

Report

Report to:	Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 December 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Neighbourhood Planning Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Area Committee on the work being carried out in Cambuslang and Rutherglen in relation to neighbourhood planning.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress being made in respect of neighbourhood planning be noted;
- (2) that the new plans for Cambuslang East and Burnhill be noted;
- (3) that the annual report on Whitlawburn and Springhall be noted; and
- (4) that the next steps planned for the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP), of which the Council is a statutory partner, to identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes and to prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities. These plans are required to set out clear priorities for improving local outcomes and tackling inequalities which agreed by the CPP and community. In South Lanarkshire these plans are referred to as neighbourhood plans.
- 3.2. The guidance makes it clear that participation with communities must lie at the heart of community planning and that the partners must engage with the communities identified as requiring specific attention and be more than just consultation but involve active engagement and empowerment.
- 3.3. On 14 July 2017, the CPP Board, considered the results of a statistical exercise which identified the areas experiencing the poorest outcomes in South Lanarkshire relative to the South Lanarkshire average position, which resulted in areas within 9 of the Council's 20 wards being identified as potential neighbourhood planning areas.
- 3.4. On 11 October 2017, the CPP Board agreed to pilot the use of neighbourhood planning activity in South Lanarkshire, recognising that this approach required a longer investment of time within communities to engage and involve people and produce plans. The first three neighbourhood plans, for the pilot areas of

Hillhouse/Udston/Burnbank, Whitlawburn and Springhall and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw were published in January 2019.

- 3.5. The legislation further requires that reports are produced on a yearly basis which identify the progress made in relation to the plans. The purpose of these reports is for the communities involved to see and understand what has happened in their areas. The guidance accompanying the legislation states that annual reports should be published in an accessible and easy to understand way which enables communities to understand the direction and scale of progress. As a result, the manner in which reports are produced for communities will vary from the way in which partners may usually report.

4. New Neighbourhood Planning Areas - Progress to Date

- 4.1. Learning from the phase 1 areas included the recognition that each area is individual in its capacity and the priorities which it identifies, and that the work which is carried out in neighbourhoods as a result must be individualised. In addition, the neighbourhood planning work should strengthen and empower the community within the neighbourhood, developing their capacity to both engage with potential delivery services and to create and deliver upon their own priorities where this is appropriate.
- 4.2. In September 2019, the CPP Board agreed the neighbourhood planning processes should be rolled out to the following communities:

Neighbourhood Planning Wards	Priority Communities
Ward 12 – Rutherglen Central and North	Burnhill
Ward 14 – Cambuslang East	Halfway, Westburn, Circuit
Ward 15 – Blantyre	Auchinraith, Blantyre, High Blantyre, Springwells
Ward 19 – Hamilton South	Fairhill

Each community has individual levels of community capacity and support already in place and required individualised programmes of support, which were delivered by the Community Engagement Team (CET) alongside local partners and community groups.

- 4.3. The neighbourhood planning process in **Burnhill** brought together local stakeholders who designed a consultation exercise to capture the hopes and aspirations of the residents. Some of the methods used to capture this were door to door conversations, social media, focus groups and visits to local schools. The consultation exercise lasted three months and over 50% of the population of the community were engaged throughout the process and a total of 230 residents completed the survey. The survey results have now been analysed and some strong themes and project ideas to work on over the next year have been identified. The Burnhill neighbourhood plan is included as Appendix 1.

Within **Cambuslang East**, Halfway Community Council and local charity Particip8 Overton, supported by CET staff, gathered information on their community using the Scottish Government, NHS Health Scotland and Architecture and Design Scotland produced Place Standard Tool. Wider stakeholders then designed a consultation exercise to capture the hopes and aspirations of the residents, choosing to produce a plan for the entire ward of Cambuslang East. Door to door conversations were

held within the top 5% most deprived data zones, and social media, focus groups and visits to local schools were also used to include the wider community.

The consultation exercise lasted three months and over a total of 1044 residents completed the survey (percentages of residents engaged in the process in: Westburn 52%, Circuit 50% and Halfway 35%). The draft Cambuslang East neighbourhood plan is included as Appendix 2.

5. Existing Neighbourhood Planning areas - Progress to Date

- 5.1. Three neighbourhood plans were produced for publication in January 2019, covering phase 1 communities within 5 out of the 9 wards which had been identified as experiencing the greatest inequality of outcomes within South Lanarkshire, detailed in the table below. Responsibility for leading on this work sat within the Tackling Poverty Team from the council.

Neighbourhood Planning Wards	Communities Involved
Ward 11 – Rutherglen South Ward 13 – Cambuslang West	Springhall and Whitlawburn
Ward 17 – Hamilton North and East Ward 18 – Hamilton West and Earnock	Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank
Ward 20 - Larkhall	Strutherhill and Birkenshaw

- 5.2. In August 2019, the Community Participation and Empowerment Team aligned with the existing Tackling Poverty, Voluntary Sector and Community Planning Teams to create an overall Community Engagement Team. Working more closely together in this way allowed the team to further strengthen and articulate the links between Neighbourhood Planning and Community Planning, and increased the resource which the council has made available to help implement the neighbourhood planning approach.
- 5.3. Progress has been made on delivering actions against the top priorities of all three phase 1 neighbourhood planning areas. Details of these have been included in the three annual reports which have been produced to feed back to the local communities. A copy of the annual report for Springhall and Whitlawburn is included as Appendix 3.
- 5.4. Key progress has been the increase in the number of local people participating in neighbourhood planning processes, in particular participatory budgeting approaches and this again is outlined within the annual report.

6. Impact of COVID -19 and Next Steps

- 6.1. The pandemic and the corresponding lockdown has meant that the work of the Community Engagement Team was redirected towards supporting the capacity of community and third sector partnerships and linking in those needing assistance from the wellbeing help line with the help available in their community. In addition, stakeholder groups within communities were not meeting during the initial lockdown period, and most had already paused their meetings prior to this.
- 6.2. The team are maintaining regular contact with the stakeholders and have begun to arrange stakeholder meetings and discuss how priorities can be progressed with communities in the current circumstances. The Cambuslang East and Burnhill plans

have been launched through a soft launch and the team are using new and innovative ways to engage with people around progressing the community priorities. The team will continue to work with each individual community to find appropriate ways to do this.

- 6.3. In addition, this work includes ensuring that the priorities are current and if any changes are required to reflect the impact of the pandemic. Small amounts of funding are allocated to each neighbourhood planning area from an existing budget, and this will be used to progress local work through a participatory budgeting approach in each area.
- 6.4. Work is also being carried out with the partners delivering services locally to continue to identify their contribution to the communities' priorities and how this will impact upon the improvement of outcomes for those living in the neighbourhood planning areas. As community engagement and participation strengthens within neighbourhoods, there is evidence of communities becoming more aware and more confident to address issues such as health and employment, and this presents both a challenge and an opportunity to partners to work alongside people to develop new and innovative approaches to these.
- 6.5. As part of this ongoing work, yearly delivery plans focusing on improving local outcomes will include actions from delivery partners as to their contribution towards outcomes as well as actions from communities as to how they are progressing their own solutions with appropriate support. Monitoring of these delivery plans will be carried out by the local stakeholder group who will provide scrutiny of actions carried out and their impact, and challenge as to where these should be further developed.
- 6.6. A further neighbourhood planning process will be undertaken this year in Fernhill. This area has also been identified through the process described in 3.3. and 3.4. of this paper
- 6.6. While these neighbourhood plans are being created in response to a statutory requirement, the ambition in South Lanarkshire is that the process of neighbourhood planning is extended beyond the identified areas and that it is possible for all communities to produce their own plans of local priorities and their planned responses to these
- 6.7. As the number of neighbourhood plans increases, locality priorities will begin to be developed by identifying key shared priorities across localities. This provides the opportunity for wider resources to support actions over localities with a view to improving outcomes and to work in partnership at a locality level across South Lanarkshire. This again offers a further chance for challenge and scrutiny between partners and communities.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no risk or sustainability issues associated with the content of this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required. Consultation on neighbourhood plans are carried out on an ongoing basis with each community involved in the process.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

17 November 2020

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

- ◆ None

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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Appendix 1: Burnhill Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 2: Cambuslang East Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 3: Springhall and Whitlawburn Annual Report