

EACC MEMBERS BOARD MEETING

25 July 2024

Present:

Steve Kerr (SK) - Chair	✓	Roger Colkett (RC)	✓
Judy Wightman (JW) - Treasurer	*	Ian Doig (ID)	✓
Ken Robertson (KR) - Secretary	✓	Douglas Tharby (DT)	✓
Keith Giblett (KG)	✓	Nick Marshall (NM)	✓
Tommy McLean (TMcL)	✓	Bill Rodger (BR)	✓
Apologies = *			

My take on what was said this evening:

A] As we approach the next election round, with an eye to show-casing 'what CCs are for', this extract from the Draft Scheme needs to be talked-up:

3.4 Community councils are the key community representative bodies within the local community planning arrangements across the city of Edinburgh.

B] As things stand, I'd judge that only a handful of CCs have on board people with the right background, skills and interest to make a 'professional' contribution to the community planning 'conversations' the Edinburgh Partnership wants to have.

C] Draft Scheme 3.4 above is a follow-on from:

3.1 The general purpose of community councils is to act as voices for their local areas, articulating the views and concerns of individuals and groups on a wide range of issues of public concern, including making representations to the City of Edinburgh Council, other public sector bodies and private agencies on matters within their sphere of interest.

To meet that 'general purpose', the new CCs need to be at full, committed 'capacity', on the back of a purposeful and imaginative recruitment drive. Where to begin?

1] Michele Mulvaney: CEC Strategy Manager:

Edinburgh Partnership's current community planning 'Transformation and Improvement Programme'.

Objective: "To look afresh at the role of Community Planning in Edinburgh to maximise the relationships between public sector agencies and the voluntary and community sectors to address poverty and inequality and the climate and nature emergency."

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REFERENCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING: POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY OF PART 2 OF THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

Published 22 Jun 2023)

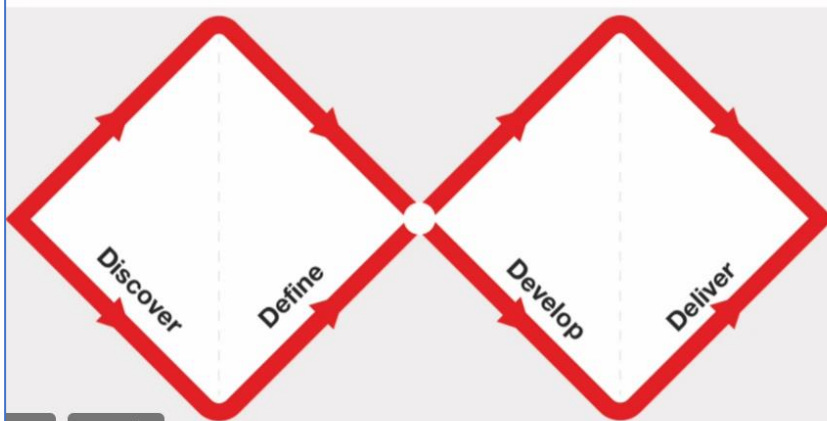
Part 2 of the Act covers 'community planning', an important part of how local public services are delivered across Scotland. Community planning aims to improve how local organisations including local government, health boards and the police work together with other partners and communities to improve outcomes in a local area.

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Transformation and Improvement

- Agreed to an improvement programme at September 2023 Board
- Needed to stop and think – community planning is vast therefore what's in scope
- Goal is to strengthen community planning, based on a shared understanding of all our statutory duties and what it means in practice – it means different things to different people

Service Design: Double Diamond



<https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-resources/framework-for-innovation/>

3

Design Principles

- Put people first. Start with the people who are involved in the delivery of community planning
- In-depth discussion to help people gain a shared understanding of issues and ideas for improvement
- Collaborate and co-create. Work together and get inspired by what others are doing

stress placed on deep engagement at local and community level.

‘Strengthen the link between community planning at the strategic level and local community influence.’

‘How do we involve community councils, among other grass-roots community groups?’

‘People find it hard to navigate through our community planning structure as it is.’

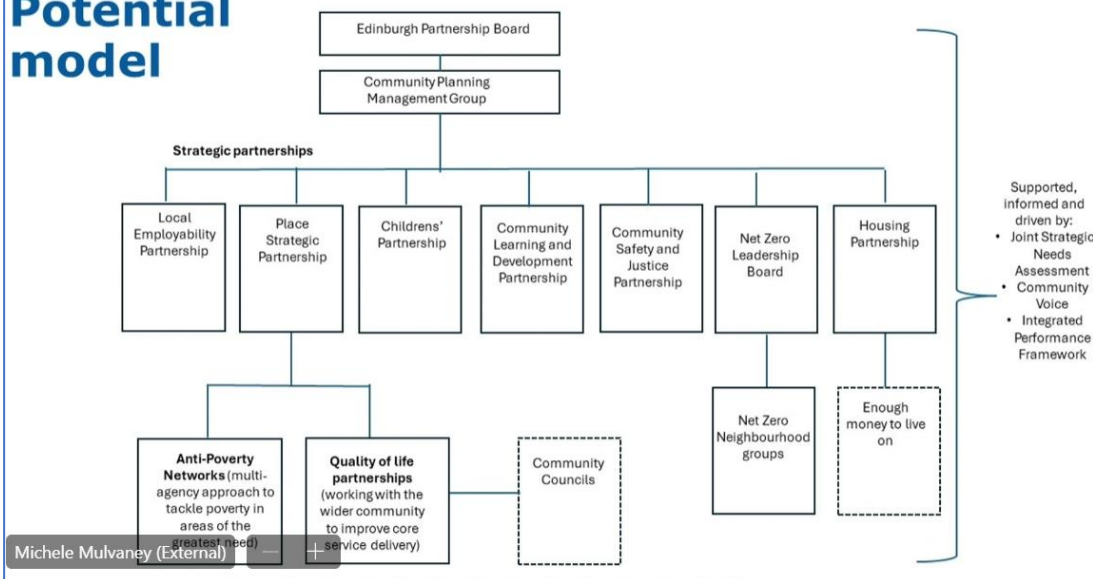
Learning (i)

- Keeping it **simple** – the current landscape can be hard to navigate
- The problems we face today require more than one solution, they will require continued **collaborative working** with other organisations and supporting people to be part of the solution
- Working across organisations is incredibly hard and depends on the ability to **think beyond** ourselves, our organisation and our sector of work
- Community planning works best where **trust and relationships** are strong and there are lots of examples of this across the city
- Everyone wants to do **prevention**, but this is hard
- Prioritising community planning as a **way of working** – the whole should be greater than the sum of all parts

Learning (ii)

- The best partnerships are clear on their **purpose** and focus on the needs of the city.
- In all our work, we need to use **data and lived experience** to inform our approach
- We need to be **transparent and accountable** in all we do
- Some issues will need **place-based** working, but others will require a **thematic approach**.
- Many of the **structures** we have work, but others needs **reformed or updated** with new groups brought together to tackle specific issues, such as the housing emergency
- **Collective leadership** is needed to maximise efforts

Potential model



'Anti-Poverty Networks' and 'Quality of Life Partnerships' are working titles.

Envisaged that Local Community Planning Partnership (LCPP) structures as a 'model of service' will be replaced by 'themed' Strategic Partnerships, to reduce duplication of effort, to tighten

'focus', to enhance 'accountability and transparency' and to 'shift to a more targeted place-based approach'.

The Strategic Partnerships will continue to rest on local area, community networks, so 'Neighbourhood Networks' as a framework will remain in place.

The Potential Model should increase the scope for community involvement.

However, it's recognised that active community involvement needs the right infrastructure and support.

At this stage, the conversation is principally with 'stakeholders' who are currently involved in community planning, on account of their knowledge and understanding of the process in shaping a 'new model'.

Summary of proposed changes:

- Expand the role and scope of the LOIP DG to incorporate representatives from all strategic partnerships, forming a Community Planning Management Group. This group aims to enhance connectivity among strategic partnerships and offer a comprehensive perspective on partnership activities aimed at alleviating poverty and inequality through the LOIP.
- Create a strategic partnership to oversee partnership work around housing and income maximisation recognising the current challenges and opportunities;
- Strengthen links between strategic and local community planning by linking placed based work with LOIP Priority 3 "A good place to live" through a Place Strategic Partnership;
- Improve how the Edinburgh Partnership uses and shares data to design interventions and focus on early intervention by developing a JSNA and integrated performance framework

Summary of proposed changes continued ...

- Replace LCPPs by establishing:
 - Quality-of-life partnerships across the City to address service concerns with communities
 - Anti-poverty networks in areas experiencing the poorest outcomes and producing local improvement plans
- And in doing so:
 - Avoid duplication by working with existing groups and networks. Supporting them to actively participate in the design and delivery of collaborative solutions
 - Improve links, communication and feedback loops between spheres of community planning to build trust, strengthen accountability and transparency and work towards more empowered communities
 - Ensure voluntary and community participation through existing infrastructure e.g. VSFs
 - Align with recommendations from the Neighbourhood Networks review

Why this proposition?

- Includes all of the issues essential to community planning
- Provides an opportunity to strengthen all of the partnerships recognising some are not operating at full potential
- Focuses on a data-driven approach
- Enhances accountability and transparency through improved reporting and monitoring to the EP Board

Why this proposition?

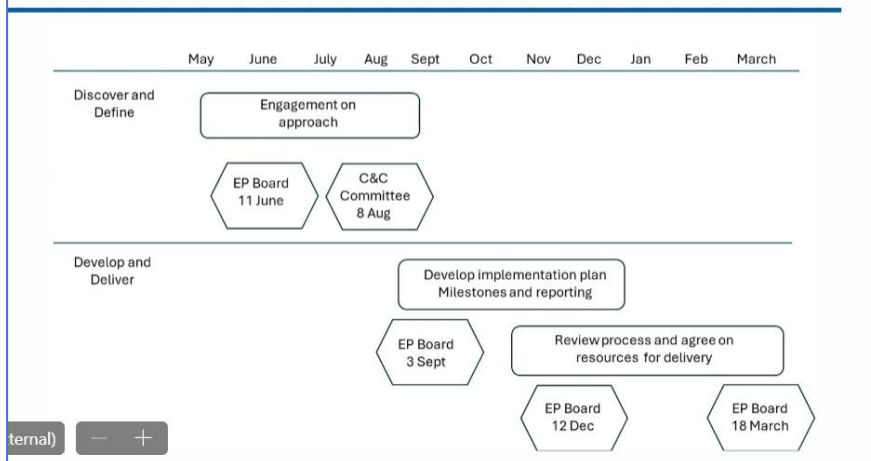
- Enables us to deliver local improvement plans in a different way
- Strengthens support for initiatives led by local communities, particularly those in disadvantaged areas
- Seeks to increase community involvement on issues that matter most to them
- Supports the building of resilience and relationships to enable improved partnership working

Progress report to Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) in September and to CEC Policy & Sustainability Committee in October.

Move on to 'service design and delivery' stage.

Anticipate final report to EPB in March 2025.

Next steps



Q&A

Targeted objectives / outcomes of the Transformation and Improvement Programme not sufficiently clear?? To get buy-in you need to get people focused on what you're trying to achieve??

'Addressing poverty and net zero are the core priorities for the partnership. This review is about strengthening the partnership to meet those priorities.'

The critical part of the successful delivery of the new framework will be ensuring that those most closely involved in local service provision (poverty alleviation, social isolation alleviation etc.) have a clear and active involvement (and say) in how 'provision' is made??

2] Andrew Field: CEC Community and Empowerment Engagement Manager:

Current reviews of Community Grant Fund and Neighbourhood Networks.

Dec 2023 Culture & Communities Committee motion to review and evaluate Community Grants Fund (CGF) and Neighbourhood Networks (NN).

Two reports will go to the Committee on 8 August; look for the papers to be released on the CEC site on 2 August.

[Browse meetings - Culture and Communities Committee - Modern Council \(edinburgh.gov.uk\)](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/modern-council/culture-and-communities-committee)

Review focus:

CGF: How are (funding panel) decisions on grant funding made? Where does the spending go, and why? Can standard terms of reference be drawn up? Are audit requirements of good management and governance being met?

NN: Who is involved; where? (Who is not involved; why?) What are the NNs' terms of reference? Why do only 4 out of 13 NNs function 'effectively'? What's missing in the others? How will NNs integrate with a revised community planning framework?

End