

Report

Report to:	Finance and Corporate Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 December 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Community Participation and Engagement – Additional Post
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval of the establishment of a fixed term Community Development Officer post, funded by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as part of the Community Engagement Team within Finance and Corporate Resources

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the addition of 1 full time equivalent (FTE) Community Development Officer post to the Finance and Corporate Resources establishment, within the Community Engagement Team, for a fixed term period of 12 months, be approved; and
- (2) that it be noted that the fixed term Community Development Officer post would be funded by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council, NHS, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service pay an annual contribution towards a Community Planning Partnership budget. Funds are available during the 2019/2020 financial year for a fixed term post of one year to support the work of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.2. The Executive Committee approved the creation of a Community Engagement Team at its meeting on 27 June 2018. On 7 August 2019, this Committee approved a change to the Community Engagement Team structure to align the team with the Tackling Poverty, Voluntary Sector and Community Planning Teams.
- 3.3. The recent Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) which was reported to the Council at its meeting on 26 June 2019 made some observations and recommendations regarding Community Planning, with particular reference to Community Engagement, links with Thematic Groups and the development of Locality Plans (known as Neighbourhood Plans). The CPP Board has been working with the Improvement Service and undertook a Self-Assessment in January 2019 and has aligned the priorities identified from that work with the BVAR. This work is currently being progressed by the CPP Board.

4. Employee Implications

- 4.1. When the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was implemented, areas within nine council wards were identified as having poorer outcomes than the rest of South Lanarkshire. Neighbourhood Planning in three of those priority areas commenced during 2017. In the BVAR, the auditors recommended that Neighbourhood Plans should be prepared without further delay. Community Participation and Engagement (CPET) officers are currently progressing a further four neighbourhood plans, which leaves two areas remaining and some communities which were identified as having small pockets of deprivation.
- 4.2. As Community Planning now sits within the revised Community Engagement Team structure and officers are currently supporting neighbourhood planning activity, the Committee is asked to consider that the Council hosts an additional 1 FTE post within the team to ensure consistency of approach in delivering the priorities of the CPP Board and the recommendations contained in the BVAR. The full salary and on-costs will be met from the CPP budget and the tasks for this post will complement the current work of the Community Engagement Team.
- 4.3. Tasks for the post holder have been aligned to current priority areas of work for the CPP as identified through the Self-Assessment and the BVAR and will include:-
- ◆ the promotion of the Community Plan and CPP within identified priority areas
 - ◆ increasing the visibility of the partnership at a local level including small scale local events (as appropriate)
 - ◆ progressing Neighbourhood Plans in the communities of Whitehill and Eddlewood/Low Waters
 - ◆ Engaging with smaller communities who are not (yet) part of a Neighbourhood Planning area, however, are identified as experiencing poorer outcomes
 - ◆ A review of the 2020 SIMD data (when published) to ensure that those communities identified as experiencing poorer outcomes remain current
 - ◆ Identifying opportunities for wider neighbourhood plans to encompass pockets of deprivation
- 4.4. It is proposed that the post be added to the Finance and Corporate Resources establishment for a fixed term period of 12 months, effective from 1 April 2020, as detailed below.

Post	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade /SCP range	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Gross Cost (inc on costs 30.3%)
Community Development Officer	1.0	Grade 3 Level 2 - 4 / 63 -74	£17.55 - £20.63	£32,027 - £37,647	£41,731 - £49,054

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The cost for the post will be transferred from the Community Planning Partnership Budget to the Community Engagement Team budget so there will be no impact upon expenditure approved by the Council for 2019/2020.

6. Other Implications (Including Environmental and Risk Issues)

- 6.1. There are no risks or implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained in this report.

7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 7.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposal contained within this report.
- 7.2. Consultation has been carried out with the Community Planning Board partners in relation to the establishment of the fixed term post.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

5 November 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Work with communities to promote high quality and thriving and sustainable communities
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration

Previous References

- ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources Committee – 7 August 2019
- ◆ Executive Committee – 27 June 2018

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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