



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Best Value Assurance Audit Improvement Plan

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Edinburgh Partnership Board agreed a paper at its meeting on 23 March 2021 which set out proposed improvement actions to strengthen community planning in the city in response to the findings from the Best Value Assurance Audit.
- 1.2 Following this meeting, the actions were considered by the Edinburgh Partnership Working Group and an improvement plan produced. This paper presents this plan to the Edinburgh Partnership Board for approval.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
 - i. approve the improvement plan set out in Appendix 1;
 - ii. note initial progress in implementing the actions; and
 - iii. agree that progress will be subject to regular reporting to the Board.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 The Best Value Assurance Audit identified areas where further improvement was recommended relating to partnership working and community engagement. In framing the response, the Working Group took account of several factors and most notably:
 - the shift in strategic context in the city over the last 12 months with the need for a strong post pandemic response to recovery which is fair, sustainable and delivers more resilient and healthy places to live;
 - opportunities to build on the strong foundation of collaborative working between statutory, voluntary and communities' sectors realised during the pandemic response;
 - recent and current activity by the Edinburgh Partnership, notably the review of the governance arrangements, and the ongoing development of the local outcome improvement plan and revised locality improvement plans; and
 - the existing programme of development and improvement activity underway including the development of the performance framework and associated measures.

- 3.2 The resulting strategic actions, agreed by the Board in March 2021, are now presented in an improvement plan appended to this report. The actions are grouped under three key themes as follows:
- Governance to deliver outcomes
 - Ways of working and strengthening the role of the community and voluntary sector
 - Community empowerment
- 3.3 The implementation plan sets out the key deliverables under each of these themes, together with milestones, timescales and measures of success. Notably it identifies a range of lead agencies demonstrating the joint approach and shared ownership which is critical to partnership working.
- 3.4 In tandem to developing the plan, work to take forward the activity has been progressing, with this including:
- initial proposal for reframing of LOIP Priority 3 a 'Good Place to Live' considered by the LOIP Delivery Group and presented to the Board elsewhere on this agenda;
 - workshop 'Joining the Dots' held with key public and third sector partners to consider future alignment of activity to deliver the 20 minute neighbourhood and third and community sector thematic priorities;
 - senior management structure approved by Council leading way to creation of Empowerment Team within the new Culture and Wellbeing Division of the Council Place Directorate;
 - neighbourhood network activity resumed across the city. This was informed by a city wide session involving representatives drawn from each of the networks which considered the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on communities and joint working across the city. The session was designed to help shape the future development of each of the networks and next steps in improving ways of working, whilst recognising that individual networks will evolve to meet the needs of their local communities.
 - meeting planned between the City of Edinburgh Council and the EACC to take forward the development of a collaborative framework; and
 - work ongoing to develop the new End Poverty Edinburgh citizens group with a proposal presented to the Board elsewhere on the agenda to provide the necessary infrastructure support.
- 3.5 The improvement plan is presented for approval, with the intention to provide regular updates of progress to future meetings of the Edinburgh Partnership Board. Detailed actions relating to LOIP Priority 3 will be incorporated within the



LOIP delivery plan which is scheduled to be presented to the Board for agreement in September 2021, together with the revised performance measures.

4. Contact

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Theme	Action	Leads	Milestones	Timescale	Measures of Progress	Issues to consider
Governance to deliver outcomes	Reviewing the LOIP priority – A good place to live - by June , to reflect a broader definition of health and wellbeing that supports the development and growth of healthy, sustainable communities across the city.	LOIP Delivery Group (Public Health NHS Lothian EIJ, Council leads)	Delivery priority 3 revised for consideration by EPB Implementation Plan developed for consideration by EPB	EPB June 2021 Sept 2021	New LOIP priority agreed New implementation plan and partnership delivery projects underway	
	Develop a partnership plan to deliver the 20-minute neighbourhood model with a focus on shared public, commercial and third sector services models and public service hubs.	Council and EVOC	Share Strategy Council with partners for comment Agree design and delivery mechanisms and priority community locations Proposals for aligned local programmes and potential joint projects brought forward for consideration as part of LOIP (3) implementation plan	Complete Summer 2021 EPB Sept 2021	Evidence of partners taking into account 20MNM in own decisions Joint projects that can be brought under the LOIP delivery plan identifies	
Ways of working and strengthening the role of the community and voluntary sector	Coordinate on the development of, and model for, operationalising community anchors (organisations and/or networks), and strengthening community networks cohesion through the co-production of a shared definition and associated tools and processes.	EVOC, IJB, EACC and Council	Developing the task force of partners Development of voluntary sector hub model	Summer 2021		Edinburgh PACT coming to the EPB board meeting in June Need to bring together activity underway in

			Development of common definition, tools and processes Develop plan and outline for investment models	September EPB update		different partner plans eg community mobilisation
	Continue to implement the improvement activity already agreed by the Partnership including developing a model of facilitation and support for community planning, performance and communications.	LOIP Delivery Group (Council Lead)	Delivery Plan in place Priority 2 well developed Priority 1 progressing review for advice services	Updates at EPB Sept	As part of the performance plan development	Resilience and fragility of partnership capacity across partners
	Promote and rally the support of Anchor Institutions and more broadly develop plans to collaborate on the delivery of the Community Wealth Building agenda.	CEC econ dev with Scottish Enterprise	CEC to facilitate a session on economic footprint of key strategic partners and scope opportunities to develop a partnership plan for community wealth building within a local context Identify joint value of partnership projects and propose key areas of activities	July 2021 Sept EPB agenda	Measure of new social businesses 5 principles of CWB expressly stated in joint plans between anchor institutions	Avoid risk of duplication and ensure tracking of wider complementary action
Community Empowerment	To strengthen and enhance the Community Empowerment plan in development and ensure it clearly outlines how community influence and involvement in community planning can be supported and increased.	Council EVOC and EACC	Development of draft Community Empowerment Plan Project plan for delivery and key milestones	September / December EPB		

			Reflect community work and the summer season of engagement	June – August		
	Strengthen the resourcing and capacity to support Neighbourhood Networks and the LCPPs through the establishment of new Community Empowerment teams by the City of Edinburgh Council; more council staff deployed at community level	Council (Community Empowerment Team)	Resumption of all neighbourhood network activity	Covid dependent		
			Increased support to neighbourhood networks/ LCPPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council service review • Establishment of the community empowerment team 	Timescales under review	Attendance of partners at LCPPs Partners formally linking in new CEC community empowerment team to own 'community teams' and capacity	Timelines and interim resourcing/support
	Develop a framework for collaboration with the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and the community councils, to ensure they can fulfil their statutory function in representing local communities and build a productive relationship with all community planning partners and the Council in particular.	Council, EACC	Council paper went to April Committee covering next steps EACC Steering Group members have met twice in anticipation of promised meeting with relevant CEC officers. Areas covered have been community engagement, community empowerment and advocacy/governance. EACC presentation document has been	EPB Sept 2021	Agreed Framework is in place. Framework being implemented with improved ways of working	Possible resourcing and capacity implications

			<p>prepared for meeting with CEC officers.</p> <p>Joint engagement process will encompass two meeting prior to the EP Board meeting on 22 June.</p> <p>Develop framework to establish parity ('level playing field' with EVOC</p>			
	<p>Develop future ways of working with the new End Poverty Edinburgh citizens group to ensure that the voices of people with experience of poverty continue to inform the way the Partnership plans and delivers services.</p>	<p>Council (LCPPs), End Poverty Edinburgh, EVOC</p>	<p>Articulate new ways of working with End Poverty Edinburgh group</p> <p>Edinburgh Poverty Alliance appointing capacity to support group with EVOC colocation of post</p> <p>Paper to be circulated to Edinburgh Partnership Board members to consider financial support for the group</p> <p>Agree outcomes and meaningful plan of engagement on key activities above</p>	<p>Summer</p> <p>June – August</p> <p>September Board for decision</p>	<p>Commitment and measurement of partners delivering recs of EPC</p> <p>EPE members feeling heard and involved in community planning activity</p>	<p>Clarify timelines – new capacity etc</p>