

**Edinburgh Partnership Review and Consultation of Governance and Community Planning Arrangements**

**July 2018**

**Introduction**

Community planning brings together public agencies, the third sector and communities to work together to plan and deliver services which make a real difference to people's lives. The Edinburgh Partnership involves these partners in overseeing this work for the city.

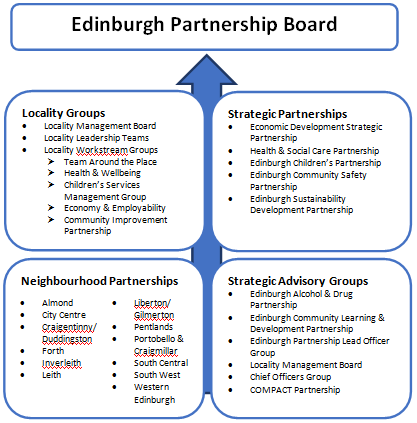
The Edinburgh Partnership recognises that we can improve community planning processes. In this consultation, the Edinburgh Partnership would like to hear people’s views on:

* how communities and community groups can more effectively influence decisions about their community
* how the governance arrangements can be improved to:
  + make it clear how decisions are made, and who is making them, by improving the groups and structures involved
  + make partnership working stronger
  + make better connections between the different levels of partnership working in the city.

**Context**

In Scotland, the law says a range of public bodies must take part in community planning. This is set out in the Scottish Government’s Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Act was designed to strengthen the influence communities have in making decisions about their area – this is known as community planning.

Below is the current governance structure in Edinburgh, which forms the basis of this consultation. It shows many partnership and advisory groups feed into and from the Edinburgh Partnership.



There are other bodies in the city which link to and/or have a role in these arrangements but they are not part of the governance structure. These include community councils, Council committees, the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and the Equality and Rights Network. They provide the city-wide perspective for community and interest groups. These are not included in the consultation.

To help develop the consultation, the Edinburgh Partnership carried out a review with the people involved in the current partnerships and groups shown in the governance structure on page 2. Their views on what is working well and what could be better have shaped the proposals and questions in this consultation.

We would now like to hear your views as we recognise that this consultation is relevant in different ways to a wide range of organisations.

**Timescales**

You can let us know your views between Monday 16th July 2018 to Sunday 9th September 2018.

**Ways to respond**

Let us know your views

* using the online questionnaire at consultationhub@edinburgh.gov.uk
* fill in this document and send it by email to [community.planning@edinburgh.gov.uk](file:///C:\Users\3518594\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\XVCZ7CJB\community.planning@edinburgh.gov.uk’) or post it to us at:

Community Strategies Team

The City of Edinburgh Council

Business Centre 2.1, Waverley Court

4 East Market Street

Edinburgh

EH4 7BG

**Your Details**

**What is your name? (optional)**

Western Neighbourhood Partnership

**What is your email address? (optional)**

N/A

**Which of these best describes you? (please tick)**

Community Group

Voluntary Sector Organisation

Public Sector Body

x

Other organisation

Individual

**What is the name of your organisation?**

Local Community Planning Partnership

**The review**

In the review, we asked people about their views on what a new governance structure might look like.

**Proposed structure**

During the review, we asked people to consider different governance structures ranging from a streamline version to one which included a wider range of partnerships and groups.

**The review told us**

There was strong agreement that we need to develop a streamlined and simple structure for community planning governance at all levels in the city. The proposal for this has the Edinburgh Partnership with two groups linking to it. The two groups are Locality Community Planning Partnerships and City-wide/Strategic Partnership or Partnerships.

With this structure, the Edinburgh Partnership, as the legal group, will remain although views on how it works and who is involved forms part of the consultation.

The neighbourhood/local and city-wide/strategic levels have the greatest potential for change. We would like your views on how these levels could be made better for all involved.

Making sure communities can meaningfully participate and influence community planning in the city is crucial. Given this, we have specific questions about how this might be improved.

This proposed structure reflects feedback from the review. However, you can of course tell us about your ideas for other structures which you feel might work.

**Section 1 - Community Participation**

Currently, communities and interest groups are represented in the community planning governance arrangements by community councils on Neighbourhood Partnerships. They are also represented on the Edinburgh Partnership by the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils and the Equality and Rights Network. Communities are also more widely engaged in community planning in other ways such as through participation in surveys and workshops on particular issues.

**What the review told us**

The review identified that there was not meaningful community participation in the current structure and we need new ways of working.

**Questions:**

Q1.1 Should community bodies continue to have a representative role in the new governance arrangements?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | x | No |  |

If no, please explain why?

|  |
| --- |
| Whilst the overall response is yes;   * NP members suggest that the NP doesn’t have a role/or connected at present; * Difficult to respond as unclear about what is a ‘community body’ * How is the third sector at local level represented * It needs to be fully representational and meaningful |

Q1.2 If you agree to community bodies being represented, which groups should be involved at each level, please identify and explain why?

|  |
| --- |
| Locality level -   * Locality level is too high, needs to be a sub level to ensure communities are adequately represented based on the principle of maximising opportunity to engage in the widest sense; * Sub level needs to be NPs or something similar that can gather views, engage effectively and assist to co design solutions locally; * There needs to be recognition that all 4 localities are different in terms of characteristics, geography, urban, issues, infrastructure etc   Strategic/city-wide level -   * Difficult to say as there’s a lack of accountability and transparency around functions etc * Need to know what they do in order to fully understand what role the community could have that would be meaningful and add value; * CCs and VSFs could play a role in assisting to direct strategy as they ultimate goal is to address issues at grass roots therefore those at this level are vital; * Can’t simply be talking shops, must be about doing, influencing and addressing inequality; * Community involvement with co-design will help to produce improved outcomes and can ultimately lead to greater community participation whereby the wider community can see an outturn for their efforts etc   Edinburgh Partnership –   * ‘Representative’ model needs a re-think as it’s suggested the EACC is perhaps not as representative as some think; * It’s unclear about the role and function of the community voice at this level as there is no resource attached as such therefore, what authority do they have in terms of decision making? * Suggested that the Community Council model remains the community voice and the CCs to identify a better way to establish how they should be better involved, perhaps at different levels * Potential for each locality to be represented once the process has been redesigned |

Q1.3 Looking wider than a representative role, how do we ensure communities are involved and influence community planning in the city?

|  |
| --- |
| * Needs to be more than just traditional meetings; * Improve communication around the community planning agenda, gather views. Suggested that partners are behind the curve in terms of how we utilise new technology to engage, time to get in front of the curve. * Find better ways to engage across generations, all voices are valid; * Use YouthTalk model as an adult based model; * Must find ways to futureproof how we engage and act |

Q1.4 Do we need a community participation strategy to support the meaningful engagement in community planning?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | x | No |  |

**SEE ABOVE COMMENTS**

If yes, what might this include?

|  |
| --- |
| Based on some of the discussion as entered above. It was added that this must be:  Accessible  Meaningful  Relevant and reflects the needs of the community(s)  Measurable  An action plan is also required. |

**Section 2 - Locality Level**

The current community planning arrangements in the four localities in the city are complex and include:

* a Locality Management Board which oversees and supports locality working. It is chaired by a senior officer of the Council and involves senior officers from a range of public and voluntary sector bodies.
* four Locality Leadership Teams which bring together the same organisations as the Locality Management Board at a locality level. These teams co-ordinate local partnership working and oversee the development and delivery of the Locality Improvement Plan. Their work is supported by working groups which focus on the themes which are set out in the Locality Improvement Plans.
* twelve Neighbourhood Partnerships which were formally created as advisory committees of the Council. They aim to improve the quality of life in their areas and members include elected members, community councils and officers from the public and voluntary sectors.

There is no legal requirement to have community planning governance arrangements at this level.

**What the review told us**

The review identified that groups and partnerships were not well-connected at the local level, and that it was not clear how they related to the city-wide/strategic level. The current arrangements were also considered complex, with areas of duplication, and costly to support and maintain.

The review identified mixed views on whether Neighbourhood Partnerships should continue. Under the proposed structure, the Neighbourhood partnerships would not continue to form part of the community planning governance arrangements. However, they are advisory committees of the Council and so the City of Edinburgh Council would need to take a separate decision about their status as part of its governance structure.

**Proposal**

Based on these views, the proposal is to establish a new Community Planning Partnership for each of the four localities. These would be responsible for developing and delivering Locality Improvement Plans. Members must have the authority to make decisions for and on behalf of the organisation they represent.

As these partnerships would develop the Locality Improvement Plan and agree delivery of the actions, we would need additional operational arrangements and engagement processes. Each partnership would need to decide what is needed based on resource, service and community requirements. During the review, people raised concerns about the size of localities and how to address the varying needs and circumstances of the different communities. We would need flexibility in each locality to decide what arrangements and processes would work best.

**Questions:**

Q2.1 Do you agree that there should be four Locality Community Planning Partnerships?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  | Go to Question 2.2 | No | x |  |

If no, what should be established instead?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments  See previous comments. Suggested that community planning must be a sub level below locality e.g. NPs or similar. |

Q2.2 If you agree to the establishment of Locality Community Planning Partnerships, which bodies/groups should be represented?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments  N/A |

Q2.3 Thinking wider than the Locality Improvement Plans, are there other areas of responsibility the locality partnership should oversee?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments  Budgets  Development of areas of common interest at locality level e.g. bringing people together |

Q2.4 The proposal is to no longer retain Neighbourhood Partnerships as part of the community planning governance structures, how do we ensure that all views and needs are meaningfully represented in a community planning partnership at a locality level?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments  N/A |

Q2.5 The existing partnerships have a traditional meeting-based format, are there innovative and more accessible ways the Locality Community Planning Partnership might work?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments   * Needs to be more than just traditional meetings; * Improve communication around the community planning agenda, gather views. Suggested that partners are behind the curve in terms of how we utilise new technology to engage, time to get in front of the curve. * Find better ways to engage across generations, all voices are valid; * Use YouthTalk model as an adult based model * Must find ways to futureproof how we engage and act |

Q2.6 This proposal allows for the Locality Community Planning Partnership to develop its own operational and engagement arrangements within the locality. Do you agree that the Locality Community Planning Partnership should do this?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | x | No |  |

If no, please explain why?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments |

Q2.7 How could this new arrangement better link with the Edinburgh Partnership and its strategic partnership groups e.g. representation across the various partnerships?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments  Localities represented at Edinburgh Partnership. Ensure bottom up approach with localities at the top table. |

**Section 3 - Strategic Level**

Currently, we have a mixture of strategic partnerships and advisory groups in the city. You can find details of this in a supporting document (see Appendix 1 – Governance Existing Arrangements).

**What the review told us**

The review identified that the current arrangements are complex with duplication and evidence of partnerships working in isolation. There was little or no community participation at this level and it was unclear how communities influenced the partnerships/groups. There was a strong view that we need to streamline this level and make better connections with community planning arrangements in localities.

There is no legal requirement to have partnership/group(s) at this level. However, within the community planning duties, the Edinburgh Partnership must have oversight of the delivery of outcomes which relate to the Children’s’ Services Plan, Community Learning and Development Plan and Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan. These currently form part of the remit of existing partnerships/groups.

**Proposal**

Based on the views expressed, the proposal is to reduce the number of city-wide strategic partnerships/groups which will support the Edinburgh Partnership to develop and deliver the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the community plan for the city. The new partnership(s) would also provide the governance route for the other legal community planning requirements described above.

**Questions**:

Q3.1 Do you agree that strategic partnerships are created in line with the themes in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  | No |  |

If no, what should be established instead and why?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments  NP found it difficult to respond beyond this point. Except Q5.1 |

Q3.2 What, if any, of the existing strategic partnerships are needed and why?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments |

Q3.3 How would we best take account of the legal duties in relation to other plans within the proposed structure?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments |

**Section 4 - Edinburgh Partnership**

The Edinburgh Partnership is the city's community planning partnership. It brings together public agencies, third sector and communities to work together to plan and deliver services which make a real difference to people's lives.

By law, the Edinburgh Partnership must provide the strategic leadership and oversight of community planning in the city. The structure needs to provide a way of making strategic decisions. The partnership must involve senior representatives from partner bodies, who have high levels of authority, and can hold senior executives to account. The Edinburgh Partnership is responsible for putting in place effective structures which:

* will deliver joint action
* make sure there is a clear role for the community in making decisions and
* provide clear lines of accountability between partners and to the community.

**What the review told us**

The review identified the need for the Edinburgh Partnership to be more effective in meeting these requirements with the membership and remit to be revised on this basis.

**Questions:**

Q4.1 What do we need to do to make sure the Edinburgh Partnership can effectively meet its legal duties?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments |

Q4.2 What would make the Edinburgh Partnership more accessible and transparent?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments |

**Section 5 - Resourcing**

For community planning to be effective, partners must take joint action and share resources.

The legal guidance identifies that statutory community planning partners must contribute funds, staff and other resources which are considered appropriate to make sure community groups take part in community planning.

**What the review told us**

A key issue arising from the review is that the current administrative and support arrangements are costly and largely met by the Council. The Council cannot maintain this level of support in the longer-term.

**Question:**

Q5.1 How should partners jointly resource the administration, support and participation of community bodies in the new community planning arrangements?

|  |
| --- |
| Your comments  Suggseted that all partners have a role to play in supporting the Community Planning agenda and process. This cannot simply be attending strategic meetings but actively supporting wider process and development.  Suggested a percentage ratio/contribution is agreed across partners to support. |

**Section 6 – Any Other Feedback**

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| --- |
| Your comments |