



# THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

## Edinburgh Partnership - Governance Arrangements

### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The Edinburgh Partnership Board, at its meeting on 4 April 2019 agreed a new governance model. This included provision for the establishment of four locality community planning partnerships and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Group.
- 1.2 This paper seeks revisions to aspects of the governance arrangements for these partnerships based on feedback from the first round of meetings held over October to December 2019.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
  - i. allow for the provision of substitute members for locality community planning partnerships as set out in paragraph 3.5;
  - ii. allow for the provision of co-chairing of locality community planning partnerships;
  - iii. agree the presumption that the locality community planning partnership meetings will not be held in public unless by exception and subject to the agreement of the chair in consultation with members;
  - iv. allow for the LOIP Delivery Group to co-opt additional voting members as appropriate to the furtherance of the remit of the group and provided the overall number of members is manageable; and
  - v. refer the report to the locality community planning partnerships and Local Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Group for information.

### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 The governance framework agreed by the Edinburgh Partnership Board sought to support a new way of working. Whilst the framework set out the remit, membership, role of members, provision for the chair/vice chair and business arrangements for the partnerships, it was recognised that the operating arrangements for the new partnerships would evolve over time.

- 3.2 At the initial meetings of the locality community planning partnerships and Local Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Group matters were raised which are not currently provided for within the governance arrangements. Whilst recognising that the framework is subject to review after 12 months, as agreed by the Board, the matters raised were considered to warrant the early consideration of the Board. These matters are set out below.

### **Locality Community Planning Partnerships**

- 3.3 Provision for substitutes – The purpose of the Edinburgh Partnership review was to increase transparency and accountability. This was due to concerns over who was involved in community planning, what they did and what they were empowered to do. In addition, a key element to the success of partnership working is building strong relationships. In agreeing the membership of the locality community planning partnerships named nominees were sought from the constituent bodies. Providing for named members not only ensures people with the appropriate authority participate and that there is continuity of attendance, critical to successful partnership working, but that the broader aims of the Edinburgh Partnership are met.
- 3.4 The process for seeking named nominations varied depending on the sector. For public bodies the nominee was sought via the Board member; for elected members nominations were sought from the Council as part of the appointments process in May 2019; for the neighbourhood networks there was an advertised and open process whereby nominations were sought from community bodies, including provision for voting where there was more than one nominee; and for the voluntary sector, the former named voluntary sector forum representatives under the locality leadership teams continues whilst work is carried out to consider future third sector participation within community planning in the city.
- 3.5 Whilst two of the locality community planning partnerships have requested that substitutes be allowed, in agreeing this, recognition needs to be given to the different processes used to secure named nominees and measures taken to ensure all sectors are treated equally. To support this and the broader aims of the Board it is proposed that one named substitute is sought for each of the members following a similar process as previously used. For the neighbourhood networks local discussion will be required, now they are established, to agree an appropriate mechanism. This process needs to recognise that the substitute representative is to be drawn from the neighbourhood network and not from the community body that currently is a member of the locality community planning partnership.
- 3.6 Co-chairing – Currently the arrangements make no provision for co-chairing. Two of the locality community planning partnerships wish to allow for co-chairs and/or vice chairs allowing for responsibility to be more broadly shared across



the membership. The Board is asked to allow for this subject to the agreement of the relevant locality community planning partnership membership.

- 3.7 **Business arrangements** – Under the existing arrangements there is no mention of whether the meetings should be held in private or public. Interest has been expressed by one of the locality community planning partnerships to allow the public to observe proceedings. Whilst this can be considered advantageous in increasing transparency, other areas have identified that involvement of the community is more effectively achieved through improved communication and direct engagement activity rather through coming to meetings. It has also been highlighted that the neighbourhood networks are the vehicle for seeking wider community participation, with the views expressed informing the work of the locality community planning partnership through the representative members. Additionally, the remit of the locality community planning partnerships may involve discussions on resources or pressures which may be sensitive and/or challenging in nature and therefore not conducive to a public setting. Given these matters, the Board is asked to agree that there will be a presumption against the meetings being held in public unless by exception and subject to the to the agreement of the chair in consultation with members.

#### **Local Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Group**

- 3.8 Co-option – There is currently no provision in the governance framework for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Group to co-opt members. Recent discussions by the Group have identified the need to bring in additional expertise in relation to the delivery of the priorities and specifically potential for the involvement of the Department for Work and Pensions and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership in relation to ‘enough money to live on’. Given this the Board is asked to amend the framework to include the following provision:

*“The Group may co-opt as additional voting members a representative of an organisation with knowledge or expertise relevant to the furtherance of the remit, provided the Group ensures that the overall number of members is manageable.”*

- 3.9 As noted above, the governance framework, including the locality community planning partnerships and Local Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Group, will be subject to review after 12 months. This will inform any further changes to realise the Board’s aspirations for the review.

#### **4. Contact**

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