

## AGENDA ITEM 7



**Committee:** Strategic Growth Partnership  
**Date:** 22 February 2018  
**Agenda Item:** Local Community Planning Processes  
**Officer presenting:** Head of Community Development and Leisure

### **1 Purpose of this report/recommendations**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress to date with regards to local community planning and associated governance arrangements.

### **2 Background**

2.1 Members will be aware that Derry City and Strabane District Council has given a commitment to the development of 8 Local Community Growth Plans (LCGP) for the 7 District Electoral Areas and Strabane Town. The 7 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) are; Sperrin, Derg, Faughan, Waterside, Ballyarnet, Foyleside and Moor. Strabane Town will also have a dedicated Local Community Growth Plan.

2.2 Similar to the process for the Strategic Growth Plan, the local community planning process will strive to ensure that people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions which affect them; allied to a commitment from organisations to work together, not separately, in providing better public services.

2.3 The commitment to develop 8 Local Community Growth Plans for the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area (DCSDC) area will ensure that key local issues and needs are prioritised, not only by Council but by other Statutory Partners. The local Community Planning process gives local residents living in each of the 8 areas an opportunity to be involved in highlighting the key issues that matter most to them.

- 2.4 The co-design process utilised to develop the Strategic Growth Plan has also been utilised in the development of the 8 Local Community Growth Plans. To date there has been a number of Local Community Planning workshops held in each of the 8 areas. Alongside the local workshops, Council Officers with the interim chairs for the 8 areas have been carrying out engagement sessions with residents, community groups and elected members in each of the 8 areas. There have been a number of specific workshops held for the Sections 75 groupings, to ensure that the Local Community Growth Plans are reflective of the needs from this grouping.

### **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Governance and Implementation arrangements have not yet been finalised for the local Community Growth Partnerships. However, feedback to date from a number of workshops and engagements with the Community has highlighted the need to build on the existing structures that are in place within the Urban and Rural areas.
- 3.2 In order to take this process forward Derry City and Strabane District Council has appointed Fearon Consulting to look at how best to develop the bespoke governance arrangements for the 8 Local Growth Partnerships, whilst building on the existing structures in both the Urban and Rural areas. As part of this process Fearon Consulting met with the existing networks and structures in place in both the Urban and Rural DEAs. Elected Members have also been consulted as part of this process. In addition 9 resident engagement events have been facilitated across the Council area.

A Statutory partner's workshop was held on 31 January 2018 which was very well attended. Statutory partners have provided essential feedback as part of this process and have also been provided with the Draft Local Growth Plans with written responses requested by 14 February. In addition to this Fernon Consulting held a number of individual meetings with a range of Statutory partners.

A specific consultation which was also very well attended was carried out with professionals working in a Strategic or front line role with Children and Young people in order to discuss two key areas as follows:

- How children and young people's voices could be directly represented within the new Local Growth Plan governance arrangements.
  - To identify how the 3 locality planning groups (Waterside, Derry/Londonderry and Strabane) which sit below the Western Outcomes Group (WAOG) can be aligned with the Local Growth Plan implementation structures in order to ensure partnership working and avoid duplication.
- 3.3 The bespoke governance arrangements will take into consideration equality legislation and advice will be sought from Councils Equality Officer with regards to the specific EQIA requirements.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that Fernon Consulting will provide draft recommendations by the end of February 2018 on the preferred process in relation to the governance arrangements for the Local Growth Partnerships. The implementation of this process is expected to take a number of weeks to complete. However it is expected that the local growth partnerships will be in a position to agree and finalise the Local Growth Plans by late Spring 2018.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.