

FEEDBACK ON MEETING WITH SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Further to the letter received from the Scottish Executive regarding building closer links with Community Planning Partnerships that was discussed at the last Management Committee meeting, Andrew Campbell, Brian Barker and myself met with Dr Andrew Goudie (Acting Head of the Finance and Central Services Department) in Inverness on 2 June 2004. The meeting was also attended by representatives from Highland Council and the Western Isles Council.

Dr Goudie is keen to meet with all Community Planning Partnerships in the "Highland Cluster" on an individual basis and has asked for some background information on the Partnership and well as our key strengths and challenges that we are facing.

You are asked to give some thought to the key strengths/challenges that are facing the Partnership as well as any other issues that would be appropriate to raise with Dr Goudie when he visits Argyll and Bute (date to be determined).

The summary of the key strengths/challenges as identified through the "Under the Skin" Community Planning Research is attached as a starting point for discussion.

Lolita Lavery
June 2004

**UNDER THE SKIN RESEARCH FINDINGS FOR ARGYLL AND BUTE
NOVEMBER 2002**

KEY STRENGTHS	
Building on strong traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working not new in Argyll and Bute • Building on what we have
Genuine commitment backed up with resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources are very good compared to other CPP's
Clear structures and systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Committee, Theme Groups, reporting mechanisms, etc.
Breadth of involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest membership in Scotland – moved away from the “usual suspects” • Danger: how do you maintain involvement of especially those Partners with limited involvement
Citizens' Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used effectively to consult – but is it involvement? • How can we actively involve communities? • How can existing structures/initiatives be used to take CP down to local level?
Focus on achievable actions – Quick wins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to be built on
IMPROVEMENTS/CHALLENGES	
Greater emphasis on cultural and organisational change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More emphasis on CP as a process – how it impacts on people's work on a daily basis – how we work with other organisations
Broadening involvement within Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP needs to be firmly rooted within all Partner organisations • Need to bring more people in, especially in large organisations such as the Council and Health Board • CP needs to trickle down within organisational structures – reach all staff
Integration of other initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to find ways of linking with existing structures/initiatives • Issue of how CP structures link and relate to other structures on the ground such as the SIP, LEC, etc.
Dealing with the really “wicked” issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will eventually have to deal with issues where we can't get consensus – how are we going to handle this?
Shared strategic priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have vision, key priorities and actions – but something in between is missing – what are the key elements that we as a Partnership want to take forward?
Community involvement and engagement at a local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to develop structures to get communities more involved at local level

ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

- A clear set of agreed strategic priorities
- Reconciling national and local priorities
- Community Planning at a local level
- Linking “top-down” and “bottom-up” planning
- Horizontal integration – across themes
- Integration and rationalisation of other planning systems