

◆ EDINBURGH ◆

YOUR COUNCIL – YOUR CITY

CAPITAL CITY GOVERNMENT

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 1 In accordance with the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council as lead partner in the community planning process, and in conjunction with its partner organisations, will appoint Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) for as many areas of the City as it shall determine.
- 2 Initially there will be 12 NPs for the following new Council wards:
 1. City Centre
 2. Craigentinny/Duddingston
 3. Portobello/Craigmillar
 4. Liberton/Gilmerton
 5. Meadows/Morningside and Southside/Newington
 6. Sighthill/Gorgie and Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart
 7. Pentland Hills and Colinton/Fairmilehead
 8. Drum Brae/Gyle and Corstorphine/Murrayfield
 9. Almond
 10. Forth
 11. Inverleith
 12. Leith Walk and Leith
- 3 The NPs will provide the means for effective, inclusive partnerships working across the city. Partnership activities will focus on issues which affect local quality of life including; the quality of local services, longer-term policy and planning issues and the quality of community engagement and participation.
- 4 The NPs will be Advisory Committees of the Council, for the purposes of section 57(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and Standing Order 37(3).

Functions

- 5 The functions of the NPs will be as follows:

Listening and consulting:

- to assist all partners in listening to, consulting and representing communities
- to ensure the effective engagement of all sectors of the community in the community planning process through the adoption of the National Standards for Community Engagement
- to promote local participation in deliberations on strategic planning and policy issues relevant to their area and the city as a whole

- to foster innovation in community engagement and local democracy, and to support the role of community councils
- to build and co-ordinate effective partnership activity in the area involving the Council and other local, public, private and voluntary sector partners and local people

Making contributions to strategies, plans and agreements:

- to develop and deliver a Local Community Plan for their area
- to identify key issues and concerns facing their area and set local priorities to move towards a longer term vision
- to integrate the work of regeneration partnerships and funding panels and deliver the outcomes of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement for their area, in accordance with the operational and procedural requirements of the terms and conditions of grant
- to ensure the delivery of other strategic plans at the local level
- to promote better service delivery in, and to, their area
- to inform the development of city strategies and the city Community Plan
- to develop other area strategies/initiatives as part of the community planning process
- to advise the Council and the Edinburgh Partnership on matters of importance in their area
- to bring together in one place all relevant information on their area, and to communicate with the residents of the area

Monitoring and reporting on progress:

- to monitor and report on performance against agreed outcomes in the local community plan/other local strategies and against locally agreed service standards
- to influence and improve the delivery of neighbourhood services, within existing budgets, and to monitor and report on such improvements.

Membership

6 The membership of each NP will comprise:

- Councillors
- a nominee of Lothian and Borders Police
- a nominee of NHS Lothian
- nominees from Community Councils in the area of the NP, or nominee from another properly constituted community organisation in the area should there be no Community Council
- representatives of other bodies able to make a specific contribution may be invited to participate by the Partnership
- a representative of voluntary agencies in the area of the NP.

(* In line with previous Council decisions there will be equal numbers of councillors and community representatives. This will be kept under review in the first year and if this arrangement results in some Community Councils not being represented at all then a review of the boundaries will be carried out in line with the existing scheme.)

- 7 Councillors serving on NPs will be all the councillors for the ward or wards which make up the area.
- 8 The process for securing the appointment of community representatives shall be by nomination from the Community Councils falling within the NP area, or where there is no Community Council individuals from properly constituted community organisations selected in a fair, open and accountable manner.
- 9 The NPs may co-opt as additional members a representative of a community of interest or an agency or organisation with knowledge of or interests in the area, provided that the partnership ensures that the overall number of board members is manageable.
- 10 The process for securing the appointment of the voluntary organisations' representative shall be by nomination from a grouping of relevant organisations located within the NP area.
- 11 In addition, NPs may invite other individuals and/or representatives of other public or private organisations with expertise or interest in their area, either as regular participants or for a specific issue, but they will not have voting rights.
- 12 Partner authorities and organisations entitled to nominate members of the NPs may also designate a substitute member to attend meetings in the absence of their primary nominee.
- 13 The Convener of each NP will be a councillor.

Meetings

- 14 NPs will meet regularly to discharge their functions. There will be a minimum of four meetings a year.

Voting

- 15 The NPs will aim for consensus. Where this is not possible, the matter may be determined by a simple majority of the members of the NP who are present.

Accountability

- 16 The NPs may submit recommendations to the Council, the Executive, or other committee of the Council or to a partner authority or organisation, or give guidance to the Director of a Department, or to an officer of a partner authority or organisation, on the exercise of functions delegated to them.
- 17 Each NP shall submit to the Council and the Edinburgh Partnership an annual report on progress that must include details of performance for the year past and a financial report covering the same period.

Conduct

- 18 All members of the NPs shall conduct their business in accordance with the [Code of Conduct](#) which will have particular regard to the registration and declaration of individual members' interests.

Standing Orders

- 19 Subject to paragraph 20, the Council's Standing Orders will apply to the NPs as Committees of the Council.
- 20 Standing Orders 42 and 60 are repealed. Otherwise, where this document is in conflict with Standing Orders, the provisions of this document will take precedence.
- 21 These arrangements will be formally incorporated in Standing Orders following a period of experience and review.