



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Development of an Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper seeks approval to develop a transformation and improvement programme for the Edinburgh Partnership. A programme of this type will enable the Partnership to address current challenges, whilst seeking to strengthen the delivery of the priorities through identifying opportunities for transformation and long-term collaboration.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to agree the development of a programme for the Edinburgh Partnership as detailed in the paper.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Edinburgh Partnership was restructured in 2019 to better reflect the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Through this process, the Partnership sought to:
- strengthen community influence and participation in decision making;
 - achieve greater transparency and connectivity from the locality to strategic levels of decision making and influence; and
 - strengthen the approach to partnership working and joint resourcing.
- 3.2 This was an infrastructure review which put in place structural changes to ensure the Edinburgh Partnership was organised to deliver its priorities and to strengthen governance and accountability.
- 3.3 Following this, and complementary to it, was the work to refresh the Local Outcome Improvement Plan with the revised plan being approved in March 2022. This addressed the challenges and opportunities for the city and notably the effects of the pandemic, increasing risk of poverty and inequality and the climate emergency.
- 3.4 Both programmes of work have shaped what the partnership does and how it operates. There is recognition however that there is scope for further improvement, acknowledging that community planning as a vehicle for change is

not just here to stay but has the potential to grow in significance with the recent Verity Agreement and findings of the Scottish Parliamentary review.

- 3.5 This paper sets out a proposal to undertake a programme of work focused on identifying ways to strengthen delivery of the key priorities and the respective contributions of each of the partnerships that comprise the Edinburgh Partnership.

4. Main Report

- 4.1 In developing a programme, it is proposed to hold a series of workshops with each of the partnerships that comprise the Edinburgh Partnership. The focus of this activity will be on what the Partnership wants and needs to deliver to realise its ambitions, considering both the opportunities and challenges in achieving the necessary system shift and joint resourcing to genuinely empower the community.
- 4.2 Whilst the focus will be on function, this may by necessity lead to changes in form although this is not the driver. Recognising that the current structure was not reviewed after 12 months as originally proposed due to the pandemic and changes have occurred across various parts of the Edinburgh Partnership during this period, a programme of this type has the potential to strengthen how the Partnership operates, achieving a better synergy from local to strategic levels.
- 4.3 In the initial stage it is proposed to undertake a process of gathering perspectives, connecting additional key leaders not normally in the community planning structure, but who are keenly aware of current systems pressures, and the unique opportunity to shift power to communities, citizens and communities. This recognises that some of the big systems pressures and challenges for the city are not sufficiently visible at the community planning table currently.
- 4.4 Proposed participants in this initial programme of facilitated discussions will be the City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council, Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network, Volunteer Edinburgh, Regenerative Futures Fund and Turn2us/The Edinburgh Trust. The focus will be on achieving a better understanding of the systems in the city for transformation. This would involve consideration of the interconnections between poverty, climate and social justice to achieve a shared understanding of these issues and what is required to make real and long-lasting change.
- 4.5 This series of sessions will provide the foundation for the development of partnership workshops, to be designed collaboratively with the partners involved in the initial stages, and with the assistance of the Community Planning Support Team. The detailed delivery plan will require engagement with all partners, and notably the chairs of the respective partnerships. The aim is to complete the



workshop sessions and present a transformation and improvement programme to the Edinburgh Partnership Board by March 2024.

5. Contact

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