

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee – 31 October 2012

**CULTURE AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
“LIVING COMMUNITIES”**

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services)

ABSTRACT

This report updates the Committee on the impact and success of the ‘Living Communities’ project, a partnership initiative between the Council and the Gannochy Trust; and plans to continue the project in 2013/14.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the content of this report and the impact and success of ‘Living Communities’ in academic years 2011/12 and 2012/13;
- 1.2 Agrees the continuation of the project in academic year 2013/14;
- 1.3 Agrees to the continuation of current joint project management arrangements for 2013/14.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Delivery of the ‘Living Communities’ report was agreed by Lifelong Learning Committee on 1 June 2011 (report Culture and Education Partnership Project ‘Living Communities’ Ref 11/253). Delivery commenced in December 2011 and the final phase will complete in January 2013. The project was designed to reflect new and emerging best practice in engaging young people through Curriculum for Excellence, and wider local communities, in arts and culture activities which build a sense of local identity and place. This increased community and locality focus is more widely reflected in the Council’s refreshed Cultural Strategy, also agreed in June 2011 (Report ref 11/252, Perth and Kinross Cultural Strategy 2011 ‘Quality for Life’.)
- 2.2 ‘Living Communities’ is the largest cultural participation project delivered to date in Perth and Kinross – it has been rolled out to all schools in the area, including Fairview and Almondbank - and one of the largest in Scotland. It is pupil-driven, meaning that the Living Communities team works with children and young people to develop individual projects based on topics which the pupils decide themselves, and from which they develop work in a wide range of media including visual art, film/new media, dance, music and storytelling. The project objectives were:
 - Contributing to the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence and providing professional development for school staff.
 - Engaging with marginalised young people in line with *Getting It Right For Every Child*.
 - Embedding the facilities at the new campuses with local communities.

- Sustaining communities & promoting intergenerational cooperation.
 - Contributing to the long-term transformation of Perth Museum and Art Galleries & the museum service.
 - Enhancing communities' sense of place and contributing to civic celebrations in 2012.
 - Give national profile to the innovative and best-practice use locally of cultural participation in both learning and sustaining communities.
- 2.3 The project was a partnership initiative with the Gannochy Trust which was also the majority funder, contributing £240,000 to the total £306,000 project with £15,000 revenue contribution from PKC and an estimated £50,350 in-kind contribution from staff time (following project implementation this figure has been revised and is now known to be £89,283). The funding balance was raised from other sources including key contributions from Museums Galleries Scotland of £20,000 and £7,000 from Education Scotland. Project governance has been through a Project Board jointly chaired by the Council and the Trust, with key representation from other bodies including Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and Skills Development Scotland. The project has consolidated the relationship between the Trust and the Council, increasing mutual understanding of shared strategic priorities in relation to the early intervention and prevention agenda, Curriculum for Excellence, and Place/locality working.
- 2.4 External project evaluation against the original project objectives set out in 2.2 will begin shortly, with interim evaluation findings available in December this year. However, it is clear that the project has had a significant impact on young people and communities. The original target for number of participants was 1,800; by end September 2012 this stood at 3673, double the original target. In addition, 12 local communities have been engaged in a range of local heritage projects and events. The project has also attracted interest from national stakeholders, and as part of the final programme of events a stakeholder seminar at the National Museums of Scotland is planned to showcase 'Living Communities' as a key best practice example.

3 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Discussions have taken place over the summer with the Gannochy Trust about the possibility of extending 'Living Communities' for a further year in 2013/14, given its success and impact to date, and a joint desire from both the Council and the Trust that project benefits to date are sustained. The Trust has indicated it will provide up to a further £240,000 to enable this, and a reduced level of transition funding (to a maximum of £100,000) in 2014/15 to allow transitional arrangements and mainstreaming of 'Living Communities' working practices into core arts and heritage services and a scoping study for this phase will be undertaken towards the end of the current financial year.
- 3.2 The current project governance arrangements, with the Gannochy Trust and the Council as partners providing the oversight and high-level management, would continue. The Council will lead the delivery phase of the project, with responsibility for staffing/resource management, fundraising, facilitating contacts

with schools & communities, and facilitating access to the nationally recognised museum collections and archives which are a key project resource.

- 3.3 Project objectives for the next year will be scoped in detail and agreed with the Project Board on the basis of project evaluation findings which will identify which components of 'Living Communities' have had most impact, and with which key groups. This evaluation will also inform how project resources are reviewed, adapted and where appropriate realigned to support the next phase of delivery. The potential for bringing in additional expertise to support the project and thereby maximise the opportunities for participating children, young people and communities will also be further explored.

4 CONSULTATION

The Head of Democratic Services and the Gannochy Trust have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Gannochy Trust will provide up to a further £240,000 for the project to continue until January 2014. Indication of the Trust's intention to provide further funding is extremely helpful at this stage as it allows forward planning for the project to continue without a break from January 2013. The additional £15,000 Council contribution will be met from existing Cultural Services budgets. In addition, the Council will provide an increased in-kind contribution (staff time) of £20,198 (total in-kind contribution of £109,481).

6 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012

- 6.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:-
- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
 - (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
 - (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy
 - (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
 - (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

This report and the Living Communities Project contributes to (iv) and (v).

- 6.2 The report also links to the Education and Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Learning: Developing Communities

7 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (Eq1A) with the following outcome:

As part of the development of this project 'Living Communities' we will be engaging with young people, their teachers and community groups – particularly groups of older people and outcomes will be reflected in the overall approach to ensure the project and its achievements will be inclusive. The relevant outcomes will also be recorded as part of process of completing the equality impact assessment for this project. It is expected that when fully implemented the Living Communities approach will help to advance equality.

8 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

9 CONCLUSION

'Living Communities' has raised a level of expectation amongst schools and young people about the learning possibilities which the heritage collections in the care of the Council provide. In short, and in terms of implementing Curriculum for Excellence, Living Communities has demonstrated the value of learning in context. With this very welcome further funding and support from the Gannochy Trust and building on the learning, experiences and collaborations of the first year of the project we will continue to deliver a focused programme of activities. These will inform the ongoing succession and legacy work which will have a lasting impact on working practices within arts and heritage services.

JOHN FYFFE

Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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