



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Community Empowerment Strategy Development - Update

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Board on the progress of the development of the Edinburgh Partnership Community Empowerment Strategy and highlight planned activities for the months ahead.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the proposals set out in this report.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Edinburgh Partnership previously agreed to develop a community empowerment strategy to ensure it is clear for people and groups on how they can influence and participate in community planning. The aim of the strategy is to actively develop and improve community empowerment processes across the Edinburgh Partnership.

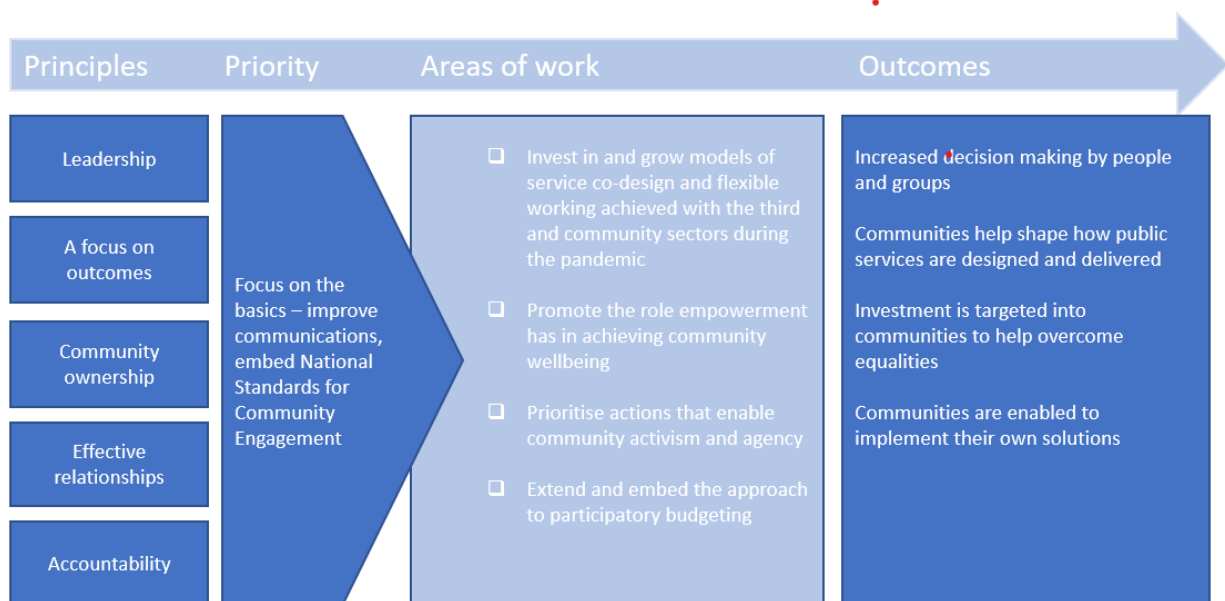
Background

- 3.2 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 made significant changes to community planning legislation, previously contained in Part 2 of the Local Government Scotland Act 2003. It set out explicitly how public bodies should work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide public services which improve local outcomes in the local authority area, all with a view to reducing inequalities. The guidance makes clear that community planning partnerships should be engaging with communities in identifying and prioritising outcomes and working with communities to develop their capacity to contribute to community planning and to achieve better outcomes.
- 3.3 In Edinburgh, communities have been key partners in community planning arrangements for many years. However, there are opportunities to do more, recognising that communities are independently able and often wish to organise themselves outside formal structures and use their assets and resources to improve the lives of their community. Developing a community empowerment strategy for the city will help the Edinburgh Partnership to consider these further opportunities and build on the practice over recent years.

Approach

- 3.4 A partnership working group was convened to lead the development of the draft strategy, summarised in figure 1 below. The draft provides a high-level overarching framework which will inform the next stage in the engagement process.

Figure 1: Draft Community Empowerment Strategy



3.4 The overarching framework includes:

- key principles aligned with national principles of community empowerment;
- a proposed priority to inform improvement activity;
- potential areas of activity; and
- intended outcomes.

Next Steps

3.5 The process of developing the strategy is iterative and aims to create space to discuss issues, share best practice, build relationships, and highlight opportunities to enhance involvement.

3.6 Work is planned over the coming months to better understand future opportunities and will involve engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including:

- Elected members;
- Council and partner colleagues;
- Equality and Rights Network representatives;
- Social housing residents and providers through the tenant’s panel, Edinburgh Tenants Federation and Association of Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership;
- LOIP Delivery Group and Edinburgh Partnership Strategic Partnerships;
- Voluntary and community representatives through voluntary sector forums and small area networks;
- Community councils and the Edinburgh of Association Community Councils;
- Groups and networks focused on reducing inequality such as End Poverty Edinburgh and the Network of Networks; and
- Local Community Planning Partnerships and neighbourhood networks.



- 3.7 It is anticipated further opportunities to have discussions will be identified through feedback from participants and partners.
- 3.8 This work will enable a draft strategy to be submitted for the review of the Board at its meeting in December 2022.

4. Contact

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