community Engagement Group. Currently it has 18 representatives made up of 5 elected members, 8 Board partners, 5 other partners plus a number of Council officers.
- 3.5.7 To complete the alignment of the groups to the priorities and to address the concerns highlighted by partners in relation to servicing the groups, it is proposed that a review of the role and membership of the community engagement group is undertaken.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The strategic groups assist the Community Planning Partnership to deliver the commitments within the SOA. The SOA priorities and membership must be aligned to ensure that the right people are attending the appropriate groups. However the membership on the groups must also be sustainable by ensuring that partners have available resources to support the groups.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council must meet requirements of the Scottish Government to comply with the Concordat. The Community Planning Statutory Partners are required to sign up to the whole SOA and be held accountable for its delivery.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Partners have raised concerns at the resource implications to service the partnership groups.

(d) Consultations

Rae Cameron, Sharon Milton, Anthony McCord, Cllr McGillivray and Cllr Wright have been consulted on the contents of this report and are in agreement with it.

Cllr McGillivray, as chair of both Safer & Stronger Theme Group and Community Engagement Group has not been able to be consulted with prior to submitting this report due to holidays.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is important that the membership of the groups has the appropriate representatives to enable the group to delivery against its remit and are sustainably resources by the partners.**

Author of Report:

Background Papers:

Ref: