

Leith Neighbourhood Partnership Sub Groups 2011 - 2014

Leith Neighbourhood Partnership

9 November 2011

Purpose of report

- 1 This report recommends arrangements for Leith Neighbourhood Partnership subgroups 2011 to 2014. It updates the report, 'Leith Neighbourhood Partnership Subgroup Review', which was approved by the partnership at its board meeting on 2 February 2011. The board approved the establishment of revised specialist subgroups to deliver defined elements of the 2011 to 2014 Community Plan and the development of the subgroups community engagement linking role.

Main report

BACKGROUND

- 2 The Subgroup review report highlighted that 'A primary function of the Neighbourhood Partnership is to listen and consult. Subgroups working for Leith Neighbourhood Partnership are a key instrument for enabling this, by bringing local people and partners together to actively participate in successfully delivering actions from the local community plan.'
- 3 It was agreed that to strengthen and support this key linking role with the community, Leith Neighbourhood sub groups will:
 - a) Act as a link between the Community and Neighbourhood Partnership
 - b) Take responsibility for and deliver a Community Plan priority
 - c) Have a core membership from the community
 - d) Be chaired by a community representative where possible
 - e) Have a dedicated neighbourhood partner supporting officer
 - f) Have an Neighbourhood Partnership Board member sponsor
 - g) Extend engagement by involving relevant community groups

- h) Set targets and produce performance reports to the Neighbourhood Partnership on engagement and Community Plan priority delivery outcomes
- i) Monitor service performance reports and ensure measures are taken to understand and address under performance
- j) Provide exception reports to Neighbourhood Partnership meetings highlighting under or over performance

UPDATE

- 4 When the subgroup review report was considered in February 2011, consultation was underway to develop the Local Community Plan 2011 to 2014. Extensive consultation with the community has identified five top priorities and how they should be tackled. An action plan has been developed to support the local community plan and it identifies how the Partnership will achieve each priority outcome with the community. It notes realistic solutions to local problems and recognises that an effective working subgroup structure is required to progress the action plan. The top five Leith Community Plan priorities, each requiring a separate subgroup to deliver them are:
- a) To reduce the amount of mess on our streets
 - b) To make it easier and safer to walk, cycle and drive on roads and streets
 - c) To create an environment where people feel safe
 - d) To provide opportunities for people to adopt healthier, more active lifestyles
 - e) To provide opportunities for people to move into paid employment
- 5 In producing this report, consultation was carried out with the chairs of subgroups and Community Councils and also some subgroup and Community Council members, Neighbourhood Partnership Board members and partnership partners. There was universal support for the effective delivery of the communities five priorities but some concern with doing this, such as:
- a) Recruiting sufficient community members for subgroups
 - b) Managing the workload for community members that do engage in meetings and community activity
 - c) Having effective officer support for sub group chairs
 - d) Ensuring membership is representative of the community
 - e) Ending the existing subgroups
 - f) Delivering environment projects funded by the neighbourhood environment fund

- 6 These points are considered as follows:
- a) Recruiting sufficient community members for subgroups - is linked with achieving effective community engagement. The partnership needs to ensure that where possible, positive, immediate and certain engagement outcomes are realised for the community.
 - b) Managing the workload for community members that do engage in meetings and community activity – community members will need to manage their own workloads but supporting officers can help them do this. Having effective subgroups, delivering key priorities of the community plan, will enable community members to devote their time efficiently, reducing the need to attend meetings with duplicated agendas.
 - c) Having effective officer support for sub group chairs – Service partners of the neighbourhood are sufficiently resourced to be able to provide officer support. Officer briefings and guidance will be provided.
 - d) Ensuring membership is representative of the community – the board may wish to consider appointing a separate group, not a subgroup, of interested individuals to monitor the effectiveness of the partnership's community engagement and make suggestions for enhancement.
 - e) Ending the existing subgroups – the housing and built environment subgroup has very successfully delivered many projects with funding from the neighbourhood environment fund. The revised subgroup arrangement, delivering the community plan 2011 to 2014, builds on this and recognises that the partnership is looking forward with a new three-year community plan. As noted in paragraph 3 b) above, each subgroup will take responsibility for and deliver a community plan priority. It would not be appropriate therefore to have further separate subgroups, leading to a possible lack of clarity over roles, responsibilities and links to the community plan. It would also require additional officer and community member resource. Combining 2 or more Community Plan priorities in a single sub group would have similar continuity issues and risk de-prioritising one or more of the 5 priorities.
 - f) Delivering environment projects funded by the neighbourhood environment fund – the five key priorities arrived at from community consultation to produce the community plan did not identify just one priority requiring primary access to funding. There will be a lot of crossover between subgroups delivering the priorities and all are likely to require funding for projects at various times. The Neighbourhood Environment Fund will continue to be managed by an SfC Neighbourhood Officer. The process for identifying, prioritising and approving projects will be

- 7 The 5 subgroups to deliver Community Plan priorities:
- i Clean Leith - to reduce the amount of mess on our streets
 - ii Moving Around Leith - to make it easier and safer to walk, cycle and drive on roads and streets
 - iii Feeling Safe - to create an environment where people feel safe
 - iv Health & Lifestyle - to provide opportunities for people to adopt healthier, more active lifestyles
 - v Employment Opportunities - to provide opportunities for people to move into paid employment

Sub groups will engage with Community Groups, Officer Groups, Specialist Groups and discrete Short Life Working Groups e.g. a development group for Fort House.

- 8 The Leith Neighbourhood Partnership, Local Community Plan 2011 to 2014, sets out the 5 priorities for making Leith a better place in which to live and work with information on how this can be achieved. The priorities are supported by an Action Plan which sets out how the Partnership will achieve each priority's outcomes. It notes realistic solutions to local issues. Having sub group arrangements closely aligned to the Community Plan priorities will communicate a clarity and logic to the community. A clear understanding for people actively involved with delivering priorities, those impacted by the priorities and those interested in the outcomes. Subgroup arrangements 2011 to 2014 are an integral part of the 'golden thread' running from community consultation to develop the community plan, through the 5 priorities, the action plan and on to successfully delivered outcomes.

Financial Implications

- 9 There will be no significant financial implications from the implementation of these recommendations. Some additional room hire and meeting administration costs may arise.

Environmental Impact

- 10 There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report.

Recommendations

- 11 It is recommended that the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership Board:
- a) Approves the establishment of five subgroups, as outlined in paragraph 7 above, each taking responsibility for delivering one of the community plan priorities.

- b) Requests the Leith Manager to establish the subgroups with roles, responsibilities, reporting and performance arrangements.
- c) Provides officer support for each subgroup.
- d) Agrees a board member sponsor for each subgroup.
- e) Requests a report of proposals for Neighbourhood Environment Funding arrangements.

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Appendices	Leith Neighbourhood Partnership Sub Groups structure 2011 to 2014
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Wards affected	Leith and Leith Walk

Supports National Outcomes:

- (1) We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
- (2) We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
- (3) We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation
- (4) Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- (5) Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- (6) We live longer, healthier lives.
- (7) We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- (8) We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- (9) We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- (10) We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
- (11) We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- (12) We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
- (13) We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
- (14) We reduce the local and global impact of our consumption and production.
- (15) Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Appendix 1 – Leith Neighbourhood Partnership Sub Group structure 2011 to 2014

