

22 June 2023

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Commitment to improvement following critical 2020 Audit Scotland 'Best Value' report.

Community Engagement & Empowerment Service - The Vision

Our Vision is to help ensure that community empowerment and engagement are at the heart of Council service planning and delivery



Two 'Officer-level' positions still to fill.



Paul Lawrence, CEC Director of Place, will head a new supervisory Board.

Early focus on building out Neighbourhood Networks (NNs); strong in NW Locality; patchy to weak in NE, SE and SW localities.

NNs are the conduit for the implementation of Locality Improvement Plans (LIPs).

LIP 2023-28 programmes now in gestation; consultation upcoming.

‘Developmental work’ with CCs not defined, but CCs are regarded as pivotal to furthering the LIPs.

Community Centre estate (35 units) under a lot of pressure (financial and other); the focus has to be to find sustainable business models for them. Look for an outline strategy to emerge over the next 12 months from the ‘Policy Oversight Group’; then the hard work begins.

Funding opportunities are / will become available under the Shared Prosperity Fund to support local community initiatives (e.g., the ‘R2’ programme in NW, the ‘Go Beyond’ programme in SW).

What will we do?

We will manage the Community Grants Fund and other local devolved budgets

We will work with Council services to support them with empowerment and engagement activities via a new Board

We will work with Neighbourhood Networks and Local Community Planning Partnerships on the delivery of their plans and priorities

We will carry out developmental work with Community Councils

We will work with community and community run centre management committees on their futures through a 3 year SPF programme

We will deliver a community centre strategy

We will work with the Third Sector and community organisations on new partnering and delivery approaches

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CE&E Team will provide a clear ‘Key CEC contacts / who does what listing’.

EACC wants to offer strong support for the CE&E initiative.

CCs have to have realistic expectations of what CE&E can deliver (given the size of the team, the width of remit and the wide financial constraints faced by CEC).

CE&E support for CCs will only be effective where CCs themselves identify what their realistic local needs are.

‘CCs must inform themselves’.