

## Dates of 2021 Meetings

12 March

11 June

10 September

12 November

# DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Meeting on Friday 12 March 2021

10am-12.30pm

By 'MS Teams'

### Members

- Elaine Murray** - Leader  
Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Nick Morris** - Chair  
Vice Chair  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Jeff Ace** - Chief Executive  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Hugh Carr** - Dumfries and Galloway Further and Higher  
Education Sector
- Ian Carruthers** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Colin Cook** - Location Director for Dumfries and Galloway  
Scottish Government (observer)
- Rob Davidson** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- John Dougan** - Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Maureen Dowden** - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector
- Andy Ferguson** - Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Professor Russel Griggs** - Chair  
South of Scotland Enterprise
- Norma Austin Hart** - Chief Executive  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Sheena Horner** - Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector
- Helen Keron** - Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

- Craig McGoldrick** - Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Carol McGuire** - Local Commander, Police Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Jane Maitland** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Jane Morrison-Ross** - Chief Executive  
South of Scotland Enterprise (advisor)
- Gavin Stevenson** - Chief Executive  
Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)
- Andrew Wood** - Chairman  
SWestrans

**Dates of Meetings 2021**

**12 March 11 June 10 September 12 November**

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**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**FRIDAY 12 MARCH 2021  
10.00am – 12.30pm  
Via MS Teams**

**AGENDA**

- 10.00am 1. DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ON 13 NOVEMBER  
2020 (attached)**
- 10.05am 2. BUSINESS BRIEFING – MARCH 2021 (attached)**
- 10.15am 3. COVID RESPONSE, RENEWAL AND RECOVERY (attached)**
- 10.35am 4. PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP APPROACH ON TACKLING  
POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES (attached)**
- 10.55am 5. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS - UPDATE(attached)**
- 11.15am 6. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL’S CLIMATE EMERGENCY  
DECLARATION – A ROUTE MAP TO CARBON NEUTRAL (attached)**
- 11.30am 7. UK EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (attached)**
- 11.45am 8. LOCALITY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY PLANNING LOCALITY  
HUBS (attached)**
- 12noon 9. KEY STRATEGIES AND PLANS – UPDATES (attached)**
- 12.10pm 10. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS  
(attached)**
- 12.25pm 11. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – FORWARD  
PROGRAMME (attached)**
- 12.30pm CLOSE**



**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
Friday 13 November 2020  
Easterbrook Hall, Bankend Road,  
Dumfries, DG1 4TL and by Teams**

**Present**

- Elaine Murray** - Leader  
(Chair) Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Ian Carruthers** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Colin Cook** - Location Director for Dumfries and Galloway  
Scottish Government (observer)
- Derek Crichton** - Director Communities  
(*substitute*) Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Rob Davidson** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Andy Ferguson** - Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Nick Halfhide** - Interim Chief Executive  
South of Scotland Enterprise (advisor)
- Norma Austin Hart** - Chief Executive  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Mark Hollis** - Superintendent, Police Scotland Dumfries  
(*substitute*) and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Sheena Horner** - Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector
- Helen Keron** - Chair, Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector
- Craig McGoldrick** - Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service,  
Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)



**Jane Maitland** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council

### Apologies

**Jeff Ace** - Chief Executive  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)

**Hugh Carr** - Dumfries and Galloway Further and Higher Education Sector

**Maureen Dowden** - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector

**Professor Russel Griggs** - South of Scotland Enterprise

**Linda Jones** - Local Commander, Police Scotland  
Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)

**Nick Morris** - Chair  
(Vice Chair) NHS Dumfries and Galloway

**Gavin Stevenson** - Chief Executive  
Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)

**Andrew Wood** - Chair  
SWestrans

### In attendance

**Darrie Foster** - Youth Councillor, Annandale East and Eskdale

**Ingrid Gemmell** - Ward Manager Dee and Glenkens (Item 6)

**Cameron Greer** - MSYP for Dumfriesshire

**Regan Jackson** - Regional Youth Issues Worker (observer)

**Liz Manson** - Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
(Item 5 and Item 9)

**Mark Molloy** - Service Manager – Young People

**Natasha O'Neill** - Youth Councillor, Annandale South

- Kirsty Peden** - Community Engagement Manager
- Lindsay Thomson** - Youth Councillor, Castle Douglas and Crocketford
- Mark Thomson** - Principal Resilience Adviser,  
Dumfries and Galloway Council (Item 3)
- Murrie Thomson** - Youth Councillor, Mid and Upper Nithsdale
- Bailey Wright** - Youth Councillor, Mid and Upper Nithsdale

**13 members present, including 4 advisors, from 11 partners and six Youth Councillors.**

The Chair **WELCOMED** everyone to the meeting, including the Leadership Group from Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council who were joining the Board for this meeting.

Members present in the Easterbrook Hall were: Norma Austin Hart

Members present via MS Teams were: Ian Carruthers, Colin Cook, Derek Crichton, Rob Davidson, Andy Ferguson, Nick Halfhide, Mark Hollis, Sheena Horner, Helen Keron, Craig McGoldrick, Jane Maitland and Elaine Murray

## 1.DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

**APPROVED** as a correct record

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

## 2. PRESENTATION FROM DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY YOUTH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP GROUP

2.1 **RECEIVED** a presentation from the Youth Council Leadership Group on their work to date and future plans.

2.2 **NOTED** the Findings from the Dumfries and Galloway Young People's Response to COVID-19 research, which would help Community Planning partners meet the needs of young people in the region; and

2.3 **NOTED** food, money, welfare and family relationships were the highest concerns during the COVID pandemic and the work taking place to address the high number of young people without access to digital devices for learning and social purposes.

2.4 **AGREED** that a meeting with the Youth Council be held as soon as it is possible to have in-person meetings; and

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

2.5 **WELCOMED** the proposal from Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway to meet with the Youth Councillors to discuss how they can work more closely with the Third Sector Children and Young People's Forum.

**ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TSDG**

## 3. COVID RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RENEWAL

3.1 **NOTED** levelling off of positive cases and that Scottish Government has confirmed Dumfries and Galloway would remain in Level 2 of the local protection levels until at least the next review; .

3.2 **RECOGNISED** the significant contributions of the wider community in following Government guidelines to keep infection levels low; and the efforts and work of NHS Public Health, Health and Social Care Partnership, schools and the Third Sector in particular in managing difficult situations;

3.3 **NOTED** the Local Resilience Partnership is intending to take an 'all- risk' approach in the coming months, as in addition to challenges of COVID 19 there is the potential disruption of UK's Exit from the EU, severe winter weather, seasonal flu and Avian influenza. This approach will ensure there is a harmonised approach to manage disruption; and it mirrors the approach of Scottish Government and other national partners.



3.4 **WELCOMED** the positive news about a vaccine, and **HIGHLIGHTED** local partners are committed to working in partnership with the NHS to support a mass vaccination programme;

3.5 **ENDORSED** the principles and key Actions of the report 'South of Scotland Third Sector: A Partnership Approach to COVID-19 Response and Recovery Planning' and supported its implementation with partner organisations and the Partnership COVID Recovery Group;

3.6 **ALSO NOTED** complementary work on measuring social value, social capital and person-centred approaches.

**ACTION: CHIEF OFFICER – RESPONSE, RENEWAL AND RECOVERY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE TSDG**

#### **4. ANNUAL REPORTS 2019/20 BY THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS**

4.1 **SCRUTINISED** the annual reports from thematic partnerships and **AGREED** that they presented effective and efficient arrangements in relation to leadership, process, practice and learning;

4.2 **NOTED** consideration is being given by the Health and Social Care Partnership about increasing engagement with young people which could include representation on the Integration Joint Board;

**ACTION: LEAD OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

4.3 **HIGHLIGHTED** the importance of good communications, **NOTING** that public and third sector partners are investing in their arrangements, particularly to improve social media; and that the Council is currently reviewing its Communications Strategy; and

4.4 **NOTED** invitation to the Chair of the Economic Leadership Group to attend the COGITS (Chief Officers Group in Third Sector) to discuss how the Groups could work better together.

**ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE TSDG/CHAIR, ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP GROUP**

#### **5. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

5.1 **AGREED** the third Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020 **NOTING** some data still to be developed, collated and inserted.

5.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** that Child and Adolescent Mental Health is very high on the agenda across the Partnership and the importance of these figures being inserted in the Report

**ACTION: CHIEF OFFICER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE/COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

## 6. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LOCALITY PLAN ON FOOD SHARING

6.1 **AGREED** the third Dumfries and Galloway Locality Plan on Food sharing for 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020; AND

6.2 **AGREED** additional detail be added to the figures for Scottish Welfare Grant Crisis Grants and the allocations made for the Council's Anti-Poverty Budget determined through Participatory Budgeting.

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

**Councillor Andy Ferguson left the meeting. 12 members present, including 4 advisors, from 11 partners.**

## 7. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKING GROUPS

7.1 **SCRUTINISED** the annual reports from the Working Groups and **AGREED** that they presented effective and efficient arrangements in relation to leadership, process, practice and learning;

**Councillor Andy Ferguson re-joined the meeting. 13 members present, including 4 advisors, from 11 partners.**

7.2 **DISCUSSED** how young people could have a greater involvement in tackling poverty and inequality, which could include:

- further development of the Youth Council Ward Action Plans
- opportunities in partners' activities to include Youth Councillors in appropriate forums – for example the Council's review of its Anti-Poverty Strategy 2015-20 and development of new arrangements by a Member Officer Working Group
- involvement in the Community Planning Partnership Co-ordination Group/its next iteration

7.3 **HIGHLIGHTED** that the age Protected Characteristic was represented on the Equality and Diversity Working Group by a member of the Council's Youth Services team; and that this provided opportunities for inter-sectional issues to be addressed as well as the opportunity to influence a wide range of organisations.

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

## 8. CURRENT KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES

**NOTED** the updates from the Key Plans and Strategies that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as follows:

### 8.1 Anti-Poverty Strategy

8.1.1 **ENDORSED** the final performance monitoring report for this Strategy

8.1.2 **NOTED** the publication of the Research Report on Poverty and Deprivation in Dumfries and Galloway on Thursday 3 December 2020; and

8.1.2 **FURTHER NOTED** updates on other issues including Anti-Poverty Budget for 2020/21 being determined by Participatory Budgeting.

**ACTION: ANTI-POVERTY OFFICER/ MANAGER - YOUTH WORK**

## 8.2 Children's Services Plan

8.2.1 **ENDORSED** the Joint Annual Report for 2019/20; and

8.2.2 **NOTED** the consideration of the 10,000 Voices Research and the Realigning Children's Services Wellbeing Surveys in the work of the Children's Services Executive Group

## 8.3 Community Justice Improvement Plan

8.3.1 **ENDORSED** the local area annual report for 2019/20; and

8.3.2 **NOTED** that the 10,000 Voices Research would be used to inform future work.

## 8.4 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan

8.4.1 **ENDORSED** the end of year report for 2019/20 ; and

8.4.2 **NOTED** the CLD Partnership has established a Sub-Group to support its lead role for Priority Six of the Children's Services Plan.

## 8.5 COVID Recovery Action Plan

**NOTED** there has been no progress in taking forward the Recovery Plan as partners have still been focused on COVID Response activity

## 8.6 Employability and Skills

8.6.1 **NOTED** plans for the next meeting in November including the 'No-one Left Behind' Delivery Plan and overall investment in employability support for young people; and

8.6.2 **WELCOMED** the creation of a website where all partners can be part of a regional Directory of Services.

## 8.7 Health and Social Care Strategic Plan

8.7.1 **NOTED** the progress in preparing the 2019/20 Annual Performance Report for the Health and Social Care Strategic Plan had been limited due to the demand for COVID information; and

8.7.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** that engagement has begun on the 'bottom up' development of the new Health and Social Care Strategic Plan

**ACTION: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

## 8.8 Local Development Plan 2

8.8.1 **NOTED** the requirement for Locality Place Plans was being addressed as part of our locality planning work across partners with a report planned for this Board in March 2021; and

8.8.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** the importance of the declared Climate Emergency being reflected in our Local Development Plan

**ACTION: HEAD OF ECONOMY AND PLANNING DGC; AND COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

### 8.9 Local Housing Strategy

**NOTED** updates on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan; Town Centre Living Fund; and the Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme projects in our region.

## 9. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP(CPP) BOARD ARRANGEMENTS

### **AGREED:**

9.1 the CPP Improvement Plan for 2021;

9.2 the risk register as at November 2020;

9.3 the Board meeting dates for 2021 as 12 March, 11 June, 10 September, and 12 November;

9.4 the work programme; and

9.5 there should be a COVID Update as a separate item on each agenda

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

DRAFT

Item 2**BUSINESS BRIEFING– MARCH 2021****1. Background**

This Briefing provides an update on recent developments and since the last meeting of the Board on 13 November 2020.

**2. Key issues****2.1 Board Membership**

2.1.1 Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway has appointed John Dougan as one of its representative on the CPP Board – John is the Vice Chair of Relationship Scotland.

2.1.2 Carol McGuire has been appointed as the new Local Commander for the Dumfries and Galloway Division of Police Scotland and therefore joins our Community Planning Executive Group and the Board.

2.1.3 South of Scotland Enterprise has appointed Jane Morrison-Ross as their permanent Chief Executive and she therefore joins our Community Planning Executive Group and the Board.

2.1.4 All new members have received an Induction Pack and offer of support; with letters of thanks and good wishes for the future sent to Linda Jones of Police Scotland and Nick Halfhide, formerly South of Scotland Enterprise.

**2.2 Public Health Reform – Whole System Approach (WSA)**

2.2.1 The Public Health Reform Programme has understandably not been able to make the planned progress over the last year, although its principles have been even more firmly established with the partnership response during COVID, the focus on evidenced-based decision-making; and health and wellbeing being a primary focus for individuals and communities.

2.2.2 However, a national Seminar on the WSA in relation to public health and policing was held in February 2021 which was attended by Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager. The headline message reaffirmed that collective leadership is required across all sectors in order to tackle existing and emerging societal issues such as poor health; poverty, inequalities, and improved justice outcomes.

2.2.3 There was strong recognition of the importance of integrating best practice emerging through the Covid response; and increased emphasis placed on “community and place”; poverty and mental health and well-being.

2.2.4 It was seen that the Public Health WSA can be transferred into a policing context through:

- Triangulation/analysis of data;
- Interventions “scaled up” and targeted as appropriate to the individual;

- Facilitating positive changes in service attitudes and embracing partnership working;
- Appreciation of the “ecological model” (individual>relationship>community>society).

2.2.5 Key approaches/interventions which are consistent with ongoing work in Dumfries and Galloway (see locality planning and poverty and inequality reports elsewhere on this agenda) include:

- Community navigators (i.e., GP surgeries and beyond);
- Community Development (asset based approaches);
- Addiction support, mental health, trauma;
- Community responsive policing – intelligence led problem solving – focussed deterrence;
- Safe/shared community spaces.

2.2.6 Fuller details of the seminar, particularly around policing in schools, have been shared with colleagues across partnerships.

### 2.3. Population and Project 155

2.3.1 Project 155 is in our Community Planning Improvement Plan for 2021 as it has been recognised that depopulation, and particularly a reduction in our working age population, needs to be addressed.

- Within Dumfries and Galloway the gap between births and deaths is increasing.
- The net migration shows that at present there is an increase in the number of people from the rest of the UK moving to the region, however there are more people who leave the region to other parts of Scotland and leave to move / return to overseas.
- the migration to Dumfries and Galloway does not level out the difference between the births/deaths difference

2.3.2 The current situation with both the pandemic (negative impacts on births and deaths) and the UK Exit from the EU (negative impact on migration) (see also separate reports on this agenda) may further reduce the current population for Dumfries and Galloway.

2.3.3 Scottish Government, COSLA and Local Authorities have been working on the development of a population document ‘A Scotland for the Future: Opportunities and challenges of Scotland’s changing population’. The draft document sets out the demographic challenges Scotland is facing. It is framed in four thematic building blocks:

- A family friendly nation – increasing families
- A healthy ageing society – increasing healthy life expectancy and driving innovation in an ageing society
- An open and welcoming country – increasing migration
- A balanced population – ensuring our population is balanced and distributed across Scotland so all our communities can flourish.

2.3.4 When the Report is published, partners in Dumfries and Galloway (particularly Public Health and the Council's Business Intelligence Team) will consider its Findings and how it can support work in our region.

#### **2.4. Community Planning Improvement Board (CIPB)**

Steve Grimmond, the Chair of the CIPB, the national leadership body for community planning has been invited to attend a meeting of this Board, but a date has not yet been agreed. Background information on the Board, which is supported by the Improvement Service is available [here](#). Liz Manson, the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning and Engagement Manager has been elected by the Scottish Community Planning Network as its representative on the Board.

### **3. Recommendations**

The Board is invited to note the position of the issues in this report.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
2 March 2021





**RESPONSE, RENEWAL AND RECOVERY UPDATE – COVID 19****1. Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 1 July 2020, the Board considered updates from the ten sectors that contribute to our Community Planning Partnership; and '**AGREED** that the Community Planning Partnership could usefully bring together the partners' Recovery and Restart Plans to identify areas where partnership approaches and lobbying about funding and rural issues in particular would add value to the region's future'.

1.2 At its meeting on 11 September the Board agreed the establishment of a Partnership Recovery Group, along with an Action Plan which was added to the list of key Strategies and Plans that contribute to the LOIP

1.3 Further, at its meeting of 13 November the Board agreed to receive an update report on COVID19 Response, Renewal and Recovery activity at each of its Board meetings throughout 2021.

**2. Key issues****2.1 Scottish Government Strategic Framework**

2.1.1 The Scottish Government published their Strategic Framework Update on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, detailing the country's route out of the current restrictions. The strategic intent being to suppress the virus to the lowest possible level and keep it there, while we strive to return to a more normal life for as many people as possible.

2.1.2 The Framework broadly details 3 phases at intervals of at least 3 weeks apart;

- Gradual Easing of some restrictions within Level 4 including reopening of schools
- Return to varying levels of restriction across the country
- COVID-19 ceases to be a serious threat to public health but some ongoing public health measures remain in place

Within the first of these phases, it is broken down further, conditional on the WHO's six conditions being met;

- From 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb onwards
  - From 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb ELC and limited schools opening
  - Care Home visiting (date tbc)
- Minimum 3 weeks later
  - Second phase School reopening
  - Phased return for Unis / Colleges
  - Non contact outdoor group sports for 12-17yr olds
  - Socialising rules eased – 4 people from 2 households outdoors

- Further minimum 3 weeks later
  - Stay at home requirement removed
  - Final Schools phase
  - Limited opening of Places of Worship]
  - Essential retailers list expanded and non essential click and collect resumes

## 2.2 COVID Vaccination Programme

2.2.1 Providing a COVID vaccine to eligible residents of Dumfries and Galloway not once but twice, at pace, represents one of the most significant healthcare operations ever seen in the region. This programme also takes place against ongoing COVID-19 spread and a rapidly changing policy backdrop which has already resulted in plans rapidly changing to reflect the current position and will undoubtedly continue to change in the coming weeks / months.

2.2.2 NHS Scotland are following the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) order of priority for the coronavirus vaccination. The 9 priority groupings are as follows;

1. residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. all those 75 years of age and over
4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. all those 65 years of age and over
6. all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. all those 60 years of age and over
8. all those 55 years of age and over
9. all those 50 years of age and over

2.2.3 Vaccination of the identified priority groups is operating within schedule and on target to have been completed well ahead of the initial End of May timeline set by the Scottish Government. Thereafter the wider adult population will be undertaken.

2.2.4 Consistent with the multi-agency response throughout the pandemic there has been mutual aid across local partners to support the vaccination programme, Council staff and Third Sector D&G volunteers have worked in various roles alongside NHS staff at clinic locations. The physical locations used have been coordinated through multi-agency planning groups again utilizing NHS, Council and Third Sector operated facilities.

## 2.3 Community Testing

2.3.1 Working collaboratively between the Council, NHS, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Military partners a successful bid was submitted to Scottish Government for the provision of mass community testing sites which will allow access to testing for both symptomatic and asymptomatic members of the community.

2.3.2 The mass community testing programme will provide static testing sites in every ward on a phased basis providing access to testing 7 days per week in each. The bid also included for 4 mobile testing units which will be able to service smaller communities and can provide targeted support in the event of an outbreak. This mass testing capacity utilises the Lateral Flow testing devices which can provide a result within a 30 minute period. Sites will be staffed by a mixture of NHS, re-directed Council staff and by volunteers with capacity to undertake approximately 10,000 tests per week.

2.3.3 The mass community testing programme detailed above is being introduced in addition to existing testing capacity which includes the use of the 3 Mobile Testing Units coordinated through National Services Scotland and also the permanent walk through location at Brooms Road car park in Dumfries.

2.3.4 Furthermore, as one of a number of mitigation measures to ensure the safe return of pupils to our local schools Lateral Flow Devices have also been provided to school based staff and senior pupils to undertake twice weekly tests within the home environment.

## 2.4 Community Support

2.4.1 A Community Support Group made up of officers with experience of community development and tackling inequalities from the Council, Health & Social Care and Third Sector D&G, continues to focus on enabling communities to respond to local need; the needs of vulnerable individuals and those who are self-isolating or financially at risk. Areas of work include co-ordinating a partnership response to fulfilling the needs of individuals who are in contact with the Social Work Single Access Point. Working alongside Social Work, the Solutions Centre and the third sector we are quickly responding to need for emergency food, emotional support and connectivity, as well as supporting volunteering and community resilience activity at a local level. The significant contribution of the third sector and volunteers continues to ensure that individuals needs can be met promptly and from within their local community. This is most often through the work of the 19 Community Food Providers, 76 Community Resilience Teams and a range of other (new and existing) community and third sector organisations.

2.4.2 Shielding is different from the previous iteration, with more freedom for the Shielding cohort. Existing processes have ensured that the appropriate levels of support are available to those on the shielding list. The Single Access Point/Shielding Teams has been extended/further resourced to respond to increasing demand. The Shielding Team has seen a significant increase in support calls ranging from requests for financial assistance i.e. self isolation support grants/crisis grants, assistance with shopping, food parcel requests, prescription collections and general guidance on the current restrictions. Partners provided much needed assistance in the delivery of food parcels and prescriptions, including Communities colleagues and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. However, the biggest increase in requests has been for emotional support in respect of anxiety caused by the pandemic and the increasing impact of social isolation and loneliness. This is an area where trained volunteers through Third Sector D&G are able to provide support through regular welfare calls.

## 2.5 Supporting our most Vulnerable People

2.5.1 Increasing demand on Social Work Services since November 2020 has seen a 30% increase in the number of children on the child protection register, an 18.6% increase in the number of domestic incidents, a 13% increase in adult social work referrals and a 28% increase in Out of Hours referrals. Many of these referrals are clients previously unknown to Social Work and will undoubtedly result in increased long term demands on the service and also potentially for Education re: Vulnerable Children.

2.5.2 Although Social Work is continuing to meet increasing demands as a direct result of responding to this pandemic, they are also thinking ahead to the wider consequences on individuals, families, communities and society and the longer term social and economic impact, increased poverty, increased domestic violence, increased substance & alcohol misuse, increased mental health issues and increasing safeguarding for children, families and our most vulnerable.

2.5.3 Scottish Government recognise and acknowledge the “Tsunami of need” coming our way as a direct result of the pandemic. This extraordinary pressure is not just felt by individuals and the community but also, Social Work staff.

2.5.4 Social Work Services through the Health & Social Care Partnership have continued to provide critical support to all care homes and care settings affected by COVID -19. This support be it assistance with resources, or mental health or to provide reassurance/assistance with guidance/legislation, has been vital in getting through this particularly difficult time that can have an adverse impact on both residents/service users and also staff.

2.5.5 There has been a significant rise in Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grants with an average of 30 applications per day. Council Tax and Benefits workloads are higher than they normally would be at this time of year. Council Tax Rebate caseload still up and with the new restrictions it is anticipated an increase in applications again over the coming weeks. Resources have been realigned to prioritise Scottish Welfare Refund and Self Isolation payments as a priority.

2.5.6 Initial horizon scanning has commenced involving the Chief Officer Response, Renew and Recovery, the Chief Social Work Officer and the Chief Operating Officer / Chief Officer Health and Social Care Services as to how the Response, Renewal and Recovery Team can create capacity within the system to review and develop innovative and creative targeted programmes of intervention and support for our most vulnerable communities, learning from the multi-agency approach taken throughout our response to the pandemic and addressing identified areas of development and improvement within the existing model. Moreover, following the Scottish Government commissioned Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland the recommendations therein will also direct consideration the renewal of service delivery. These ideas will be presented and discussed with Elected Members and Board Members and thereafter recommendations made to the appropriate Committees and Partnership Boards for approval.

## 2.6 Economic Support

2.6.1 The Scottish Government has a strategic framework in place which supports those businesses that require, under specific tier restrictions, to close or have restricted trade as a direct result of the COVID-19 Tier Framework changes that came into force on 2 November 2020. Following a surge in cases and national concerns over the rapid spread of a variant of COVID-19, as detailed above it was announced that all regions of mainland Scotland would move to further enhanced restriction throughout the month of January. As a result of this change the number of businesses within the region that have required to close or have restricted trade has significantly increased and therefore the number of grant applications received has also significantly increased.

## 2.7 Partnership Recovery Plan

2.7.1 Since the creation of the Recovery Plan in September 2020, it has been a challenging position in suppressing the virus and containing outbreaks within Dumfries and Galloway. Therefore there has not been any significant work on recovery planning.

2.7.2 However, as transmission rates come under greater control and we extend our strong progress through the vaccination programme over the weeks ahead it is envisaged that the recovery work can begin and augment recovery work being developed by individual partners. There will be a requirement to review the agreed Recovery Plan and ensure it remains fit for purpose and encapsulates all the key developments of our multi-agency response, planning and learning since it was initially drafted and further reflects local and national ambitions as we move out of the pandemic.

## 2.8 Support

The Council has agreed the continuation of a Response, Renewal and Recovery Team for the remaining term of the Council (May 2022) at which point matters will be reviewed.

## 2.9 Governance and decision-making groups

2.9.1 A Sub Committee of Full Council has been established for Elected Members to debate, influence and scrutinise innovative and creative, cross directorate enhanced ways of working and to make recommendations to Service Committees in this regard.

2.9.2 The Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) continues to be the operating structure in managing our multi-agency approach to the COVID 19 emergency response. The LRP is supporting all strategic and operational planning across key areas currently including vaccinations, community testing, support to the most vulnerable and our shared workforce including deployment across partners where required.

2.9.3 The LRP membership is:

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership

Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership/The Wheatley Group

NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Police Scotland  
Scottish Ambulance Service  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Scottish Prison Service  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

2.9.4 The COVID 19 Recovery Group, established by the Board in September 2020 has not been able to make progress due to the continued focus on response..

2.9.5 The role and relationships of the Local Resilience Partnership, the COVID 19 Recovery Group, the Community Planning Executive Group and the Community Planning Partnership Board is constantly evolving and reflecting on this, particularly through a COVID lens and using the Community Planning Partnership Checklist, will be considered as part of the annual Community Planning Improvement Plan discussion in the autumn.

### 3. Next steps

3.1 Once transmission levels and our need to operate only in response mode have sufficiently reduced, the Partnership Recovery Group can begin.

3.2 An Evaluation Framework has been developed by the Council, to provide leaders with a deeper understanding of how services are performing, what has changed as a result of COVID and enable better resource planning and evidence based decision making. This will inform service Business Plans and renewed ways of working which will be shared with partners.

### 4. Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

4.1 **note** the updated position regarding the multi-agency response activity to COVID19;

4.2 **note** that the COVID19 Recovery Group will be convened and drive forward the partnership Recovery Plan as soon as there is capacity; and

4.2 **note** that the relationships and work of the Local Resilience Partnership, the COVID 19 Recovery Group, the Community Planning Executive Group and Community Planning Partnership Board will be considered through a COVID lens and using the Community Planning Partnership Checklist as part of the annual Community Planning Improvement Plan discussions in autumn 2021.

Richard Grieveson  
Chief Officer, Response, Renew and Recovery. Dumfries and Galloway Council  
24 February 2021

## PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP APPROACH ON TACKLING POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Dumfries and Galloway Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2015-2020 was agreed by Full Council in June 2015. The vision was: "People will be prevented from falling into poverty, supported to escape from poverty and able to lead independent, safe, happy and fulfilled lives". In addition, there were four Objectives detailed below:
- Objective 1: To listen to people and families experiencing poverty and make sure their voice is heard
  - Objective 2: To support people experiencing poverty to move from dependence to independence
  - Objective 3: To ensure our information and services are easy to access
  - Objective 4: To provide services that meet the needs of people experiencing poverty
- 1.2 The Council's Strategy has always had strong support from local partners, however it has always been clear that the Strategy was a Council plan and not a wider partnership strategy. The original intention had been that all individual partners would create their own Anti-Poverty Strategy. However, the broad nature of the Council's approach meant that the Community Planning Partnership Board identified the Strategy as one of its key Strategies that deliver on the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan; and it therefore received a performance monitoring report at its quarterly meetings.
- 1.3 At the same time, the Board established a Community Planning Poverty Co-ordination Group (made up of representatives from the Tackling Poverty Reference Group; an independent advisor; and officers from Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHSD&G, Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service, Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership and Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway). As a Community Planning body, the Group provided an annual report on its membership, remit and Workplan, normally through the Executive Group and then to the Board in line with the Community Planning Performance Management Framework.
- 1.4 The Council's Anti-Poverty, Strategy Action Plan was a key element of the Group's work throughout its five years. The development by Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway of a Tackling Poverty Forum broadened the discussion with its focus on the role and co-ordination of third sector organisations.

- 1.5 As reported in Updates to this Board over the last 18 months, Dumfries and Galloway Council's Communities Committee agreed the next steps in the Council's approach to tackling poverty and inequalities - this included the establishment of a Member Officer Working Group in December 2019, with a remit to oversee the Review of the Strategy and develop recommendations.
- 1.6 At its meeting on 27 March 2020, the Dumfries and Galloway Council Ad Hoc COVID-19 Sub Committee agreed the allocation of funding from the Anti-Poverty Budget 2020/21. It included funding for the updating of the Research on Poverty and Deprivation within Dumfries and Galloway; and an independent Evaluation of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and also the development of our future approach to tackling poverty.
- 1.7 North Star Research was appointed to undertake the research and the resulting Report was launched on 3 December 2020. Changes to the measurement of Government data sets over the last five years mean that like for like comparison with the data from the Crichton Institute report in 2015 is not possible. However, the up to date data provides rich information and analysis to inform our future work. The full Report can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty)
- 1.8 IBP Strategy and Research was appointed to Review Dumfries and Galloway's Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy. This work has seen a robust evaluation of the Strategy and the activities and projects that were in the Action Plan to deliver it. The engagement work as set out in the Consultation Mandate, was fully completed and the Evaluation was presented to and agreed by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Communities Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The full Evaluation Report is available for viewing at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty).
- 1.9 IBP Strategy and Research was also appointed to develop proposals for the future approach to tackling poverty.

## 2. Development of new arrangements for Tackling Poverty and Inequalities

### Key Issues

#### Benchmarking

- 2.1 Benchmarking with other Local Authorities approaches to tackling poverty was undertaken.
- 2.2 Key messages from the benchmarking are as follows:
- There are many different approaches to leading and co-ordinating poverty across Scotland and the wider UK, - There is no one 'right' model,
  - Approaches change over time to reflect the needs of citizens, the arrangements within the Council and partner organisations,
  - Poverty is a persistent and long-term issue and so the leadership arrangement needs to be sustainable and able to adapt to changing patterns of need,



- The strategies that have the most impact are where it is a partnership plan and not just a single agency

#### Engagement with local partners

2.3 The comprehensive engagement programme as set out in the Consultation Mandate, was fully completed. IBP Strategy and Research met with a range of national and local organisations; the Member-Officer Working Group; Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Tackling Poverty Forum, the Community Planning Tackling Poverty Coordination Group, and Dumfries and Galloway Youth Councillors. Over 50 meetings or focus groups were held during the consultation period.

#### Research

2.4 Recent national research relating to the impact of COVID on people experiencing poverty has been referenced in the COVID RRR reports to Dumfries and Galloway's Full Council over the last six months. This material was also reviewed by IBP Strategy and Research.

#### Emerging Findings

2.5 From the very beginning of this work, the discussions focussed on how we use the previous Council Strategy as a strong foundation for work over the coming years, and there was also clear direction that the next evolution of this work needed to take a much wider partnership approach, as one public body could not mitigate the worst effects of poverty on its own.

2.6 A draft report by IBP Strategy and Research was discussed with the Member-Officer Working Group on 12 January 2021. Key proposals about our future arrangements supported in the draft report were as follows:

- A long term Strategy offers the clearest approach for the presentation of what we are trying to achieve and the framework for a detailed Action Plan
- The issues of poverty and wider inequalities are inextricably linked and therefore it is now appropriate to have a Strategy that address them together. There are groups within the population more vulnerable to severe and persistent poverty, whose specific needs need to be responded to.
- The timescale of the Strategy should be sufficiently long to allow for actions to be developed, implemented and evaluated. The five year approach of the first Strategy was an appropriate time period
- There is close alignment with the Community Planning Principles and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- There is a need for a co-ordinated approach across all partners to tackle poverty and inequalities and there is commitment to do so. Partnership work on our Child Poverty Action Report, Children's Services Plan and other activity; and the contributions of all partners to help deliver the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2015-20 provide a strong base to build on.
- Poverty affects people across the area and is not just concentrated in particular geographic communities.

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- 2.7 Consultation also took place with the Tackling Poverty Reference Group and the Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group with strong endorsement of the vision and draft objectives.
- 2.8 A Summary of the Final Report is attached as **Appendix 1** with the full Report available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty)
- 2.9 Key highlights of this Report are as follows:  
A requirement to develop a Community Planning Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategy 2021-2026.
- 2.10 Our definition of poverty continuing to be a recognised, international position which defines poverty as *the situation for individuals where: income and resources are so inadequate to preclude them having a standard of living considered acceptable in the society in which they live. Because of their poverty they may experience multiple disadvantages through unemployment, low income, poor housing, inadequate health care, and barriers to lifelong learning, culture, sport and recreation. They are often excluded and marginalised from participating in activities (economic, social and cultural) that are the norm for other people and their access to fundamental rights may be restricted.*"
- 2.11 Our vision is: *A Dumfries and Galloway in which local action has driven poverty as low as possible, and has mitigated as far as possible the impact of poverty when experienced*'.
- 2.12 Our Objectives are:  
Outcome Objective 1: Tackle severe and persistent poverty and destitution  
Outcome Objective 2: Maximising income of people facing poverty  
Outcome Objective 3: Reducing the financial pressures on people in poverty  
Outcome Objective 4: Building individuals and communities' ability to deal with the effects of poverty  
  
Enabling Objective 1: Building organisational and system capacity  
Enabling Objective 2: Addressing barriers to access
- 2.13 Some possible detailed activities have also been captured from the benchmarking, research and engagement which will be of assistance in the development of the Action Plan.
- 2.14 Community Planning Partners will be aware that the Social Renewal Advisory Board published the outcome of its work on 21 January 2021. Dumfries and Galloway citizens participated in the first consultation session of the Board's work last year. The Report '[if not now, when?](#)' includes a number of Calls to Action to address the greater poverty and inequalities facing our citizens as a result of the COVID pandemic. Detailed consideration of their responses to the specific proposals is being given by the Scottish Government and COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) However it is helpful to note that our Objectives and the emerging actions of our new Strategy are consistent with these national messages and proposals.

### 3. Next steps - Agreeing the new Strategy

- 3.1 As this is proposed as a new Partnership Strategy, it was agreed by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Communities Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 that this approach would be recommended to the Community Planning Partnership(CPP) Board at its meeting in March 2021 for consideration.
- 3.2 Should it be accepted, there will be a quarterly report to the Board on performance in line with the Community Planning Performance Management Framework. Individual partners will have the opportunity to agree the Strategy through their own decision-making arrangements; and in doing so will commit to the Values and Objectives within it and working towards its achievement through funding and involvement.
- 3.3 A detailed Action Plan would then be drawn up, with each partner identifying its contribution to the projects and services that will deliver the agreed Objectives. The Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group would have responsibility for driving forward this action plan and reporting to the CPP.
- 3.4 As detailed earlier, there is a significant body of material for the Group to draw on in developing the new Action Plan; and co-ordination with other related Action Plans (e.g. the Child Poverty Action Plan; Employability and Skills Action Plan and the Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan Action Plan) will also be required to ensure there is no duplication and no gaps.
- 3.5 The branding of the new Strategy is under discussion with Communications and Graphics professionals and it is intended that it will be decided by the new group (see next section) which will ensure those most directly involved take the decision.

#### Partnership structure

- 3.6 Following discussion with the Community Planning Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group, and in line with the IBP Report, it is clear that this new approach gives us the opportunity to refresh the arrangements for the group leading on the delivery of the Strategy.
- 3.7 It is proposed that the name of the group reflects the new broader approach and it is called the 'Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Partnership'; and that the remit of the group would be as set out in **Appendix 2** . Its status should also move up from being a Community Planning Working Group to that of a strategic forum (consistent with e.g. the Employability and Skills Partnership and the Community Learning and Development Partnership). It will therefore be required to present an Annual Report on its members attendance and activities to the Board; and a quarterly progress report on the Action Plan to the Board, in line with the Community Planning Performance Management Framework.

- 3.8 The membership of the Group should also therefore be updated to ensure we have all the right partners and representatives within the organisations to reflect its remit. Therefore, once this Board has agreed the appropriate organisations, they will be invited to confirm/appoint their appropriate representative(s). The proposed membership is also detailed in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.9 The continuation of the volunteer members is an important principle and this should also be developed. It is proposed that over time there is expansion of the engagement of people with lived experience, sourced through the Tackling Poverty Reference Group (TPRG) , local expert(s) involved with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission(EHRC) and perhaps also from the Youth Council, as discussed at the Board meeting in November 2020. The TPRG is expanding its membership to involve more people from across the region and to engage wider representation from people in minority Protected Characteristics groups.
- 3.10 The chairing arrangement is recommended to be a volunteer, in addition to the TPRG and EHRC volunteers, and someone who has a background in this work or with public service generally, recruited through an open advert. This new approach would also help to signal a difference from the former Co-ordination Group, recognising that it is has been chaired and led very ably for the last 4 years by a volunteer from the Poverty Reference Group. The Chair has done a great job in helping to take this work forward and ensured an inclusive and open approach, building relationships and understanding between partners which has given us a sound foundation on which to move forward to this next stage.
- 3.11 Dumfries and Galloway Council has agreed to provide support for the new Partnership through its Poverty and Inequalities Team

#### 4. Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

4.1 agree that there is a Community Planning Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategy for 2021-2025, with the definition, vision, objectives as set out in paragraphs 2.10-2.12;

4.2 agree the arrangements for the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Partnership as detailed in paragraphs 3.7 - 3.11, with individual partners then invited to confirm their involvement and representation.

#### Appendices - 2

1 – Summary of the final Report on the new Strategy by IBP Research

2 - Outline remit, membership and arrangements for a Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Partnership



Nick Hopkins Consulting

## Summary of future approach to tackling poverty and inequality for Dumfries & Galloway

January 2021

### Contents

1. **Definition and Vision**
2. **Focus of the Strategy**
3. **Key Values and Principles**
4. **Context of Poverty in Dumfries and Galloway**
5. **Impact of COVID19**
6. **.National and Local Poverty Context**
7. **. Key elements of our approach**
8. **Objectives and priority areas of work**
9. **Engagement structures**
10. **Funding**
11. **Monitoring, learning and continuous improvement**

## 1. OUR VISION FOR DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

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The European Commission provides a widely accepted definition of poverty within its joint report on Social Inclusion. It defines poverty as the situation for individuals where:

*“Income and resources are so inadequate to preclude them having a standard of living considered acceptable in the society in which they live. Because of their poverty they may experience multiple disadvantages through unemployment, low income, poor housing, inadequate health care, and barriers to lifelong learning, culture, sport and recreation. They are often excluded and marginalised from participating in activities (economic, social and cultural) that are the norm for other people and their access to fundamental rights may be restricted.”*

**Our vision is of a Dumfries and Galloway in which local action has driven poverty as low as possible, and has mitigated as far as possible the impact of poverty when experienced.**

This means a Dumfries and Galloway where:

- Far fewer people experience persistent and severe poverty and destitution.
- Those most vulnerable to experiencing poverty receive the help they need.
- Residents get the support they need from the benefit system.
- Residents in poverty do not face extra costs because of poverty, nor the extra costs of rural of poverty.
- Those experiencing debt get the help they need to deal with it.
- People are not digitally excluded because of poverty.
- People have greater ability to manage financial challenges.
- Individuals and families dealing with poverty can access the support they need in local communities from organisations they trust.
- People needing support to deal with, and /or exit poverty, get to that support at the right time.
- Poverty is not a barrier to accessing public services or employment.

## 2. FOCUS OF THE STRATEGY

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The strategy will support the development and delivery of projects, services and practices which:

- Directly increase the amount of money in people's pockets.
- Reduce the financial pressures on people in poverty.
- Increase individual, household and community resilience to poverty.
- Reduce barriers to accessing services that tackle poverty
- Reduce the poverty-related barriers to accessing services generally.

## 3. KEY VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

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**Every aspect of the delivery of approach set out within this strategy will be informed by, and in accordance with the following values and principles.**

### **Equality**

The delivery of the approach within this strategy will make a significant contribution to reducing economic inequalities in Dumfries and Galloway, by raising the living standards of those with least. Effective delivery of the strategy will require that services, projects and practice developed under this approach respond to the specific needs faced by diverse groups, and enable people from those groups to access the support they need, including through reaching out specifically to them.

### **Lived Experience.**

People affected by poverty will be placed at the heart of the delivery of this strategy. Their perspective on their needs, their suggestions for responses to their needs, their practical involvement in delivery, their feedback on the delivery of services and projects, and their strategic perspective on priorities will inform every element of the work to be taken forward.

### **Person-Centred and Empowering.**

Services, projects and practices under this approach will be built around people in or at risk of poverty, and will be tailored to their specific needs, acknowledging the nuances and complexity of the issues that people face, and the different levels of intensity of support that they will require at different points. Those needing the most intensive support will receive it. All services will take an approach which seeks to

build the capacity and resilience of individuals, empowering them to take action themselves on the challenges they face.

#### **Evidence Based and Best Value.**

In a time of tight and potentially tightening budgets, it is essential that resources are invested in services, projects and practices which are effective, and have the most significant impact on poverty. Services, projects and practices under this approach should reflect best practice, and will be subject to appropriately rigorous monitoring and evaluation, with resources redirected to areas that prove to be most effective.

#### **Respect, Compassion, Dignity and Non-judgement.**

Services, projects and practices under this approach will treat everyone with respect, with compassion and care, and with dignity. They will be clear-sighted about the issues faced by people in poverty, but will not judge people for the situations in which they find themselves.

#### **Early intervention and prevention.**

Services, projects and practices under this approach will focus on getting help to people as soon as possible in the development of their problems, to prevent issues from worsening, and to lift them out of poverty sooner. Effective crisis intervention will be a critical part of this approach, to stop crisis from turning into tragedy, and to stop people from being trapped long term in intolerable situations.

#### **Partnership**

No one organisation working in Dumfries and Galloway can provide a comprehensive response to poverty, no one organisation can respond to every issue facing an individual in poverty. The services and projects under this approach will work in partnership with each other to do so. Key practice developments will focus on building relationships between services and the development of the approach will be driven by multi-agency groups.



#### 4. THE CONTEXT OF POVERTY IN DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

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The statistics on poverty and Dumfries and Galloway are stark. Around one in five Dumfries and Galloway residents live in poverty. On the tighter definition of income deprivation, 11.5% of the population are considered income deprived.

The statistics on child poverty are of particular concern:

- 6,141 children (26.2%) across our region live in households below 60% median income before housing costs.
- This proportion has increased by 2.8% since 2015, the fifth highest increase amongst Scottish local authorities.
- 18% of children in the region are reliant on free school meals.

There are concentrations of poverty, in North West Dumfries, Stranraer and the Rhins, Mid and Upper Nithsdale, Annandale South and Nith, but poverty is broadly spread across our region. The extent of that spread often masks the impact and extent of the issue.

Overall, the image of Dumfries and Galloway as an affluent area, held by many both within and outwith the area is not born out by the reality captured in the statistics above. That gap creates challenges in terms of generating support for action locally, and accessing external funding support for such action.

#### 5. THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

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During the pandemic, local organisations reported that more people are seeking their help than ever before as a result of reductions in their income, with many of those people new to experiencing poverty, unemployment, and to needing help. There has been increased demand for advice and increased demand for crisis help. It seems certain that Covid-19 will mean that more people will experience poverty, and more of the people experiencing poverty will be in deeper poverty and will spend longer in

poverty. That will have knock on effects across the range of issues faced by individuals, families, communities, and the services that support them.

## 6. LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

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### UK and Scottish Level

The most significant changes to UK Government policy impacting on people in poverty over the last decade have been those brought in under the welfare reform process.

Many of these changes have reduced real and/or cash incomes, with the benefit freeze being responsible for the largest proportion of the overall negative impact. These impacts have been worst for households with children, households with disabled members, women and Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. be delivered, and the latter a key asset for its delivery.

The Fairer Scotland Action Plan 2016 sets out the Scottish Government's commitment to achieving a Fairer Scotland for All, to end child poverty, provide a strong start for young people, ensure fairer working lives and a thriving third age; it identifies 50 actions to deliver these goals.

The Child Poverty Scotland Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's targets on child poverty which are, by the end of 2030/31, to have reduced level of child poverty to:

- 10% of children living in relative poverty- 18% by the 2023 milestone.
- 5% of children living in absolute poverty, 14% by 2023.
- 5% of children in combined low income and material deprivation, 8% by 2023.
- 5% children in persistent poverty, 8% by 2023.

### Local Level

The Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2017/2027 is the highest level document setting the direction for the region. It sets out eight outcomes for the area as detailed below.

1. Everyone who needs help to work receives the right support.
2. Learning opportunities are available to those who need them most.
3. Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced.
4. There is affordable and warm housing for those who need it most.

5. The money available to people on benefits and low wages is maximised.
6. People are safe and feel safe.
7. People are well connected.
8. Individuals and communities are empowered.

Key links include:

The Council Plan 2017-2022 and Equality Outcomes

The Health and Social Care Strategic Plan for 2018 -2021

The Council's Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023

The Council's 2018-2023 Homelessness Strategy,

The Children's Services Plan and the Local Child Poverty Action Plan

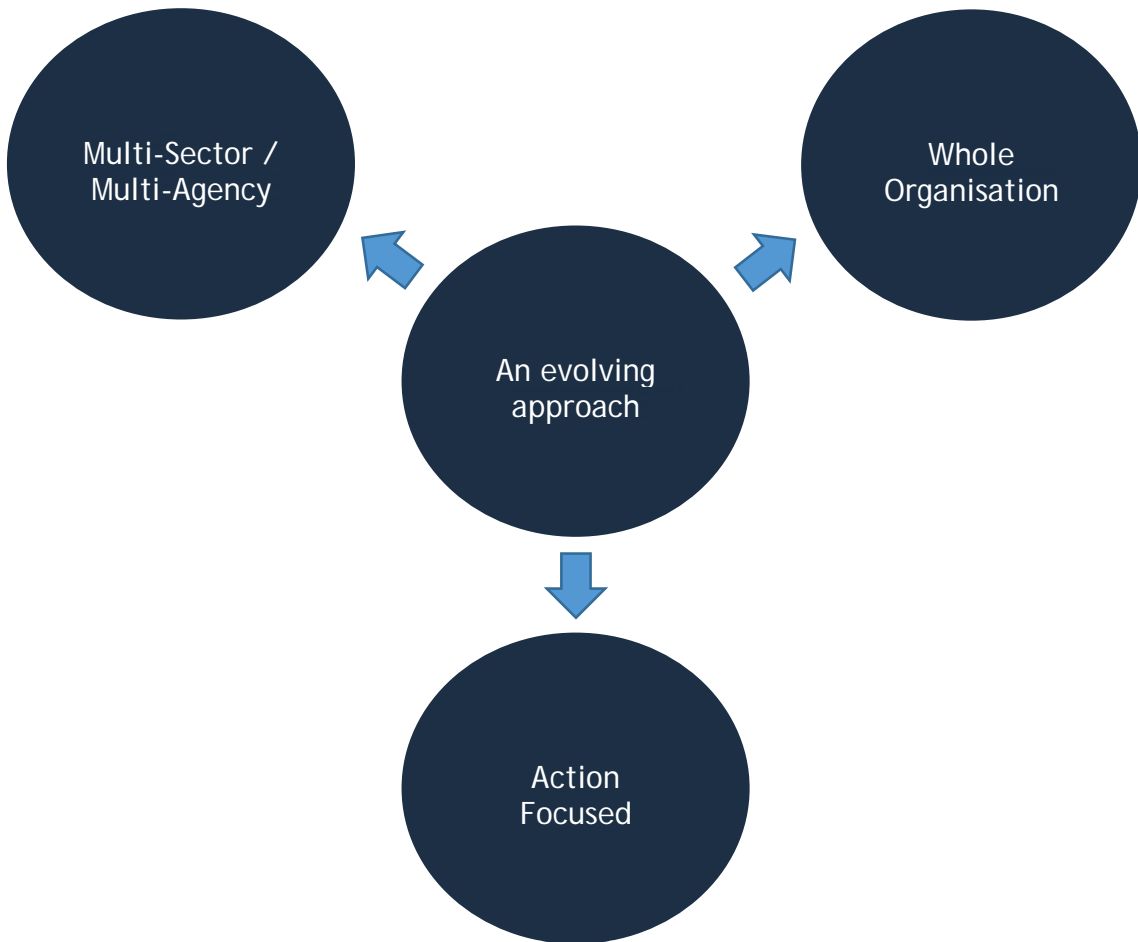
The Employability and Skills Plan

The Community Learning and Development Partners Plan

### 7. KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR APPROACH

- Partnership working
- Varied contributions
- Embedded in Community Planning
- Development of understanding of role
- and capacity to respond

- Poverty auditing
- Poverty proofing



- Clear, shared, THEMATIC objectives
- Supported by ENABLING objectives
- Effective structures and engagement
- Learning and continuous improvement

## 8. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK

Four of the objectives are focused on directly delivering specific outcomes for individuals". Two are "enabling" objectives, which will focus on the culture, policy and practice changes that partners will need to make to tackle poverty effectively.

### **Objective 1: Tackling severe and persistent poverty and destitution**

**Rationale:** Poverty varies, both in terms of its duration, and in terms of its severity. Particular groups are at risk of experiencing deeper poverty and/ or more persistent poverty.

### **Objective 2: Maximising income of people facing poverty**

**Rationale:** One of the major investments that local partners make in tackling poverty is in benefit advice services which maximise the income of clients by ensuring that they claim all the benefits to which they are entitled.

### **Objective 3: Reducing the financial pressures on people in poverty:**

**Rationale:** People living in poverty in Dumfries and Galloway will often pay a 'poverty premium', higher costs, for basic goods and services than those on higher incomes; for example higher interest rates on loans and higher energy prices per unit.

**Objective 4: Building individuals and communities' ability to deal with the effects poverty:** Resilience against poverty and its most significant effects is built on people's: Psychological wellbeing and their household stability; Social capital and their recourse to informal support from family and friends; Access to the labour market; Skills at managing their finances; and access to financial products and assets which act as a buffer against problems.

### **Objective 5: Building organisational and system capacity**

**Rationale:** This strategy is based on the central contention that tackling poverty is the business of every public and third sector organisation working in Dumfries and Galloway.

### **Objective 6: Addressing barriers to access**

**Rationale:** A consistent theme in the consultation process that contributed to the development of this strategy was the need for more effective joint working between organisations engaging with people in poverty, and the lack of understanding and awareness of the work of partner agencies which could contribute to tackling the poverty of clients/ service users.

## **9. DELIVERY AND ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURES**

The current structures need to be refreshed.

- The multi-agency Tackling Poverty Co-ordinating Group takes more of a focus on driving delivery.
- Multi-agency working groups focused are established to focused on each of the themes and develop relevant work plans, with short life partnerships or working groups spinning out of these as necessary.
- Mechanisms for expanding the engagement of people with lived experience in decision making are established to complement the existing Tackling Poverty Reference Group.
- Local delivery structures, in each of the four sub areas of Dumfries & Galloway, are created or revitalised and tied into each of the above structures as appropriate.

These groups will need to have the relevant support and this could be provided by an appropriately resourced Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Team within Dumfries & Council.

## **10. FUNDING IMPLICATIONS**

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Specific funding should be made available by the council and, where appropriate, other partners, to support the delivery of the strategy, with clear policies being adopted to ensure that this funding supports additional activity over and above mainstream service delivery.

## 11. MONITORING, LEARNING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS.

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Clear, measurable indicators and projects will need to be established for each of the objectives set out in the Strategy

It is important that a learning approach is taken to the delivery of the new approach, which seeks to improve performance and most effectively target resources.  
Respond rapidly to situations in which projects are not delivering intended outcomes.

A simple digital platform should be created for the sharing of information between organisations delivering aspects of the strategy, in which those funded under it will automatically be included, and others will be able to join at their request.



## Appendix 2

# Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Partnership

## Remit

- to drive forward the Community Planning Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategy through a shared Action Plan
- to work on and develop collaborative projects that Tackle Poverty & Inequalities
- to share advice from a “lived experience” perspective
- to access expertise from other areas and at national level and share our work with them
- to identify any hidden barriers to access and participation and ways of overcoming them
- to create opportunities for engagement between partner organisations and people experiencing poverty
- act as a forum for consultation, engagement and information exchange
- to take a partnership approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the shared Action Plan reporting to CPP Board.

## Membership

### Public Sector:

- Department of Work and Pensions
- Dumfries and Galloway Council (Economy and Development Service and Community Planning and Engagement Services)
- NHS D&G
- Social Security Scotland

### Third Sector:

- Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service
- Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership
- Loreburn Housing Association
- Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

### Tackling Poverty Reference Group (TPRG) representatives

- Two representatives

### EHRC Volunteer(s)

### Independent Volunteer Chairperson

## Support

DGC - Poverty and Inequalities Team



## REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

### 1. Background

1.1 This paper provides an update on the progress on regional economic development partnership across the South of Scotland and provides information on the approach to the development of future strategy and plans.

1.2 The South of Scotland is an important economic region, comprising 14% of Scotland's landmass, containing 4.8% of the population and contributing 3.6% to the economy (GVA) in 2018. In structural terms, the majority of our business base is made up of small or micro enterprises – 91% of businesses currently employ fewer than 10 people. Important economic sectors for the South of Scotland include tourism, food and drink, agriculture and forestry.

1.3 The region has real economic strengths and opportunities. The size and outlook of the region enables strong public sector partnerships and strategic links with our nearest neighbours in the north of England and Northern Ireland in areas like tourism, energy, digital connectivity and natural capital. Our location also positions the region as a gateway to Ireland and England on major transport routes by road and sea.

1.4 The region's natural assets include significant land and energy resources of national as well as regional significance which present opportunities in areas like renewables. There are large areas of attractive natural landscape with space and a low population density. The region has an active further and higher education sector looking for greater collaboration and vibrant communities with a rich history and cultural heritage.

1.5 The unique opportunities and challenges facing the south were key drivers for the creation of South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) which assumed its legal responsibilities on 1 April 2020. SOSE and the two councils (Dumfries and Galloway (DGC) and Sottish Borders (SBC)) established Team South of Scotland immediately after SOSE was launched. This partnership is a key strength of the South of Scotland building on the firm foundations established by SOSEP<sup>1</sup> and has been critical to managing and mitigating the economic impacts of Covid-19. The partnership approach has also brought in other public sector agencies, including Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and VisitScotland (VS) to strengthen the response to significant emerging issues in key business sectors.

1.6 In creating the Convention of the South of Scotland, and in the context of establishing SOSE, it was agreed between local partners and the Scottish Government that a Regional Economic Partnership (REP) for the South of Scotland would also be established. The partnership, led by both local authorities brings

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<sup>1</sup> South of Scotland Economic Partnership, which preceded SOSE

together a wider group of stakeholders, including those from outside the public sector, to drive forward the regional economic agenda.

## 2. Regional Economic Partnership

2.1 The Regional Economic Partnership's agreed purpose is to:

- Set the strategic direction for the regional economy in the South of Scotland.
- Address the strategic economic issues pertaining to the South of Scotland through effective partnership work.
- Ensure that collectively, partner capacities and resources are harnessed to maximum effect.
- Bring together stakeholders from across the area under a common purpose to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the South of Scotland.
- Identify barriers to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, particularly those that are specific to the South of Scotland.

2.2 The Regional Economic Partnership began to meet in a shadow form in July 2020, with the first full meeting of the Partnership taking place on the 18 September 2020. The Partnership has since held monthly meetings on-line and has quickly established a clear agenda and ambition for the development of a South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy. This South of Scotland Strategy will replace the existing Dumfries and Galloway Regional Economic Strategy.

2.3 The Regional Economic Partnership is co-chaired by Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils, and the agreed membership comprises local public sector partners, and representatives from business, social enterprise, housing, education, local communities and the third sector, from across the South of Scotland. Appendix 1 to this paper provides more information on membership. Councillor Rob Davidson, Depute Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council is the current Regional Economic Partnership Chair.

2.4 The Partnership has been clear on its desire to ensure to develop an effective approach to the engagement and involvement of young people in its work. The approach agreed by the Partnership is to strengthen existing youth engagement structures across the regions and bring the voice of young people direct to the partnership. Building on existing structures and supported and facilitated by plans to engage two modern apprentices, the Partnership has welcomed the creation of specific opportunities for young people to participate, while providing young people with the chance to develop a range of key skills including leadership, project planning and social media.

2.5 Both councils and SOSE, and with other public sector agencies, including Skills Development Scotland and VisitScotland continue to work together as part of Team South of Scotland. This partnership approach, established in early 2020, has focused on strengthening the response to significant emerging issues in key sectors in the region and to align the skills base with current and future industry needs within

growth areas of the region's economy. The Team South of Scotland approach has developed to provide organisational capacity and development resources to support the Regional Economic Partnership in its focus on setting the strategic direction for the regional economy.

### 3. Regional Economic Strategy

3.1 The development of the first South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy (RES) is a significant step for the Regional Economic Partnership in setting strategic direction for the regional economy.

3.2 At its first meeting the Regional Economic Partnership agreed the need for pace in developing the RES, and the importance of wide engagement with local organisations and people across the South of Scotland to achieve this. The Partnership also acknowledged the complex landscape within which the RES is being developed and the need to balance this, with the timing of the work, to have maximum impact for the South of Scotland. The importance of defining the baseline for any future measurement of the delivery of the RES has also been identified, ensuring long term outcomes particularly in relation to the impact Covid-19, can be clearly understood in future.

3.3 The development of the RES is progressing with a significant engagement programme underway. More information on this is available at <https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk>. The timelines agreed provide that a draft Strategy would be delivered by the end of March 2021, to enable this to be finalised by the end of May 2021.

3.4 In developing its workplan the Regional Economic Partnership has considered and agreed key strategic issues that will form the focus of its work and influence the development and delivery of the RES. These include inclusive and sustainable economic growth; infrastructure; education and skills; inward investment, key sectors – including tourism, land management; marine; food and drink and manufacturing; natural capital; green growth and tackling climate change; energy opportunities; transport and logistics; and community wealth building. A development plan is in place to support the Partnership develop shared understanding of those key issues and a programme of seminars and workshops has been established. The initial topics examined have included community wealth building and natural capital, with input from experts and these form part of the development of the RES.

3.5 The Regional Economic Partnership also endorsed the establishment and membership of an Education and Skills Strategic Coordination Group in the South of Scotland, to focus on the delivery of the Regional Skills Investment Plan, and provide a strong regional evidence base of labour market intelligence and insight. The Coordination Group will ensure there is a coherent South of Scotland response to the labour market implications of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Regional Economic Partnership agreed that Professor Russel Griggs should be the interim chair of the Coordination Group. The alignment of the work of the Coordination Group with the D&G the Local Employability and Skills Partnership and other education partnerships is crucial.

#### 4. Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

4.1 The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is a unique cross-border collaboration for a multi-million-pound capital investment funding Deal with UK and Scottish Governments. The Deal is focused on achieving transformational change over a 10-year investment period to increase productivity, grow the working age population and contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth.

4.2 The Borderlands Partnership brings together the five cross-border local authorities - Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council - to promote the economic growth of the area that straddles the Scotland-England border. The Partnership has a shared objective to make the area more attractive to investors, visitors and those who may wish to come and live here. Its shared ambition is to play its full part in the Scottish and wider UK economy and to facilitate inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

4.3 DGC approved the submission of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal proposal to UK and Scottish Governments in 2018, and in July 2019 the Leaders of the Borderlands councils and UK and Scottish Government Ministers signed a 'Heads of Terms' agreement for a £394.5 million investment programme. This was made up of £200 million for English local authorities; £150 million (£85 million from Scottish Government and £65 million from UK Government) for Scottish local authorities; combined with a from the Borderlands partners. Detailed work was to follow the heads of terms to develop a Deal which would secure capital investment, based on the projects and programmes set out. This document is available here - [Borderlands Growth Deal - Heads of Terms 2019.pdf](#).

4.4 The next stage for this Inclusive Growth Deal is to secure a final Deal Agreement with UK and Scottish Governments, for the investment that was outlined at heads of terms. This work is currently ongoing and an update to the CPP will be provided following the achievement of a final Deal. The alignment between a Borderlands Deal and the ambitions and associated delivery plans for the RES is an important consideration and which is being factored into the RES development.

#### 5. Key issues

5.1 The establishment of the Regional Economic Partnership in the context of the South of Scotland and a new strategy means that consideration is now required as to its relationship with the CPP; and as a consequence, the future role of the Economic Leadership Group, a Thematic Partnership established under the former Strategy, and which currently reports into the CPP.

5.2 At this point in development of the RES then it would be appropriate to form a strong link between the CPP to the Partnership through a thematic arrangement which reflects the Partnership's leadership on the Strategy for the regional economy. A schematic of current links and relationship is presented at Appendix 2 to this paper which seeks to set out the relationships and the opportunity to align these.

5.3 The D&G Economic Leadership Group have been reflecting on this regional development and considering their own views of what their Group could and should be in future, notwithstanding community planning structures and links. The Group recognises the role of the Regional Economic Partnership as the thematic partnership and its relationship with the community planning partnership should now develop and be clarified. The Annual Report of the Economic Leadership Group provides for an update on the Group's consideration of its future establishment, outwith the community planning thematic arrangements.

5.4 The approach to the membership of the CPP should also be considered in light of this matter, as the representative from the private sector is selected from the Economic Leadership Group. As the new regional arrangements provide for private sector representation it would be appropriate to consider that clear linkage being strengthened and selection of the representation from the private sector being derived from the private sector representatives within the Regional Economic Partnership. Ms Sheena Horner, the current private sector representative on the CPP is also a private sector representative from D&G within the Regional Economic Partnership and is agreeable to continue to serve on the CPP.

## 6. Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

6.1 note the contents of this paper and the significant progress made in establishing the Regional Economic Partnership and welcome the steps taken to develop a South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy and a longer-term vision for the South of Scotland economy;

6.2 encourage community planning partners to contribute to the development of the Regional Economic Strategy and support engagement activity which will inform it by encouraging and promoting participation through their networks;

6.3 note the progress on the development of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal;

6.4 note the relationships and structures for economic development in D&G and across the South of Scotland region at Appendix 2, reflecting the establishment of the Regional Economic Partnership;

6.5 agree that a strong link is formed between the CPP and the Regional Economic Partnership through a thematic arrangement which reflects the Partnership's leadership on the Strategy for the regional economy, and which replaces the CPP links with the Economic Leadership Group and

6.6 agree the approach to the membership from the private sector on the CPP in light of this development.

**Lorna Meahan, Director Economy and Resources, DGC**  
**March 2021**

**Appendices – 2**

- 1 Membership of Regional Economic Partnership
- 2 Regional Economic Partnership and Community Planning in D&G

## Appendix 1 Regional Economic Partnership Membership

Membership of the Partnership is comprised as follows:

- Dumfries & Galloway Council
- Scottish Borders Council
- South of Scotland Enterprise
- Scottish Enterprise
- Skills Development Scotland
- Scottish Funding Council
- Visit Scotland
- Private Sector representatives
- Social Enterprise representatives
- Third Sector representatives
- Registered Social Landlord representatives
- Community Development Trust representatives
- Borders College
- Dumfries & Galloway College
- Heriot Watt University
- Crichton Leadership Group
- Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

Scottish Government officials are invited to attend meetings as observers.

### Members include:

#### Dumfries and Galloway Council

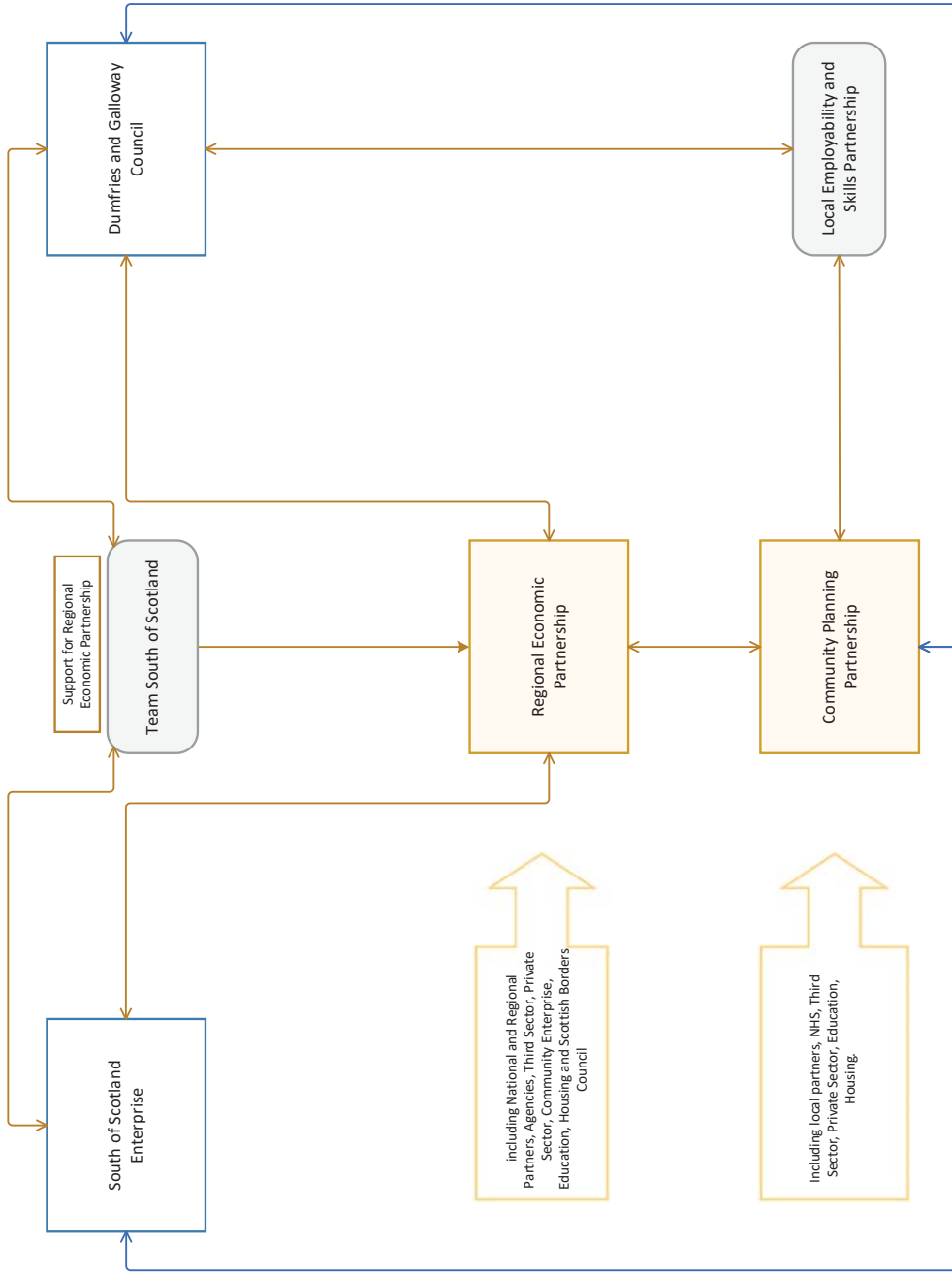
Council Leader, Cllr Elaine Murray  
Depute Leader, Cllr Rob Davidson (REP chair)  
Cllr Andrew Wood  
Cllr Ian Carruthers

#### SOSE Board Members

SOSE Chair, Professor Russel Griggs OBE  
Duncan McConchie  
Kate Rowell  
Hazel Smith

Matt Foreman – DGHP  
Sheena Horner – D&G Private Sector  
Hamish Macleod – D&G Private Sector  
Norma Austin Hart – D&G Communities, Third Sector and Social Enterprise  
Harry Harbottle – D&G Communities, Third Sector and Social Enterprise  
Peter Renwick – D&G Communities, Third Sector and Social Enterprise  
Joanna Campbell – D&G College

Appendix 2 Regional Economic Partnership and Community Planning in D&G





## DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL'S CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION - A ROUTE MAP TO CARBON NEUTRAL

### 1. Background

1.1 At its meeting on 27 June 2019, Dumfries and Galloway Council agreed to adopt the Climate Emergency Declaration and the supporting 12-point plan (Appendix 1) to focus the Council's action in relation to the management and reduction of our carbon footprint.

1.2 The adoption of the Climate Emergency Declaration created a starting point to focus the activity of the Council in tackling this area of policy, whilst building on the Carbon Management Plans 1 & 2 and has provided a sharp focus for shaping Council policies and plans. In line with the activity outlined within the Climate Emergency Declaration and accompanying 12-point plan the Council has developed and adopted a new Strategic Priority and Commitments, which were adopted by the Council in September 2020. The Council's new priority and commitments are outlined below;

- Urgently respond to climate change and transition to a carbon neutral region.
  - Encourage understanding of how the way we live and work in the region impacts on climate change
  - Empower our communities and stakeholders to make significant changes to reduce emissions and adapt to a low carbon approach
  - Lead on the transition to cleaner and greener technologies
  - Promote and protect our region's natural environment
  - Contribute to a greener economy, maximising the region's green energy potential

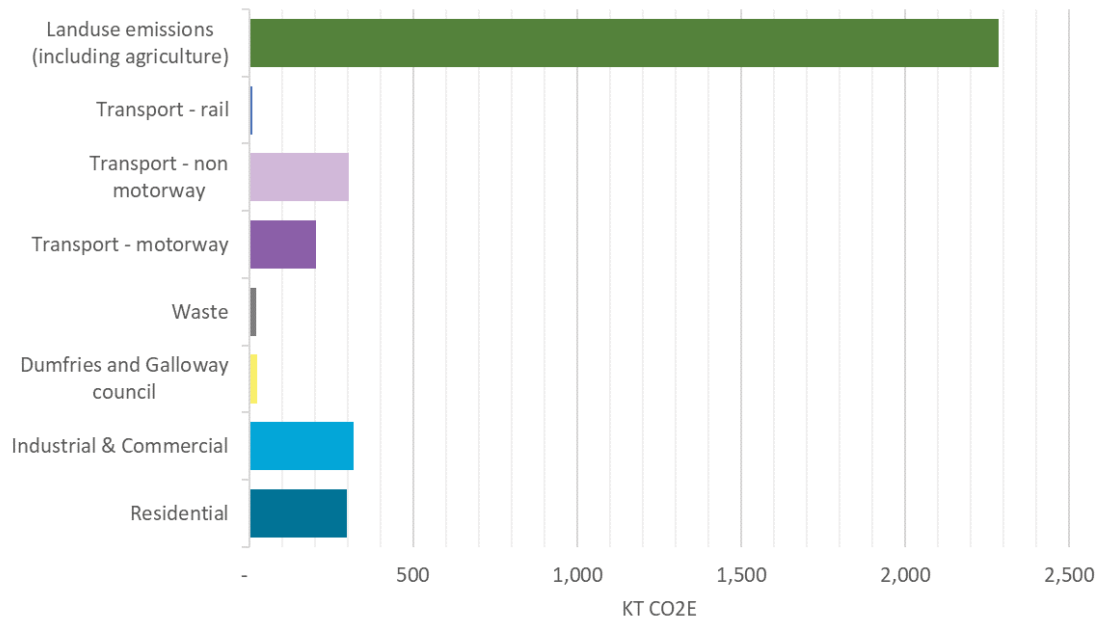
1.3. In order to deliver against the aspirations outlined within the Climate Emergency Declaration and against the new Council Priorities and commitments work was required to understand the regions CO<sub>2</sub>e Baseline (Appendix 2, provides a detailed glossary of terms), the council commissioned consultants to support the collation and interpretation of the regions CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions. The consultants utilised the methodology and datasets from the department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the most up to date figures available which related to 2018. The rationale behind the decision focused on the ability to collate data that could be used to benchmark and assess our regions emissions with other local authorities. As such key assumptions to collate the baseline data are:

- Greenhouse gas protocol methodologies for consistency with other local authorities
- Covers GHG emissions and carbon removals
- Application of UK government carbon conversion factors
- UK average electricity emission factor

For further information on the Baseline the methodology can be found in Appendix 3.

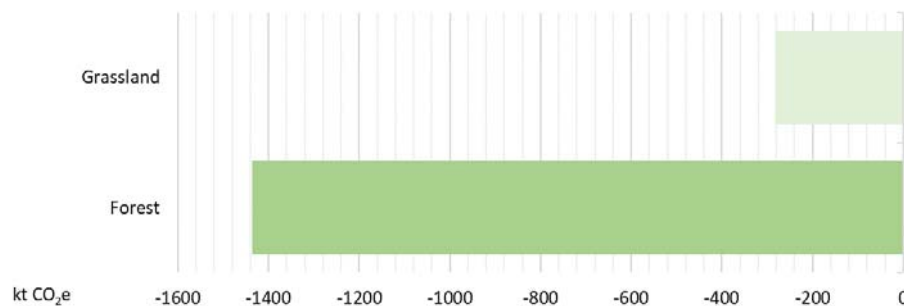
1.4 The information contained within Table 1 below reflects the most up to date emissions for the region of CO<sub>2</sub>e, the total emissions for the region in 2018 where 3,463 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e. It is worth highlighting that Dumfries and Galloway Council’s direct emissions account for 0.7% of the regions total emissions and are further broken down in table 4.

**Table 1 - Dumfries and Galloway Baseline Emissions 2018**



1.5 The regions agricultural and land based industries have an important role to play to support our natural capital and enhance the regions habitats which will support indirect carbon sequestration through better managed landscapes and habitats, whilst table 1 reflects the regions emissions we also need to identify the CO<sub>2</sub>e that the region absorbs, our rurality and natural capital plays an important role in reducing our net emissions Table 2 below provides information from the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector which provides a significant removal of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

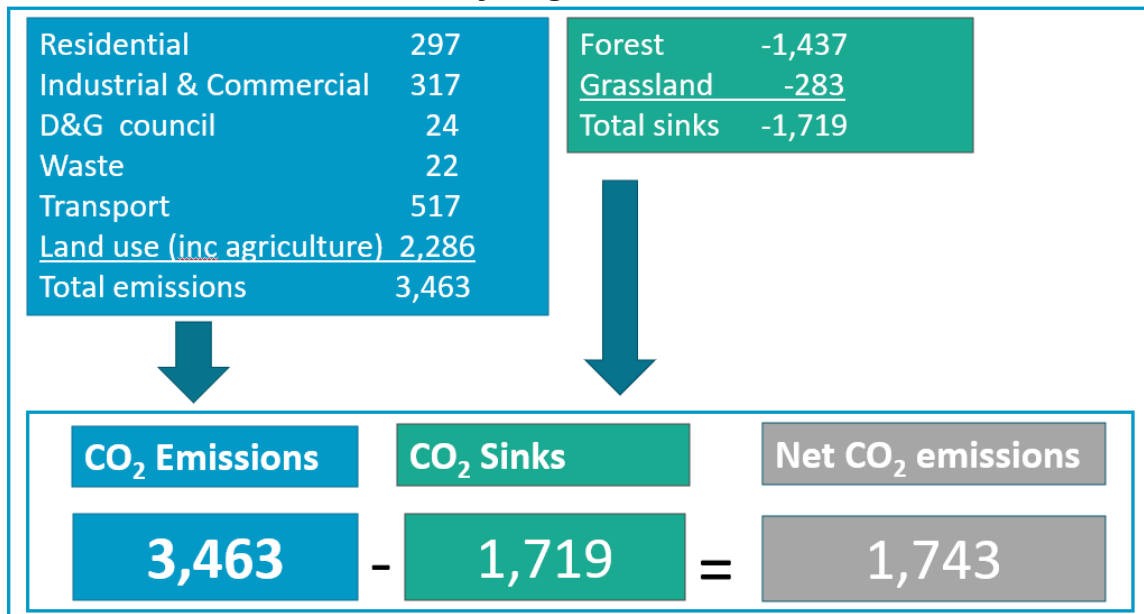
**Table 2 - Dumfries and Galloway LULUCF emissions and sinks 2018/2019**



1.6 The collation of the baseline provides the council with starting point for the strategic plan that will look at the route map identifying and prioritising actions for both the

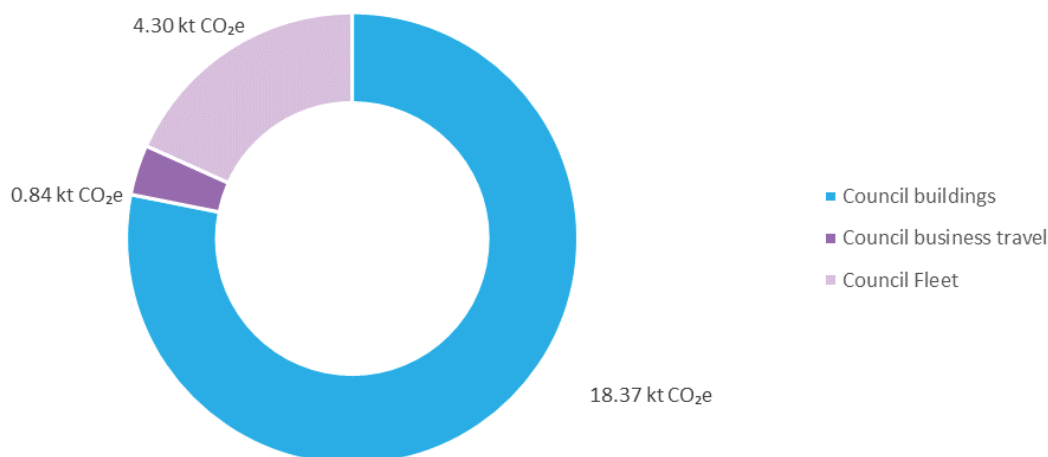
council and the region to reduce our emissions in line with the timeline provided as part of the climate emergency declaration, Table 3 provide clarity on the regional emissions.

Table 3 – Dumfries and Galloway Region net CO2e Emissions



1.7 Table 1 referenced that the Council’s own estate emissions have been calculated to be 24 kt CO2e, 0.7% of the total area wide emissions. See Table 4. The Council buildings emissions includes electricity use and fuels for heating (gas, oil and biomass). The fleet fuel use includes both road vehicles and off-road machinery. Business travel includes car use, taxis and public transport journeys. The council generated 1.3 GWh electricity from solar PV installations in 2018 compared to sourcing 31.3 GWh from the electricity grid.

Table 4 - Dumfries and Galloway council own estate emissions baseline, 2018/19



1.8 To develop the Strategic Plan it was important to understand the regional CO<sub>2</sub>e baseline and the activities per sector that could be identified to support the reduction of the baseline over the defined period up to 2025 in line with the Council’s Climate Emergency Declaration. The Strategic Plan was presented and approved by the Council’s Economy and Resources Committee in January 2021.

**2. Key issues**

2.1 The Plan focused on considering activities that would reduce both direct emissions that relate directly to Council activities such as waste, transport and buildings and those indirect emissions such as agriculture and industry that the Council would seek to influence and work with partners and stakeholders, to reduce the region carbon emissions.

2.2 The Council commissioned its consultants to model carbon trajectories (across the different sectors outlined in Figure 1) to provide an evidence base for the Strategic Plan, from our current position (Business as Usual) towards net zero. This has involved estimation of the impact of national and local actions to reduce carbon emissions across a 10-year time horizon, taking account of current activity and considering what could be possible through an ambitious mix of carbon reduction actions taken across Dumfries and Galloway.

2.3 Figure 1 below shows the model trajectories of carbon emissions for the Dumfries and Galloway region to 2030, indicating potential net carbon emissions (dotted line) across key emission sources, assuming significant action is taken to reduce emissions. The red line shows the business as usual (BAU) assumed emissions if further action is not taken.

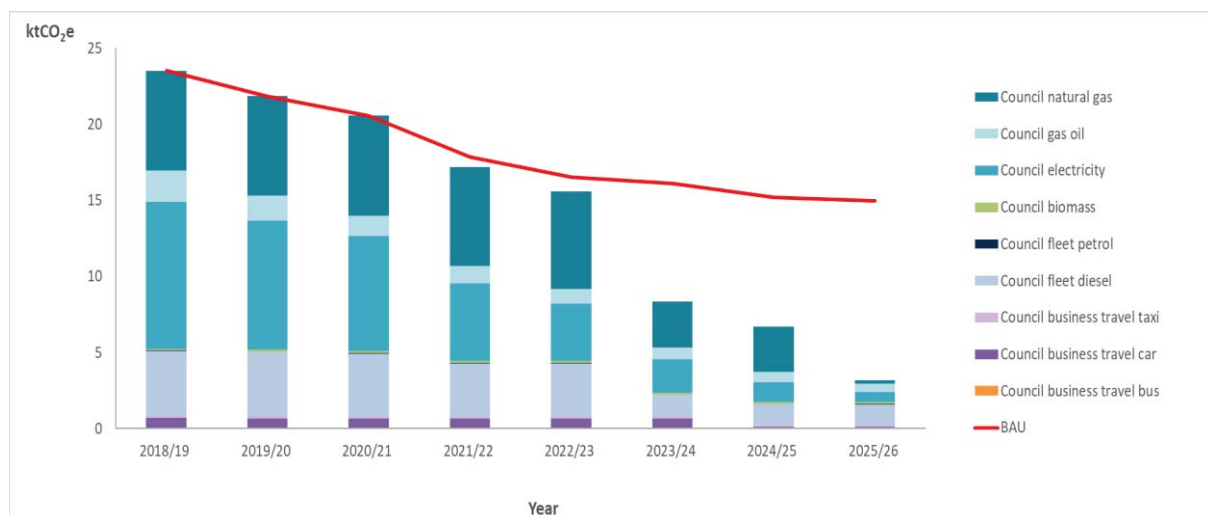
Figure 1 – Emission Trajectories for Dumfries and Galloway



2.4 This model analysis shows that it would not be possible to reduce emissions to reach the net zero target by 2025 when considering only emissions and removals within Dumfries and Galloway. The Council will therefore need to consider off-setting residual emissions to meet the target set to achieve the target. It is worth noting that whilst the Council’s ambitious targets of a carbon neutral region may require off-setting the Draft Strategic Plan rightly focuses on current technologies and activities and these are likely to be subject to change or greater investment in the future which will help increase reductions and help us reach our targets. Based on the assumptions within the Draft Strategic Plan for CO<sub>2</sub>e reductions the region we will have reduced the CO<sub>2</sub>e footprint by some 700,000 tonnes annually, which is significant.

2.5 If we look at the CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions that the Council has direct control over as outlined in Table 4 above we can see that the existing baseline emissions the Council contributes just under 24,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually across the three areas. Significant progress can be made in reducing the council’s net emissions through the ability to prioritise actions across the range of different services as described in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 - Emission trajectories for Dumfries and Galloway Council



2.6 If the Council can implement the assumptions and activities highlighted within the Draft Strategic Plan, we could reduce our own CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 80% from the 2018/19 baseline to just under 5,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e as outlined in Figure 2. There is the opportunity to reduce these emissions further through the local generation and direct wire transfer.

### 3. Next steps

3.1 Dumfries and Galloway Council after capturing the regional CO<sub>2</sub>e Baseline recognised that their role comprises of reducing those direct emissions associated with its activities as outlined in table 4 and figure 2 above, and to influence support and facilitate the reduction of carbon across the region through engagement with key stakeholders and partners.

3.2 To establish the framework required for open and transparent debate around the climate emergency; community engagement, and the opportunities for supporting the activities of partners to reduce CO2e emissions, it is anticipated that the adoption of the Strategic Plan will provide an interactive resource that will facilitate engagement and support from regional partners.

3.3 A key commitment and opportunity within the Climate Emergency Declaration is the establishment of a Citizens Panel. Work is currently underway to create and establish the citizens panel for the region and remains an important focus for the Council's Officer Working Group in 2021 and the use of the Strategic Plan assumptions and priorities will provide a strong basis for those discussions and shared work and progress

3.4 The increased focus through the Climate Emergency Declaration has provided early opportunity for discussion with key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and the Economic Leadership Group to demonstrate the action that the Council is undertaking to reduce its own CO2e footprint and how it can collaboratively and constructively work with others to support and facilitate their journey towards net zero. A good example of this has been the engagement locally with the National Farmers Union Scotland, where best practice and industry standards have been looked at as part of the sectors desire to be CO2e neutral by 2050 and the highlighting of best practice locally through its membership.

3.5 In addition to those relationships developed and the establishment of the Citizens panel there is a requirement to provide greater collaboration with the membership of the Community Planning Partnership Board and the role that these organisations and groups can bring to support the Climate Emergency Declaration, either through the acceleration of carbon reductions targets locally or the opportunity to create a regional focus on carbon neutral procurement and development.

3.6 In order to create a more collaborative approach Dumfries and Galloway Council would support a more formal approach through the establishment of a short life climate group representative of key officers and individuals from the Community Partnership board to further development a regional approach to reducing carbon emissions, supporting more sustainable approaches and solutions and identifying opportunities to reduce waste and create better efficiencies.

3.7 In short there is a recognition that the Council's activities alone will not secure the desire carbon neutral status by 2025 without the support and engagement of key stakeholders across the region. The impacts of climate change will place a greater burden on all businesses and areas of work across the private, public, community and third sector. Our ability to act in a coordinated fashion now will help to limit our contributions and create a framework that can be used to support future mitigation and adaption to negate any impacts of climate change in the future.

#### 4. Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- 4.1 Support the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration as outlined at Appendix 1 and the development work undertaken to create the Strategic Plan and regional baseline on emissions
- 4.2 Welcome the development of the citizens panel to provide further engagement with communities and stakeholders across the region to support the Council's work on Climate Change.
- 4.3 Encourage community planning partners to engage with the net zero ambition within their organisations through supporting the objectives within the Strategic Plan as highlighted within Appendix 4
- 4.4 Note the partnership approach taken to COP26

Simon Fieldhouse, Environment Manager  
2 March 2021

#### Appendices

- 1 Dumfries and Galloway Council's – Climate Emergency Declaration
- 2 Glossary of Terms
- 3 Dumfries and Galloway Baseline methodology
- 4 Carbon Reduction Assumption

## Dumfries and Galloway Council Climate Emergency Declaration 27 June 2019

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

With the inspirational and empowering words of 16 years old Greta Thunberg and the resulting School Strikes Movement now active across the world the impact of climate change has come into sharp focus and proven to be a global wake up call. Demands from our young people alongside the many voices from environmental groups are calling for governments across the world to make climate emergency declarations and many national governments, including in Scotland and the UK have now made that declaration. Scotland is already recognised as a leader in the pursuit of carbon reduction targets and much has already been achieved in sectors such as Energy, Waste, Agriculture, Residential and Transport. But there is now a requirement for urgent action to minimise a global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees and avert a catastrophic tipping point for the planet. The quality of life for future generations in our region will be defined by our actions and we as elected members of Dumfries and Galloway Council must demonstrate leadership and act upon our responsibilities by making our own Climate Emergency Declaration (CED).

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction) (Scotland) Bill is making progress in the Scottish Parliament and will build significantly on the achievements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and direction from the UN Paris Agreement. Advice has also been taken in producing the Bill from the UK Climate Change Committee. Following the CED in April 2019 the Scottish Government has announced it will move faster and further on actions to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and for Scotland to be carbon neutral by 2040. There is now a weight of expectation however that Dumfries and Galloway Council must take action with a strategic plan on tackling climate change. This motion therefore sets out our 12-point plan to reinvigorate the pursuit of net zero carbon emissions in our region, protect our fragile biodiversity and our natural environment. Dumfries and Galloway Council has previously implemented Carbon Management Plans 1 & 2 following the enactment of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, but to ensure an effective response to the climate emergency it is essential that we step up our actions significantly. We must embed throughout our entire organisational culture the pursuit of measures to tackle climate change. With our leadership and commitment Dumfries and Galloway Council will be in the vanguard of addressing climate change.

Dumfries and Galloway Council therefore agrees to make the following commitments which will be implemented following the establishment of a Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group which will meet within 60 days and oversee implementation of our 12-point plan:

- 1. Dumfries and Galloway Council hereby declares a Climate Emergency and recognises the impact this will have on our quality of life. We recognise our responsibility to tackle climate change and fully commit to taking effective action to limit the impact on our region and its people;**
- 2. We recognise the challenges ahead to tackle climate change and, whilst we have already made significant strides towards achievement of a regional net zero carbon status, we will seek to achieve this outcome by the year 2025 and, wherever possible embrace opportunities to accelerate our target date;**



## Dumfries and Galloway Council Climate Emergency Declaration 27 June 2019

3. **We recognise our critical strategic leadership role to tackle climate change and will create a new and specific council priority from which our strategic objectives and outcomes will flow;**
4. **We will urgently review all policy and practice across our council directorates and departments to identify ways in which we can move further and faster on carbon reduction measures;**
5. **We will embed climate change considerations into all policy and practice risk assessments to ensure a continuous focus on the implications our actions may have on our environment, and ensure that measures to reduce or eliminate carbon emissions are acted on;**
6. **We recognise the existing impact of the changing climate on the lives of local populations and will help them to make informed decisions on how to adapt to climate change; individuals, communities and businesses need a greater understanding of climate change and its impacts;**
7. **We recognise the importance of our biodiversity and natural environment in our drive to reduce the impact of climate change and will encourage and support practices to enhance and sustain the farmed and natural world;**
8. **We will embrace innovative measures and respond as a priority to technological advances which can reduce our region's impact on climate change. This will enable opportunities to contribute to the economic development and diversity of our region by supporting businesses and communities which can benefit from schemes and projects which support our priority to tackle climate change;**
9. **We recognise that our pursuit of net zero carbon emissions is a challenge which all people who live and work in our region will share. Accordingly, we will establish a broad based and diverse Citizens' Panel, which will bring together representatives from across our region, harnessing the skills, experience and innovation our people possess to inform and influence the action we will take as a council;**
10. **We will produce a Climate Change Strategic Action Plan which will incorporate our obligations under the Climate Change (Emission Reduction) (Scotland) Bill when enacted, encapsulate everything that we can do to reduce or eliminate carbon emission and, will incorporate actions on loss of biodiversity and our natural environment;**
11. **We will commit to working closely with other local authorities, statutory agencies, public and private sector organisations and our communities to achieve carbon reduction outcomes and will seek to identify and share best practice;**
12. **In recognition of Dumfries and Galloway Council's commitment to our Climate Change Declaration on eliminating carbon emissions, protecting our region's biodiversity and natural environment we will appoint an elected member as our Environment Champion.**

## Dumfries and Galloway Council Climate Emergency Declaration 27 June 2019

With the magnitude of the task ahead, it is important to note that this declaration will represent a radical and comprehensive step change in Dumfries and Galloway Council's approach over the last decade to climate change. Consequently, a collegiate cross-party alliance is crucial, and indeed is the reasonable expectation of the communities we represent. We must therefore adopt an ethos that ensures in the years ahead that nothing should be off the table in our commitment to protecting quality of life for generations to come.

**Item 6 Appendix 2****Glossary of Terms**

**Activity:** an action that leads to emissions of greenhouse gases. Examples include combustion of fossil fuels for heat, generation of electricity and transport, treatment of waste and wastewater, industrial processes. Activity data is the measure of how much of this activity is taking place and has a variety of different units e.g. kWh, passenger kilometres, tonnes of waste etc.

**Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e):** carbon dioxide equivalent is a measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential. For example, the global warming potential for methane over 100 years is 25. Therefore 1 tonne of methane released is equivalent to 25 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (measured on a 100-year time horizon). Therefore, CO<sub>2</sub>e works as a single 'currency' for greenhouse gases.

**Carbon emissions:** used as a shorthand to refer to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are included in the Kyoto Treaty. Carbon dioxide is the most common GHG and other gases can be measured in relation to it (see CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**Carbon neutral:** the balancing of carbon emissions against carbon removals and/or carbon offsetting with the net result being zero (see also net zero carbon).

**Carbon reduction:** an activity that reduces carbon emissions compared to a baseline scenario.

**Climate Change:** the large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns or average temperatures.

**Decarbonisation:** usually refers to the electricity sector and refers to reducing the carbon intensity of electricity generated (emissions per kWh) by increasing efficiency of supply or changing the generation fuel mix from fossil fuel to renewables and low carbon sources.

**Emission factor:** the average emissions of a given GHG for particular activity. Emission factors are also expressed as the average combination of GHGs for a particular activity, in units of kgCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**Global warming:** refers to the recent and ongoing rise in global average temperature near Earth's surface. It is caused mostly by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Global warming is causing climate patterns to change. However, global warming itself represents only one aspect of climate change.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG):** a gas in our atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. There are naturally occurring greenhouse gases in our atmosphere which maintain surface temperatures in a range conducive to life. However, since the industrial revolution, anthropogenic sources of GHGs have increased hugely, leading to 40% increase in atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide. This is causing increases in surface temperatures and is the main cause of climate change. There are seven GHGs covered by the Kyoto Treaty, but the main

ones are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and action needs to be taken to reduce emissions of these.

**Net zero carbon:** the balancing of carbon emissions against carbon removals and/or carbon offsetting with the net result being zero (see also carbon neutral).

**Project lifetime:** anticipated lifetime of an energy efficiency technology or low carbon behaviour, used to calculate lifetime savings.

**Removals:** CO<sub>2</sub> removals refer to a set of techniques that aim to remove CO<sub>2</sub> directly from the atmosphere by either increasing natural sinks for carbon or using chemical engineering to remove the CO<sub>2</sub>, with the intent of reducing the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.

**Scope:** a way of categorising emission sources in relation to the reporting organisation, used as a way of providing transparency in emissions accounting, making it clear the type of emission source and the level of control of the reporting organisation over the source. Three levels of scope have been defined and used on a global basis.

**Sequestration:** a natural or artificial process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and held in solid or liquid form. The uptake of atmospheric carbon by plants and the growth of wood or increase of peat volume are examples of biological sequestration. Also see removals.

# **Dumfries and Galloway: Carbon Analysis Methodology Note**

**Dumfries and Galloway Council**

February 2021



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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	National Policy Context .....	1
1.2	Dumfries and Galloway Climate Emergency Declaration.....	1
1.3	Baseline Emissions .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Scope of Emissions Baseline .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Definitions of key terms .....	2
2.2	Setting the boundary.....	2
<b>3</b>	<b>Baseline Emissions .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Baseline emissions methods.....</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1	Datasets.....	10
4.2	Emissions monitoring .....	12
<b>5</b>	<b>Carbon trajectory modelling approach .....</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1	The Carbon Scenario Model.....	12
5.2	Business as Usual Emissions methods .....	14
5.3	Further action scenario.....	16
<b>6</b>	<b>Stakeholder engagement .....</b>	<b>19</b>

## Key Terms and Definitions

**Activity:** an action that leads to emissions of greenhouse gases. Examples include combustion of fossil fuels for heat, generation of electricity and transport, treatment of waste and wastewater, industrial processes. Activity data represent how much of this activity is taking place and has a variety of different units e.g. kWh, passenger kilometres, tonnes of waste etc.

**Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e):** carbon dioxide equivalent is a measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential. For example, the global warming potential for methane over 100 years is 25. Therefore 1 tonne of methane released is equivalent to 25 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (measured on a 100-year time horizon). Therefore, CO<sub>2</sub>e works as a single 'currency' for greenhouse gases.

**Carbon emissions:** often used as a shorthand to refer to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are included in the Kyoto Treaty. Carbon dioxide is the most common GHG and other gases can be measured in relation to it (see CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**Carbon neutral:** the balancing of carbon emissions against carbon removals and/or carbon offsetting with the net result being zero (see also net zero carbon).

**Carbon reduction:** an activity that reduces carbon emissions compared to a baseline scenario.

**Climate change:** the large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns or average temperatures.

**Decarbonisation:** usually refers to the electricity sector and refers to reducing the carbon intensity of electricity generated (emissions per kWh) by increasing efficiency of supply or changing the generation fuel mix from fossil fuel to renewables and low carbon sources.

**Emission factor:** the average emissions of a given GHG for a particular activity. Emission factors are also expressed as the average combination of GHGs for a particular activity, in units of kgCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**Global warming:** refers to the recent and ongoing rise in global average temperature near Earth's surface. It is caused mostly by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Global warming is causing climate patterns to change. However, global warming itself represents only one aspect of climate change.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG):** a gas in our atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. There are naturally occurring greenhouse gases in our atmosphere which maintain surface temperatures in a range conducive to life. However, since the industrial revolution, anthropogenic sources of GHGs have increased hugely, leading to 40% increase in atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide. This is causing increases in surface temperatures and is the main cause of climate change. There are seven GHGs covered by the Kyoto Treaty, but the main ones are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and action needs to be taken to reduce emissions of these.



**Net zero carbon:** the balancing of carbon emissions against carbon removals and/or carbon offsetting with the net result being zero (see also carbon neutral).

**Project lifetime:** anticipated lifetime of an energy efficiency technology or low carbon behaviour, used to calculate lifetime savings.

**Removals:** CO<sub>2</sub> removals refer to a set of techniques that aim to remove CO<sub>2</sub> directly from the atmosphere by either increasing natural sinks for carbon or using chemical engineering to remove the CO<sub>2</sub>, with the intent of reducing the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.

**Scope:** a way of categorising emission sources in relation to the reporting organisation, used as a way of providing transparency in emissions accounting, making it clear the type of emission source and the level of control of the reporting organisation over the source. Three levels of scope have been defined and used on a global basis.

**Sequestration:** a natural or artificial process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and held in solid or liquid form. The uptake of atmospheric carbon by plants and the growth of wood or increase of peat volume are examples of biological sequestration. Also see removals.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 National Policy Context

Scotland has set out a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) to 'net-zero' by 2045 through the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) Act of 2019. An update to Scotland's Climate Change plan will set out the increase in pace required and the policies by which a just transition can be achieved to reach Net Zero emissions five years before the rest of the UK. However, it is acknowledged by the Committee on Climate Change that achieving net zero emissions will require action across the economy, and across a wide range of government actors, at different levels and with different responsibilities.

Local councils are well placed to influence emissions in energy, waste, land use, residential and transport sectors whilst holding the best knowledge of the needs and opportunities in their area. Through their planning role, local councils can leverage change by establishing building energy efficiency standards that go beyond national standards, implementing sustainable travel programmes and infrastructure, approving renewable energy projects, pursuing heating programmes and implementing sustainable waste management programmes.

Climate change mitigation actions also have many positive wider impacts or co-benefits, including improved air quality, lower energy bills, creation of local jobs, and improved resilience and adaptation responses to climate change impacts.

Increasingly, the public sector in Scotland, and especially local government can play a fundamental role in structuring change and delivering emissions reductions and associated benefits to the wider area and this is where the public sector can have a transformational effect. The future of public bodies duties on climate change in Scotland is likely to take a much wider approach to both reporting and managing these emissions and there will be benefits to organisations who have recognised this and start developing effective inventory tools and portfolios of projects that will deliver change at the rate required.

### 1.2 Dumfries and Galloway Climate Emergency Declaration

Dumfries and Galloway declared a climate emergency, raising the national ambition with a target of achieving net zero by 2025. This ambition requires a much more rapid change than the rest of Scotland and reflects the significant existing carbon sequestration and natural resources of the region, in terms of existing stored carbon in forests and soils.

### 1.3 Baseline Emissions

In order for Dumfries and Galloway to pursue ambitious climate action effectively, a clearly defined target and scope is required. This paper sets out the definitions of the key terms, outlines the scope of the emissions included and quantifies the baseline emissions for the agreed scope. Each section of the report considers the scope and emissions of the Council estate and the wider council area of Dumfries and Galloway. The approach adopted follows standard methodologies to ensure consistency with estimates made at the national level by other local authorities as far as possible.

Monitoring progress in mitigating climate change in Scotland is currently done through reporting under the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD). However, the outcomes of the public consultation on these reporting duties, which ended in December 2019, are likely to result in changes to what and how organisations report. As the details of the changes are unlikely to be known until after the Dumfries and Galloway Climate Change Plan has been updated, the baseline presented in this report has been compiled considering flexibility required for future reporting.

## 2 Scope of Emissions Baseline

### 2.1 Definitions of key terms

Dumfries and Galloway's target is to achieve **net zero** by 2025. In the sphere of climate emergency declarations many terms are used interchangeably. Definitions are given below for some of the common terms used.

- **Carbon removals:** processes that directly remove carbon from the atmosphere or emissions flows either through natural plant uptake processes (sequestration) or through industrial processes (carbon capture and storage)
- **Carbon offsetting:** an accounting approach by which individuals/organisations can balance their carbon emissions through investment in carbon removal projects
- **Zero carbon:** this means the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to zero, without need for removals or offsetting;
- **Net zero carbon:** the balancing of carbon emissions against carbon removals and/or carbon offsetting with the net result being zero;
- **Carbon neutral:** this is the same as net zero carbon.

As defined by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), a net zero (i.e. carbon neutral) target requires “*deep reductions in emissions, with any remaining sources offset by removals of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere (e.g. by afforestation)*”. This removal requires either the purchase of carbon offsets or direct carbon removal through additional carbon removal and storage (“sequestration”) activity within the relevant geographical boundary.

Although the phrases above refer to carbon, this is generally taken to include all greenhouse gases covered under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Kyoto protocol<sup>1</sup>, measured in terms of their carbon dioxide equivalence (CO<sub>2</sub>e). CO<sub>2</sub>e is a measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, CO<sub>2</sub>e works as a single ‘currency’ for greenhouse gases, of which CO<sub>2</sub> is the usually by far the most abundant.

### 2.2 Setting the boundary

There are four boundaries to be drawn for the definition and quantification of the emissions baseline: geographical, temporal, organisational and operational.

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<sup>1</sup> Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/ghgp/Global-Warming-Potential-Values%20%28Feb%2016%202016%29\\_1.pdf](https://www.ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/ghgp/Global-Warming-Potential-Values%20%28Feb%2016%202016%29_1.pdf)

### 2.2.1 Geographical

The geographical boundary is only relevant for the council area wide emissions. The geographic boundary is the administrative area of Dumfries and Galloway council (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Dumfries and Galloway Council administrative area



### 2.2.2 Temporal boundary

For the council area-wide emissions, the baseline is the 2018 calendar year and the target the 2025 calendar year.

For the council estate emissions, the baseline year is the financial year 2018/19 and the target year the 2025/26 financial year.

### 2.2.3 Organisational boundary

The organisational boundary defines **which parts of an organisation** are included for the purpose of GHG reporting, and therefore is only relevant for the Council estate emissions baseline. A service based approach has been taken which means that reporting is required by the core services that the organisation delivers. For a local authority such as Dumfries and Galloway council this typically means reporting is required for the sources listed in **Table 1**. This list excludes Landlord services (i.e. council housing) and also Public transport.

Table 1 Organisation boundary services included

Services included in the carbon baseline	
Adult and lifelong learning	Highways and street lighting
Allotments	Housing and homelessness services (except council housing)
Ancillary functions	Libraries and archives
Benefits administration	Licensing services
Burial and cremation services	Maritime and coastal services (e.g. slipways, marinas and lifeguards)
Car parking and parking enforcement	Museums, galleries and support for the arts
Childcare provision	Parks and gardens
Collection and disposal of trade waste	Planning and building control
Conservation and rights of way	Play facilities
Disabled parking permits	Promotion of tourism
Domestic waste collection and disposal, and street cleansing	Registrar services (births, marriages and deaths)
Economic development and business support	School education
Electoral administration	Social services
Environmental and animal health	Sport and leisure services
Flood protection	Trading standards

For this study, emissions from the council estate have been limited to the scope of emissions as reported under Public Duties Reporting in Scotland, and as such no scope 3 emissions from procurement of goods or services have been included.

#### 2.2.4 Operational Boundary

An operational boundary defines the **types of emission sources** that are included in the reporting. Setting a clear operational boundary defines which emission sources are included in the reporting and which ones are excluded. This has been defined separately for the council area-wide emissions and the council estate emissions. The most widely used set of standards for carbon accounting are those produced under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Of relevance to the council area-wide emissions is the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories<sup>3</sup>, otherwise known as the GHG Protocol for Cities. Of relevance to the council estate emissions is the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard<sup>4</sup>. In each standard emission sources to be considered for inclusion are defined across three scopes; the definition of the three scopes are shown in **Table 2**.

<sup>3</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/greenhouse-gas-protocol-accounting-reporting-standard-cities>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

Table 2 Scope definitions as presented in the GHG Protocol for Cities and the Corporate Standard

Scope	Definition
1	GHG emissions from sources located within the council boundary
2	GHG emissions occurring as a consequence of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the council boundary
3	Other GHG emissions that occur outside the council boundary as a result of activities taking place within the council boundary

The full scope included in the baseline emissions presented in this report are illustrated in the scope diagram **Figure 2** on the following page.

### 2.2.5 Principles for Data Inclusion

The GHG Protocol sets out a series of principles, which are consistent with other standards under the GHG Protocol series. They are intended to guide GHG accounting towards a fair and accurate account of GHG emissions. These are:

- **Relevance:** The reported GHG emissions shall appropriately reflect emissions occurring as a result of activities and consumption patterns of the city. The inventory will also serve the decision-making needs of the city, taking into consideration relevant local, subnational, and national regulations. The principle of relevance applies when selecting data sources and determining and prioritising data collection improvements;
- **Completeness:** cities shall account for all required emissions sources within the inventory boundary. Any exclusion of emission sources shall be justified and clearly explained.
- **Consistency:** emissions calculations shall be consistent in approach, boundary, and methodology. Using consistent methodologies for calculating GHG emissions enables meaningful documentation of emission changes over time, trend analysis, and comparisons between cities.
- **Transparency:** activity data, emission sources, emission factors, and accounting methodologies require adequate documentation and disclosure to enable verification. The information should be sufficient to allow individuals outside of the inventory process to use the same source data and derive the same results. All exclusions shall be clearly identified, disclosed and justified.
- **Accuracy:** The calculation of GHG emissions shall not systematically overstate or understate actual GHG emissions. Accuracy should be sufficient enough to give decision makers and the public reasonable assurance of the integrity of the reported information. Uncertainties in the quantification process shall be reduced to the extent that it is possible and practical.

Using these principles provides a very high standard of GHG accounting. It also sets a very high bar in terms of the level of resource required simply to collect and verify data, resource which could be diverted towards planning and implementation carbon reduction actions.

The GHG Protocol for Cities acknowledges this, stating that “a city will need to make important decisions in terms of setting the inventory boundary, choosing calculation methods, deciding whether to include additional scope 3 sources, etc. Trade-offs between the five principles above may be required based on the objectives or needs of the city.” Some further guidance towards the application of the GHG Protocol scopes within this project, are shown in **Table 3**.

Figure 2: Sources of emissions in scope and out of scope for the emissions baseline for Dumfries and Galloway council area

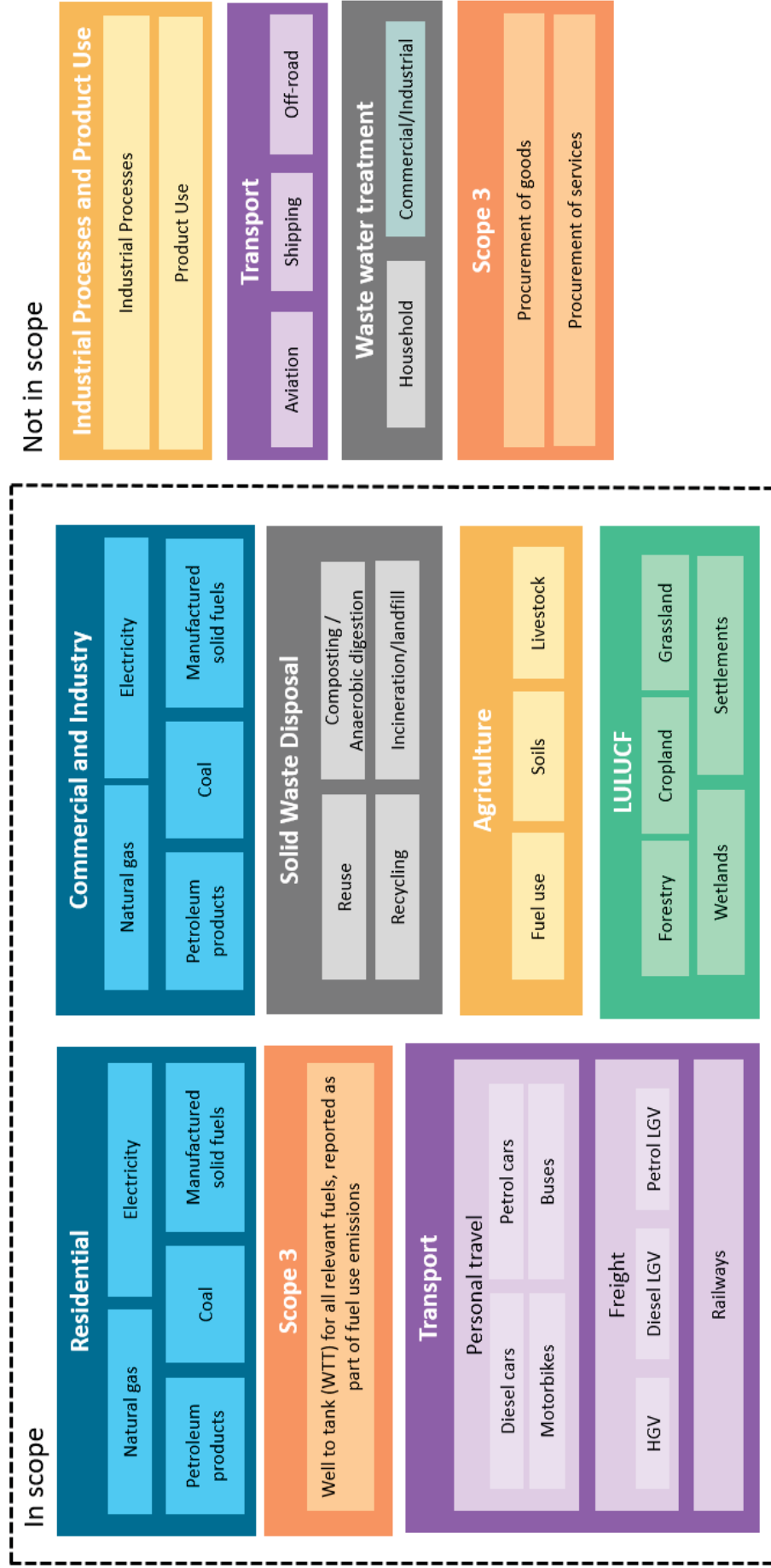


Table 3 Further principles for data inclusion and exclusion

Reasons for including data within the GHG boundary	Reasons for excluding data from the GHG boundary
The emission source occurs within the administrative boundary of the council area	The emission source has no available dataset and estimation methods will not benefit the decision-making
The quantity of activity data for the emission source is controlled by an organisation/individual within the administrative boundary of the council area	The emission source clearly belongs to a different geographical region and they are better placed to account for it
An organisation/individual within the geographical region has a significant level of control over the emission source even though it occurs outside the administrative boundary of the council area	Emission source makes up a very small proportion of overall emissions AND is very time consuming or difficult to collect activity data

This will in effect create three types of sources and their associated data:

- Sources which are clearly “in scope”, are important, and for which a reasonable level of data are available. This will include total electricity consumption and fossil fuel use within the council area;
- Sources which are clearly out of scope, either because they are sources which are not of significance in Dumfries and Galloway, such as industrial process emissions, or are minor and are best considered as sources outside the council area, such as aviation emissions;
- Sources which are important but for which data are either unavailable or so uncertain that it becomes virtually impossible to show progress, and thus are not useful for making decisions or the development of actions.

The sectors and sub-sectors which are significant contributors to the council and area wide emissions and have reasonable availability of data (of high quality) are included ‘in scope’.

### 2.2.6 Exclusions from scope

As noted above, there are some sources which cannot be estimated to an acceptable level of certainty, either because data do not exist or because the data are not available at the council level. Such sources can, and some cases should, be addressed in the council’s climate action plans but will not be included in the baseline. There are also a number of sources which are not significant within the council area.

Based on this and on the guiding principles above, the emission sources listed below have been excluded from the boundary for the carbon baseline. They have been listed by the principal reason for their exclusion; mainly to distinguish between emission sources that would ideally be included if there were sufficient data availability, and those where exclusion will have negligible impact on overall council area emissions.

#### Limited data availability at council wide scale:

- **Off-road machinery:** Data on fuel consumption in off-road machinery are not available at the council area level. This includes rural machinery for forestry and farms. Nevertheless, this should not discount consideration of construction and rural machinery in the council’s climate action plans.



- **Wastewater treatment:** Emissions from wastewater treatment are relatively small and the data are not available for estimating at the council area level.
- **Waterways and shipping:** While there are emissions from river, port and marine traffic within the council area boundaries, apportioning them to each council is highly uncertain.
- **Wetlands sequestration:** The UK GHG inventory does not yet include an estimate of sequestration (removals) in wetlands because it is not yet required for international reporting. However, in future estimates will be available because of new requirements that will come into effect as a result of the updated IPCC Guidelines for 2019. This will provide a more complete estimate of sequestration in Dumfries and Galloway, in particular related to peatlands. In addition, ‘blue carbon’ associated with sequestration in the marine environment is excluded but there are no known plans for this to be included in standard GHG accounting.

**Limited relevance to council wide emissions:**

- **Aviation:** this is not relevant source for either district, as there is no airport.
- **Industrial processes:** Energy consumption at industrial sites, such as food processing factories, is contained within the BEIS energy data. However other process emissions are not included, such as use of CO<sub>2</sub> in manufacturing processes. It is likely that obtaining additional data would require significant time and effort for minimal return as there is not a significant industrial manufacturing sector within the Dumfries and Galloway.
- **Product Use:** data are scarce and uncertain. Emissions of concern in this sector are fluorocarbons used in electronics production and lubricants/paraffin waxes for non-energy products, neither of which are considered a significant source in Dumfries and Galloway.

**Scope 3 emissions (council estate) excluded:**

The emissions related to the **procurement of goods and services** have been excluded from the scope for the baseline for the council own estate described in this report. A full accounting of all goods and services purchased by the council and within the council area would likely result in carbon emissions far exceeding all other sources<sup>5</sup>. However, estimation of such sources is highly complex and uncertain and tends to be possible only on an average purchase or product type basis. Thus, future changes in consumption patterns, e.g. towards “greener” products, will tend not to be reflected in that type of emission calculation.

This category could be considered as part of the Council’s climate action plans and attempts could be made to identify the key product sectors, with the potential for inclusion in an updated carbon footprint at a later date. In particular, for the Councils’ own emissions, outsourced services should be modelled. This will help prevent “carbon leakage” where further services are outsourced (or brought back in-house) in the future.

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<sup>5</sup> The C40 Cities report on urban consumption shows the extend of indirect emissions resulting from cities, which it describes as “consumption-based” but which are analogous to scope 3: [https://c40-production-images.s3.amazonaws.com/other\\_uploads/images/2270\\_C40\\_CBE\\_MainReport\\_250719.original.pdf?1564075036](https://c40-production-images.s3.amazonaws.com/other_uploads/images/2270_C40_CBE_MainReport_250719.original.pdf?1564075036)

### 3 Baseline Emissions

The figures and tables that follow show the baseline emissions that have been calculated for Dumfries and Galloway council area and the council’s own estate.

The **total net carbon emissions for the council area are 1743 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e**, which includes the contribution from the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector of a net removal of 854 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e. Before accounting for this removal the total of the scope 1 and 2 emissions is 2597 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e, which are represented in **Figure 3** below. The Council’s own estate emissions represent 0.9% of the total emissions.

Figure 3 Dumfries and Galloway council area emissions baseline, 2018

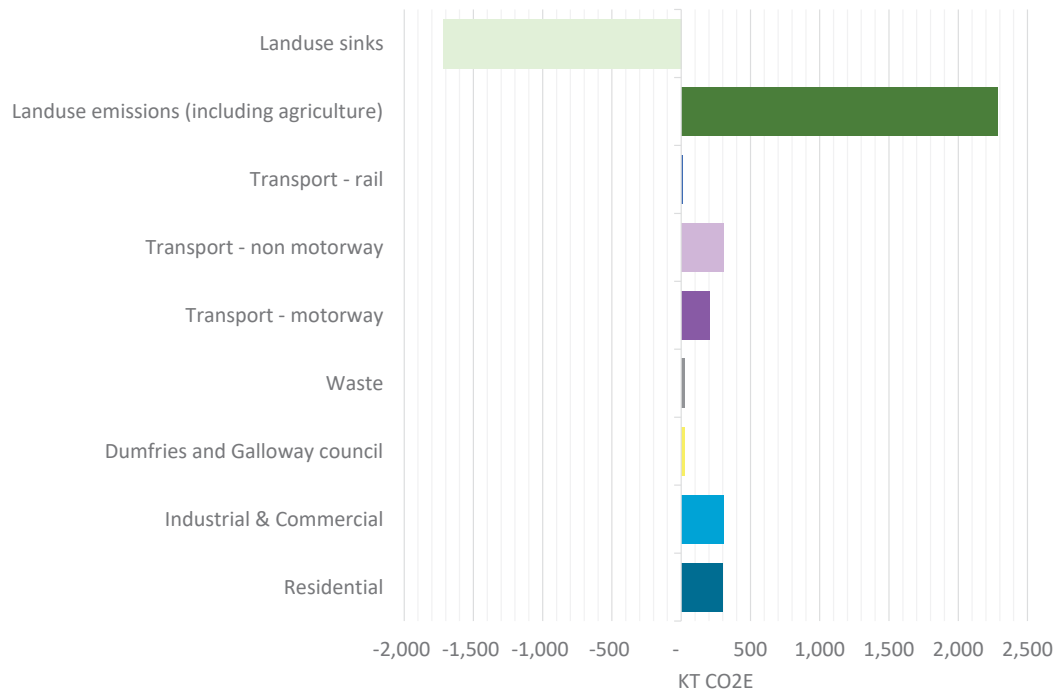


Table 4 Dumfries and Galloway council area emissions baseline, 2018

Sector	Emissions (ktCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Residential	297
Commercial	249
Industrial	68
Dumfries and Galloway council	24
Waste	22
Transport - motorway	204
Transport - non motorway	304
Transport - rail	10
Agriculture livestock	1,172
Agriculture other	248
Land Use	- 854
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,743</b>

Figure 4 Dumfries and Galloway council own estate emissions baseline, 2018/19

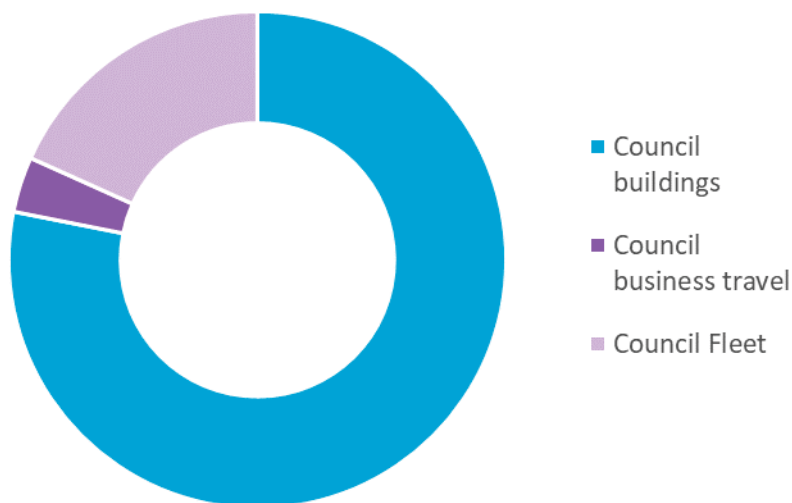


Table 5 Dumfries and Galloway council own estate emissions baseline, 2018/19

Sector	Emissions (ktCO2e)
Council buildings	18.37
Council business travel	0.85
Council Fleet	4.30

## 4 Baseline emissions methods

### 4.1 Datasets

The calculation of emissions estimates requires the availability of activity data (data that characterise the frequency or magnitude of the activity in question) and emission factors (data that indicate the magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of activity). For the baseline calculated here, the data sources used are listed in **Table 6**, along with a link to their source and a description of the type of data that they provide.

All activity data came from UK or Scottish government datasets of local authority activity, with the exception of the waste management data which came directly from the council. Emission factors were taken from a UK government dataset and the UK’s national greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Data was widely available for the calendar year 2018, apart from agricultural and waste management data, where the best available alternative was used (2016 and 2017/18 respectively). For data on emissions from land use, emissions data could be directly taken from a UK government database, with no further calculation required.

Table 6 List of data sources used in the compilation of the carbon emissions baseline

Subject of Data	Source	Year	Dataset Name	Type of Data Used
<b>Activity Data – Council area</b>				
Agriculture - livestock	Scottish Govt Agriculture Stats team	2018	Local Authority data on livestock numbers on agricultural holdings	Livestock numbers
Agriculture – soils	<a href="#">CEH landcover statistics</a>	2015	Land Cover Map 2015 Statistics	Areas of arable and improved grassland
Electricity Consumption	<a href="#">BEIS</a>	2018	Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics	GWh of electricity consumed
Gas Consumption	<a href="#">BEIS</a>	2018	Sub-national weather uncorrected gas sales and numbers of customers	GWh of gas consumed
Residual Fuel Consumption	<a href="#">BEIS</a>	2018	Sub-national estimates of non-gas, non-electricity and non-road transport fuels in 2018	Tonnes of oil equivalent
Road Transport	<a href="#">BEIS</a>	2018	Road transport energy consumption at regional and local authority level,	Tonnes of oil equivalent
Waste Management	Dumfries and Galloway Council	2018/19 (FY)	Public Sector Climate Change Duties 2019 Summary Report: Dumfries and Galloway Council	Tonnes of waste split by material and disposal route
<b>Activity Data – Council estate</b>				
Electricity consumption	As published by <a href="#">SSN</a>	2018/19 (FY)	Public Sector Climate Change Duties 2019 Summary Report: Dumfries and Galloway Council	GWh of electricity consumed
Gas consumption	As published by <a href="#">SSN</a>	2018/19 (FY)	Public Sector Climate Change Duties 2019 Summary Report: Dumfries and Galloway Council	GWh of gas consumed
Other fuels	As published by <a href="#">SSN</a>	2018/19 (FY)	Public Sector Climate Change Duties 2019 Summary Report: Dumfries and Galloway Council	Tonnes of oil equivalent
Business travel	As published by <a href="#">SSN</a>	2018/19 (FY)	Public Sector Climate Change Duties 2019 Summary Report: Dumfries and Galloway Council	km travelled
Fleet	As published by <a href="#">SSN</a>	2018/19 (FY)	Public Sector Climate Change Duties 2019 Summary Report: Dumfries and Galloway Council	Tonnes of oil equivalent

Subject of Data	Source	Year	Dataset Name	Type of Data Used
<i>Emission Factors</i>				
UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting	<a href="#">BEIS</a>	2018	Greenhouse gas reporting: Conversion Factors	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per unit of activity
UK Average Livestock Emission Factors	<a href="#">NAEI</a>	2018	Common Reporting Format Tables, Table3.As1 and Table3.B(b)	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per animal
UK Average N <sub>2</sub> O from Soils Emission Factors	<a href="#">NAEI</a>	2018	Devolved administration emissions; Emissions for Sector 3D in Scotland	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e from soils per km <sup>2</sup> of arable and improved grassland
<i>Emissions Data (already calculated)</i>				
Land Use	<a href="#">BEIS</a>	2018	UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics	Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub>

## 4.2 Emissions monitoring

By updating the GHG inventory on a regular basis, Dumfries and Galloway will be able to track the level of GHG emissions for the council and the council area included in the scope of the inventories, albeit with some delay in data availability.

The file called **D&G\_GHG Inventory 2020\_v2.2.xlsx** has been provided for the purpose of enabling this monitoring in future years after this project is complete.

## 5 Carbon trajectory modelling approach

### 5.1 The Carbon Scenario Model

The modelling described in this report has been undertaken using the Carbon Scenario Model (CSM), an excel based tool which was populated with an emissions baseline for both the council and council area’s current emissions and emission reduction trajectories up to 2030.

The CSM is based on the Carbon Footprint and Project Register that was originally developed in Scotland for use by local authorities (funded by Resource Efficient Scotland and Sustainable Scotland Network). The tool is now owned by the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) but is publicly available and can be modified to meet organisational requirements. The CSM is able to contain a carbon baseline for an area or estate, and contains space for calculating multiple scenarios based on bottom-up sets of actions/projects. The impact of actions is quantified through activity data changes applied to an emission factor. Assumptions and the methodology are fully documented in the tool for transparency. The tool is excel based and therefore it has a very high degree of flexibility and scalability, allowing a wide range of sources and actions to be included.

Two emission scenarios were developed for Dumfries and Galloway; the business as usual (BAU) and Further Action. The BAU represents emissions should no action be taken by Dumfries and Galloway Council to reduce emissions within their estate, or in the wider council area. The further action scenario shows an emissions pathway towards net zero assuming a number of emission reduction actions are implemented. This has involved estimation of the impact of national and local actions to reduce carbon emissions across a 10 year time horizon, taking account of current activity and considering what could be possible through an ambition mix of carbon reduction actions across Dumfries and Galloway. The modelling is high level to provide a sense of scale of actions required and uses a range of source to quantify costs and carbon savings.

The results of emissions modelling are shown below in **Figure 5** and **Figure 6**. They illustrate trajectories of carbon emissions for the council area to 2030, showing potential net carbon emissions (dotted line) across key emission sources assuming very significant action is taken to reduce emissions. The red line shows the business as usual (BAU) assumed emissions if further action is not taken.

Figure 5: Emission trajectories for Dumfries and Galloway council area

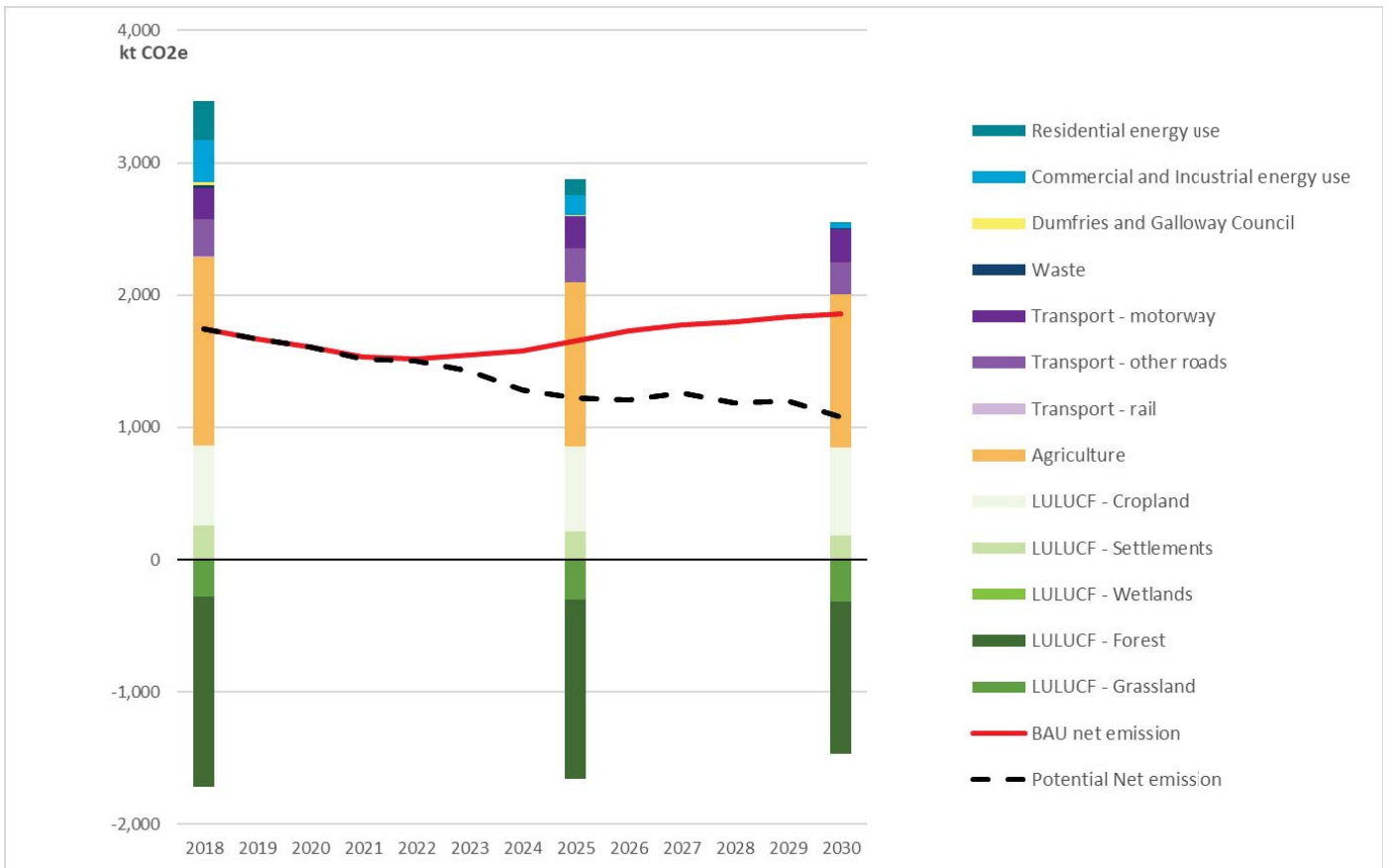
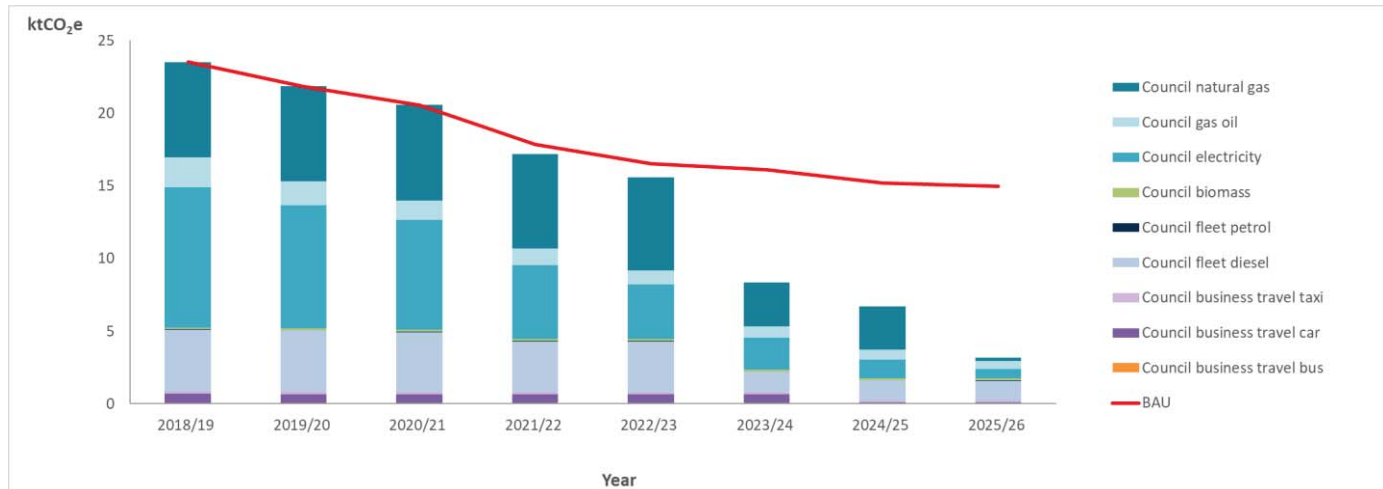


Figure 6: Emission trajectories for Dumfries and Galloway Council estate



## 5.2 Business as Usual Emissions methods

This section describes briefly the data used to calculate the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario. Calculations have been made to 2030 to show the impacts of expected policies beyond 2025.

The largest driver of emissions reduction in the baseline scenario is the UK’s projections for the **national grid electricity carbon intensity**. The forecast after 2019 is from the Treasury Green Book supplementary appraisal guidance on valuing energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (BEIS, updated in March 2019<sup>6</sup>). This forecasts a reduction in grid electricity emission factor by 2030, but the published data show that it does not predict to get to zero even by 2050. All other emission factors are assumed constant.

The **BEIS 2018 energy projections**<sup>7</sup> have been used in the baseline projection for the modelling. This baseline includes the predicted impacts of energy efficiency and other policies on national emissions including the assumption that all new build development will comply with Building Regulations 2013. The BEIS projections are now rather out of date in some respects, but an updated dataset has not been published by BEIS since 2018. We have made a modification to the BEIS data to constrain gas demand from 2025 based on the likely ban on installation of new gas boilers after 2025, announced by the government in 2019. Fuel consumption changes in the commercial, public services, residential and industrial sectors are taken from the future forecast from Annex F Final energy demand of the BEIS projections dataset, converted to year-on-year percentage changes to 2030. The percentage rates calculated from the BEIS dataset can be summarised as:

- Small increases (<2%) in electricity across all sectors, domestic natural gas (until 2025) and industrial gas oil
- Small decreases (<-2%) in non-domestic natural gas and council natural gas

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/valuation-of-energy-use-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-for-appraisal> using the long-run marginal commercial/public sector (2019 - 2030) from Table 1: Electricity emissions factors to 2100, kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/updated-energy-and-emissions-projections-2018> using data for the Existing Policies Scenario

- Large decreases (>-5%) in commercial and public administration gas oil consumption.

**Transport** forecasts utilise regional data for Dumfries and Galloway from Transport Scotland's Transport Forecasts 2018<sup>8</sup>

Housing forecasts are used to define changes in emissions from the **waste sector**. The forecast has been derived from data in the Housing Land Requirement technical paper, part of the Local Development Plan 2<sup>9</sup>.

**Council activity** has been forecast for fleet based on Scottish sub-national population projections<sup>10</sup>. Council energy use has been forecast based on BEIS energy projections for the public sector. Business travel activity is assumed to remain at current levels.

In the **agriculture** sector it has been assumed that in the BAU activity remain at current rates.

**Land use, Land use change and Forestry (LULUCF)** projections<sup>11</sup> are based on UK national LULUCF projections within which a specific Scotland projection is available. This projection was calculated based on a 2016 baseline and incorporated into the UK GHG projections by BEIS in 2018. It is the latest data available. We have chosen the BEIS Central scenario for the BAU, based on current policies and the duration of agreed funding (as extant in 2017) continuing at the same rate into the future. It assumed 2016 land use change rates continue to 2050 for non-forest activities, except in the case of the conversion to Settlement that assumes that house building is sufficient to meet the projected housing demand in Scotland. For afforestation, planting rates are maintained for the remainder of the current Rural Development Programme (RDP) to 2021, after which planting rates decline to one tenth of the 2009 planting rate reflecting the lack of funding beyond the current RDP.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/43316/transport-forecasts-2018.pdf>

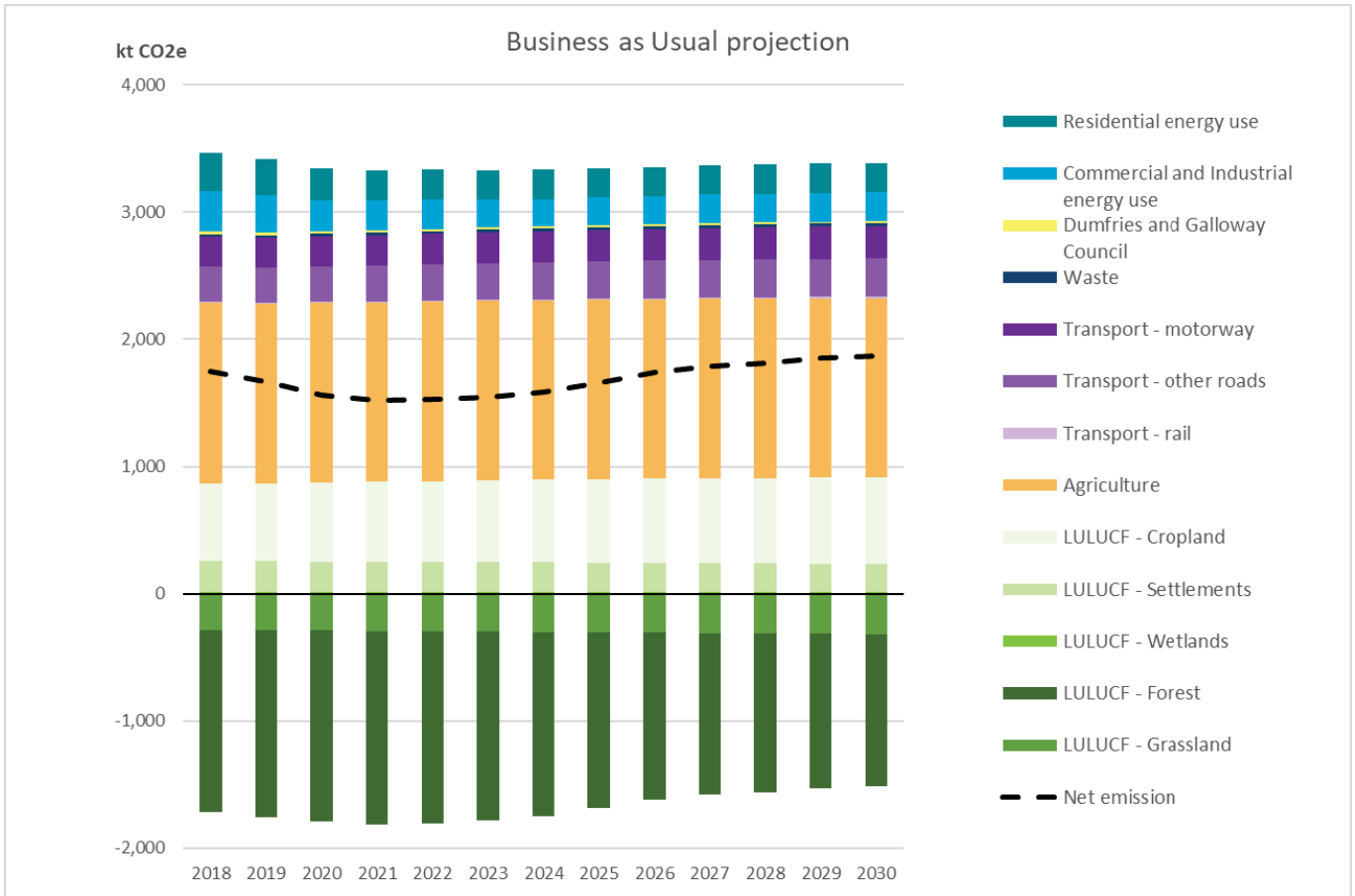
<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/06/dumfries-and-galloway-council-planning-authority-core-documents/documents/cd24---housing-land-requirement-technical-paper-2018/cd24--housing-land-requirement-technical-paper-2018/govscot%3Adocument/CD24%2BHousing%2BLand%2BRequirement%2BTechnical%2BPaper%2B2018.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2018-based>

<sup>11</sup> Draft\_LULUCF\_Projections\_2016i.pdf - Unpublished; obtained from BEIS for the purpose of this project



Figure 7 Business as Usual (BAU) emissions estimated for Dumfries and Galloway



### 5.3 Further action scenario

In order to construct the further action scenario emission reductions were estimated for each project and action identified. These were high-level ‘best estimates’ based on the data available for Dumfries and Galloway and case studies. In some cases it involved the scaling up or down from existing initiatives. It is worth noting that there is a high amount of uncertainty around estimating carbon reductions reflected in the CCC Net Zero report which states, “the costs and benefits of deep decarbonisation are unknowable with any precision”. Caution has been taken in the modelling to avoid the double counting of any carbon reduction between actions.

In consultation with relevant officers from Dumfries and Galloway actions have been developed for each of the emissions categories. A summary of the data and assumptions used to construct the future emission scenario is given below by sector.

For the **council fleet** actions have been developed on the basis that procurement of electric vehicles by 2030 is likely to be the most feasible way of decarbonising the fleet. Emission reductions have been estimated for this using known reductions in fuel use and average fleet factors for EVs. For the Further Action scenario full electrification of the fleet has been modelled. Other actions which were included were on behavioural change, and percentage reductions have been assumed on activity to estimate emission reductions.

For **business travel** workplace travel plan has been envisaged which will deliver the necessary reduction in emissions from both staff travel. The proposed contents of this plan is outlined below. It is assumed that business travel:

- by car and taxi will reduce by 15%, 3% for 5 year period
- by public transport 5% reduction

For **transport** actions modelled can be grouped by theme; electrification, behavioural change and modal switch. The following assumptions were made for the future action scenario:

- Improving active travel infrastructure leads to 10% reduction in private car usage
- EV package in which 30% of private vehicles are electric by 2030.
- Van electrification scheme with 20% electrification
- Introduction of Ultra low emission buses
- HGV freight switched to rail

Emission reductions were estimated using case study information on emissions savings and were applied to Dumfries and Galloway.

For **buildings** scenario modelling has been based on the application of high-level assumptions about the potential for reducing electricity and heating fuel use within buildings. The following assumptions have been made:

- 40% reduction in energy use of non-residential buildings (based on CCC Net Zero technical report (p77) states that there is "abatement potential for 39% reduction in non-residential buildings.)
- Increased renewable capacity
- Improved lighting efficiency

Whilst the modelling conducted for this study gives a high level indication of the type and scale of the action required for buildings, it will be necessary for the council to develop a comprehensive strategy for reducing emissions from the council's building stock. The next step would be to develop a detailed building-by-building assessment of the feasible potential for improved energy performance in the remaining stock.

For **residential energy**, Parity Projects generated scenarios for this project using their CROHM software (Carbon Reduction Options for Housing Managers) which calculated the measures that could theoretically be applied to each household within Dumfries and Galloway. The datasets produced detailed the energy savings, carbon savings and costs of measures. This was calculated based on Parity Projects' very comprehensive database of properties built using algorithmic interpretation of data from the most recent EPC open data Set, Post Office Postal Address File.

The scenario outputs were aggregated to the whole of Dumfries and Galloway and calibrated to actual baseline gas and electricity consumption data from BEIS (as SAP calculations often over estimate actual energy use). Total fuel savings compared to the baseline for the scenarios were calculated for electricity, gas and heating oil. The fuel savings and costs of measures were then entered into the carbon scenario model.

Residential sector actions have been grouped into overarching types:

- **Efficiency measures** - draught proofing, insulation and replacement windows and doors and lighting improvements.
- **Heating measures** - improvements to existing electric heating systems and replacement of gas and oil boilers with heat pumps and biomass boilers in rural areas.
- **Solar generation** – to increase the amount of on-site generation of electricity

For **waste** emission reduction in the further action scenario are based on the assumption that no waste will be sent to Landfill by 2030 in line with Scotland’s Zero Waste Plan. This is part of Dumfries and Galloway’s existing strategy<sup>12</sup>. An increase in recycling of 70% was also assumed based on the zero waste plan.

For the **LULUCF** sector we have used the BEIS LULUCF stretch scenario<sup>13</sup> within the further action scenario for this project. This scenario assumes an ambitious climate change mitigation programme exceeding current policy aspirations or funding. However these projections are for 2050, and little change is expected by 2030. For this reason there is little difference between the BAU projections for LULUCF and the Stretch scenario in the timeframe of this analysis.

**Agriculture** emission reductions have been estimated in future in the further action scenario based on data published by WWF<sup>14</sup> which describe how Scotland’s agriculture sector could reduce emissions by 35% by 2045 (2017 baseline). We have assumed that in Dumfries and Galloway the rate of emission reduction would be accelerated, assuming that 50% of the WWF listed savings would be achieved in D&G by 2030. The measures to reduce emissions within the WWF have been classified within our modelling into the following types:

- Multiple actions to reduce emissions from soils related to fertiliser use, tillage and crop rotation;
- Fuel efficiency in machinery;
- Actions to reduce emissions from livestock, related to diet and manure management;
- Restructuring agriculture for wider environmental benefits, moving towards less intensive agriculture system like conservation agriculture, organic farming and Agroforestry.

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/15875/New-Waste-Management-Infrastructure/pdf/New\\_waste\\_management\\_infrastructure.pdf?m=636592298135600000&m=636592298135600000](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/15875/New-Waste-Management-Infrastructure/pdf/New_waste_management_infrastructure.pdf?m=636592298135600000&m=636592298135600000)

<sup>13</sup> [https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat09/2010301101\\_LULUCF\\_Projections\\_2016i.pdf](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat09/2010301101_LULUCF_Projections_2016i.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Delivering on Net Zero: Scottish Agriculture, A report for WWF Scotland from the Organic Policy, Business and Research Consultancy, Authors: Nic Lampkin, Laurence Smith, Katrin Padel, November 2019 <https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-12/WWF%20Net%20Zero%20and%20Farming.pdf> Tables B and F

## 6 Stakeholder engagement

During this project we have engaged with the following people / departments to gather useful data to make meaningful estimates for emission reduction across Dumfries and Galloway and to gather ideas for future actions. This was a useful step for delivery of the project, and has helped to ensure maximum buy in with stakeholders.

Contact Name	Department
Gordon Bryce	Transport / Fleet Management
Douglas Kirkpatrick	Infrastructure & Transportation / SWestrans
Paul McCulloch	Property & Architectural Services
Alan Mawson	Facilities Management
James McLeod	Waste Management & Infrastructure Manager
Shona McCoy	Development Planning (LDP)
John Doig	Planning Officer
Jamie Little	Housing
Kris Edgar	IT
Karen Creighton	Education
Kenny Bowie	Chamber of Commerce
Teresa Dougall	NFUS
Sallie Bailey	Forestry
Colin Ferguson	NFUS Regional Chair



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## Carbon Reduction Assumptions

## Item 6 Appendix 4

Project sub category	Project Description	First year of full impact of measures savings	2025 annual savings (tCO2e)	2030 annual savings (tCO2e)
<b>Agriculture (in review)</b>	Actions to reduce emissions from cattle (including manure management)	2024/25	113,884	113,884
	Actions to reduce emissions from sheep	2024/25	7,803	7,803
	Actions to reduce emissions from soils	2024/25	32,730	32,730
	Fuel efficiency	2024/25	6,644	6,644
	Restructuring agriculture for wider environmental benefits - cattle	2030/31	0	59,114
	Restructuring agriculture for wider environmental benefits - sheep	2030/31	0	6,550
	Restructuring agriculture for wider environmental benefits - soils	2030/31	0	24,672
<b>Council buildings and streets</b>	Energy saving awareness raising among council staff	2022/23	183	177
	Improve heating efficiency in buildings still in use Phase 1	2023/24	1,051	1,051
	Improve heating efficiency in buildings still in use Phase 2	2023/24	1,051	1,051
	Improved lighting efficiency	2022/23	104	92
	Increasing deployment of renewables	2024/25	390	345
	Reduce council office space by 20%	2023/24	1,833	1,773
	Replace remaining gas oil (in 2024) with renewable heat (biomass)	2025/26	588	597
	Replace remaining natural gas (in 2024) with renewable heat (heat pumps)	2025/26	2,767	2,767
<b>Council transport</b>	Streetlighting dimming scheme	2023/24	520	460
	Behavioural change through driving style assessment for LGVs/HGVs - i.e., the remaining refuse trucks	2023/24	60	60
	Procurement of electric vehicles for council fleet Stage 1	2021/22	630	630
	Procurement of electric vehicles for council fleet Stage 2	2023/24	1,378	1,378
	Reduce pool of council vehicles	2023/24	417	417
	Replace business travel with EV pool cars	2024/25	469	469
	Travel strategy reduce remaining business mileage	2024/25	116	116
<b>Domestic</b>	Domestic coal phase out, replaced with electric heating	2025/26	4,149	4,384
	Domestic MSF phase out, replaced with electric heating	2025/26	2,360	2,493

Project sub category	Project Description	First year of full impact of measures savings	2025 annual savings (tCO2e)	2030 annual savings (tCO2e)
	Domestic PV - Early wins	2024/25	1	0
	Domestic PV - Target SAPc	2025/26	10,311	9,124
	Domestic PV - Target zero carbon	2028/29	0	21,215
	Lower cost measures - Easy wins	2024/25	3,587	3,448
	Lower cost measures - Easy wins Phase 1	2022/23	3,587	3,448
	High cost measures - Target SAP C package	2023/24	16,179	32,282
	High cost measures - Target zero carbon package	2023/24	71,509	143,694
<b>LULUCF</b>	LULUCF: Stretch projections scenario Phase 1	2025/26	18,560	18,560
	LULUCF: Stretch projections scenario Phase 2	2030/31	0	3,147
<b>Non Domestic Buildings</b>	Decarbonisation of industrial heat - gas oil phase out 1	2025/26	24,456	24,796
	Decarbonisation of industrial heat - gas oil phase out 2	2028/29	0	26,253
	Decarbonisation of industrial heat - MSF phase out	2025/26	145	145
	Increased renewable capacity on commercial buildings	2024/25	100	88
	Low carbon businesses, electrical appliances efficiency	2023/24	5,561	4,921
	Low carbon businesses, phase 1	2025/26	15,788	40,840
	Low carbon businesses, phase 2	2025/26	15,788	40,840
	Other methods to reduce non-domestic gas use (biogas, hydrogen mix, replacement with heat pumps)	2030/31	0	48,327
	Other methods to reduce non-domestic oil use (biogas, hydrogen mix, replacement with heat pumps)	2030/31	0	70,074
<b>Transport</b>	EV increase in UK car fleet (motorway traffic)	2025/26	3,916	12,236
	EV package of measures (infrastructure and encouraging uptake) (non-motorway car traffic)	2025/26	13,036	26,073
	Replacing HGVs with rail freight	2025/26	7,441	7,441
	Workplace travel measures	2022/23	370	370
	Improving active travel infrastructure	2025/26	2,635	2,635
	Cleaning the bus fleet	2025/26	4,480	4,480
	Van electrification scheme	2025/26	7,961	7,961
<b>Waste</b>	Increasing recycling rates	2024/25	-298	-298
	Reduction in waste to landfill (MBT and waste reduction)	2021/22	15,715	15,715





## UK EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

### 1. Background

1.1 Dumfries and Galloway Council developed Planning Assumptions on the Reasonable Worst Case Scenarios (RWCS) to prepare for any impacts from the UK exit from the European Union on Dumfries and Galloway.

1.2 The Planning Assumptions covered the following topics

- Environmental Health - Export of locally produced foodstuffs
- Import and Export (Travel, Freight and Border Congestion)
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Workforce
- EU Nationals on Dumfries and Galloway
- Returnees
- Layering of Impacts
- Demonstrations and Disorder
- Businesses
- Economic Downturn
- EU Funding for the region

1.3 The UK left the European Union on the 31 December 2020 at 23:00

### 2. Key issues

2.1 As part of the planning assumptions a temporary lorry park was established to manage any issues relating to ferry traffic and appropriate paperwork to cross to Northern Ireland. The lorry park was utilised but has since been stood down at the end of January 2021 due to a reduction in demand.

2.2 The following issues have been identified in the first two months following the UK exit of the European Union

- Exporting of goods to the European Union has been challenging, specifically in the seafood industry, however issues relating to food products have also arisen with increased paperwork and costs for the producer.
- The Northern Ireland Protocol will require the establishment of the Border Control Post (BCP) linked to the ports at Cairnryan. This will inspect incoming goods travelling from Belfast and Larne. The current legislation commits to 'Unfettered Access' which therefore does not require the BCP to be undertaking paperwork checks in April or Vehicle checks in July like other ports directly receiving good from the European Union. The BCP will however be required to be operational in late 2021 to check good arriving from the EU via Northern Ireland.
- EU Settlement Scheme requires EU nationals to apply before 31 July 2021. As of September 2020, there has been 1,980 EU National in Dumfries and Galloway who have applied. It is estimated that up to 2,500 EU Nationals reside in the region.

- The UK Government have implemented a new Immigration Policy which will have impacts on the ability for business to access some of the previous markets for recruitment of employees, specifically these will be within the Health and Social Care and Agriculture businesses. This also adds significant challenges for the region which has concerns about depopulation.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic has added additional challenges to managing the impacts of the UK Exit of the European Union. There has been an economic downturn across the whole of the UK and Dumfries and Galloway are no different. Until there is a return to normal business operations it is unclear what further impacts there will be on businesses and unemployment. Government Schemes such as the Strategic Framework Business Fund and the Furlough Scheme will be keeping some businesses financially viable at present, which otherwise might enter into difficulties in the future.
- The replacement of the European Funding streams remains unclear with no indication when the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund will commence or how it will operate. There is a pilot schemes underway. In relation to the Common Agriculture Policy, funds are still in place and UK Government have agreed to continue these, however a new policy will replace these funds for our farming communities.

2.3 Changes following the UK Exit of the European Union have had negative impacts. It is important that the focus remains on both minimising the impacts and maximising the opportunities. There are currently two opportunities which exist within the West of the region and are linked to the ports of Cairnryan.

- **Border Control Post** – The BCP will bring a range of employment opportunities including the operation as a Port Health Authority and UK Government Border Force, through to site management and operations. The construction of the BCP will also aim to utilise local businesses and Dumfries and Galloway Council officers continue to reinforce this message to Scottish Government who are responsible for the installation of the facility
- **Greenport** – The Scottish Government are opening up a bidding process for the operation of a Greenport. The Greenport will have specific tax incentives and customs exemptions, along with funding for the development of infrastructure to serve the Greenport. This will encourage both the location of businesses within the Greenport boundary and support the growth of business surrounding the Greenport. Dumfries and Galloway Council with partners from South of Scotland Enterprise, P&O, DP World, Stena are working together to develop a bid linked to the ports of Cairnryan.

### 3. Next steps

3.1 The Planning Assumptions will be reviewed following an updated RWCS document from UK Government

3.2 To identify the controls required to minimise the impacts and pro-active work to maximise the opportunities

3.3 To submit a bid to Scottish Government in Mid-June, following the publication of the bid criteria which will be announce in Mid-March 2021

3.4 To continue to promote the EU Settlement Scheme, providing support to Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service who are funded by UK Government to support EU Nationals

3.5 To continue to work with Scottish Government on the implementation of the Border Control Post linked to the ports of Cairnryan and support the economic benefits to the region for businesses and future employment opportunities

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Board is invited to note the update on the UK exit of the European Union

Andrew Reed, EU Exit Lead Officer  
25 February 2021

#### **Appendices**

None



Item 8**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING LOCALITY ARRANGEMENTS****Background**

1. At its meeting on 11 September 2020, the CPP Board agreed that the four new Locality Hubs, established during the COVID emergency, would be the partnership groupings to build on the successful joint working developed in response to the COVID crisis.

2. Since that time, the Hubs have had to continue to focus on the COVID response and their wider development has not been able to progress as planned. They have however, become better established and recognised as a valuable forum for sharing of information and co-ordinating activity.

3. The Locality Hubs are co-ordinated by the Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSD&G) Engagement Officers, with regular attendees from Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) (Ward Officers) and NHS Dumfries and Galloway (Health and Wellbeing Teams). Discussion with other partners and services, notably South of Scotland Enterprise and DGC Planning have been initiated by TSD&G and the Communities Directorate to explore their involvement with the Hubs. Continued leadership of the Locality Hubs is being built in to the TSD&G Business Plan which will be shared with this Board at its next meeting in June 2021.

4. There is a range of initiatives led by partners which are locality-based. The initiatives are shown in **Appendix 1** with a short explanation of each in **Appendix 2**. The Locality Hubs have a role in joining up, where possible, these initiatives and maintaining an overview of the impact of these projects on the ground.

**Key issues**

5. It is important that the parallel initiatives are able to develop independently so that we avoid complicating or distorting their individual objectives; but that there is some degree of co-ordination with good communications and liaison to minimise duplication and help to ensure there are no gaps. The Community Planning Office is supporting this work, this adding value to the individual initiatives.

6. These initiatives focus on planning for geographic locations. Elsewhere on this agenda are reports about communities of interest - Poverty and Inequalities and Economic Regeneration. Clearly, they are connected and it is here at the CPP Board that leaders of our region consider all of these issues and how they are related.

**Next steps**

7. As the Locality Hubs move beyond the COVID response activity, they will continue to maintain an overview of these initiatives. A full review of the Locality Hubs after their initial development will take place early in 2022.

8. Discussions are also taking place with other CPPs about how they are working through the complexities of a fairly cluttered landscape of required locality initiatives. At this time, our good relationships and early sharing of information and thinking means that we are relatively well-positioned to manage these interlinked initiatives.

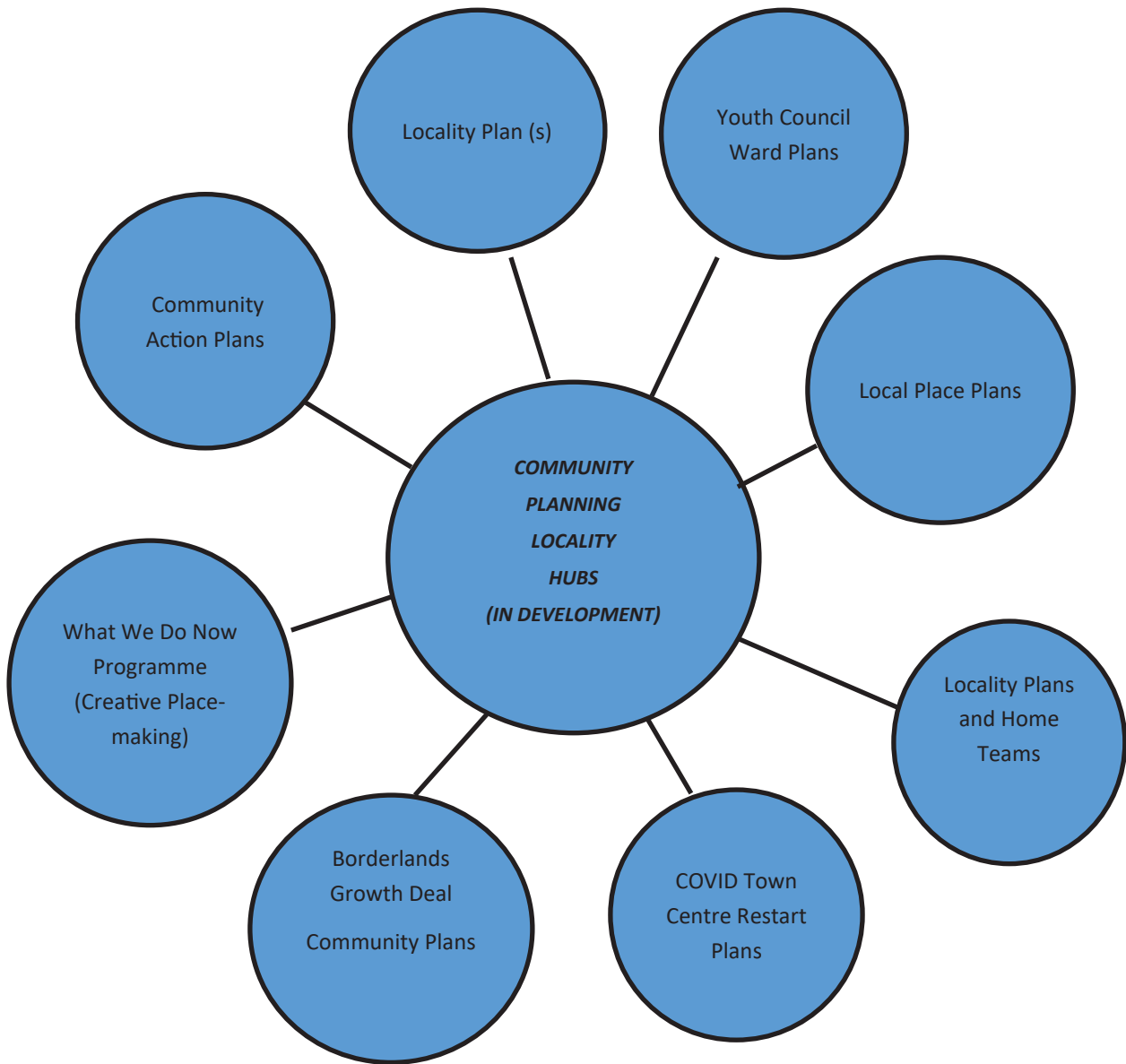
### **3. Recommendations**

The Board is invited to discuss the locality initiatives that their organisation/partnership is involved in and share their thinking about the way forward.

Norma Austin Hart, Chief Executive, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway  
Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
18 February 2021

### **Appendices – 2**

- 1 Diagram of locality initiatives
- 2 Summary of locality initiatives



## Appendix 2

### Locality Plans in Dumfries and Galloway - Communities of Place

#### Community Action Plans

There is a significant number of geographic communities with existing Plans across the region and community led Placemaking activities such as Dumfries Partnership Action Group, the Midsteeple Quarter in Dumfries. There is a large number of community resilience groups and also an increasing number of Development Trusts and Social Enterprises keen to be involved in the ambitions of their communities. Community Assets Transfers have stimulated a number of community place plans. South of Scotland Enterprise has undertaken mapping of the Community Action Plans that are currently in place.

Officers in Dumfries and Galloway Council (Four Economic Regeneration Officers and across the Community Planning and Engagement Service, particularly the 12 Ward Officers); Community Regeneration Officers in SOSE; and in Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (the four Engagement Officers and Funding Officer) and a number of different national bodies (e.g. Scotland's Towns Partnership) are all working with community groups to support the development of their plans.

The Community Planning Executive Group agreed that Moffat would be developed by them in a Collaborative leadership project, with support from the Scottish Future Trust and has had regular engagement sessions with representatives to support the Community Council and Access Group in their work.

#### Community Planning Partnership Locality Plan(s)

The Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 requires partners to produce Locality Plan(s) for geographical communities of less than 10,000 population so that inequalities can be targeted.

Our CPP agreed in November 2017 that our approach would be to combine the focus on geography with a priority theme and our Local Plan on food sharing ([click here](#)) was agreed and is reported on annually. Local community food sharing arrangements have developed significantly across the region over the last year.

#### Youth Council Ward Plans

The Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council has produced a Plan for each of the region's 12 Wards for the period to March 2021. They were published in February 2020 ([available here](#)) and work has been undertaken to address the issues raised in them, recognising the capacity of Services during the COVID emergency. A progress report will be published in June 2021 at a joint meeting with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The Regional Economic Partnership has recently agreed an approach to strengthen the voice of young people within the Partnership, working closely with the Council's Youth Work Services.

#### Local Place Plans

The Planning Scotland Act 2019 requires Councils to have regard to local Place Plans in their Local Development Plans. ([click here for further information](#)) Scottish Government Regulations are awaited with the details of how this will work in practice, but it is anticipated that there will be a requirement for Councils to support communities to develop Place Plans. These Place Plans are primarily about the development and use of land in a community.



### **Locality Plans and Home Teams**

Our Health and Social Care Partnership has four Locality Plans ([click here](#)) with performance reported to the Council's Area Committees – due to the COVID Emergency the normal reporting schedule has not taken place, with the next update is scheduled for May 2021.

Still in development, the Home Teams' concept is about local solutions to health improvement and involving local third sector organisations, families and others in finding these solutions. Staff on the ground work with partners to look at improvements to all aspects of local life with resultant improvements in health. Home teams have a remit to look at the priorities and needs of the communities in their area and the assets they have to meet them. From there, actions to improve health and wellbeing for people, families and communities are to be put in place.

### **Town Centre Restart**

Town Centre Restart Plans have been developed for 14 towns in Dumfries and Galloway, with an interdisciplinary Team (including economic regeneration, licensing, community protection, roads and infrastructure, third sector) in its purpose is to co-ordinate the support required by communities and businesses during response, restart and recovery and to minimise infection risk. The team will meet again once the Lockdown is ended. Town Centre Ambassadors – a mixture of volunteers and public sector officers – are a key element of this work.

### **Borderlands Growth Deal**

One of the themes of the Borderlands programme (UK and Scottish Governments, local authorities in Northumberland, Cumbria, Scottish Borders and ourselves) is about 'Place'. 18 towns across the Dumfries and Galloway have been identified for a share of £12.75M over the coming 10 years, with a Community Plan required to plan and monitor the investment. The most recent public report was July 2020 ([available here](#)), with an update to Dumfries and Galloway Council scheduled for June 2021.

### **What We Do Now Project**

Drawing on the Embers Project Report, the Stove Network has been awarded £300,000 to take forward a creative arts approach to placemaking ([click here for background information](#) on the Embers Report; and [here](#) for information on What We Do Now).



## KEY STRATEGIES AND PLANS – CURRENT STRATEGIC ISSUES AND UPDATES – MARCH 2021

### 1. Background

The Board has identified twelve key Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:

- Anti Poverty Strategy
- Children's Services Plan
- Local Child Poverty Action Plan
- Community Justice Improvement Plan
- Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan
- COVID Recovery Plan
- Employability and Skills
- Health and Social Care Strategic Plan
- Local Development Plan 2
- Local Housing Strategy
- Regional Economic Strategy
- Regional Transport Strategy

### 2. Update reports

2.1 Lead officers for nine of the Plans and Strategies have provided progress reports for this meeting and are detailed in the **Appendices**.

### 3. Recommendation

Board Members are invited to scrutinise and note the progress being made in the key Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager and lead officers  
24 February 2021

### Appendices - 3

- 1 - Updates on key Strategies and Plans
- 2 - DGCJP Annual Report Newsletter
- 3 - DGCJP Annual Activity Report

## KEY STRATEGIES AND PLANS – CURRENT STRATEGIC ISSUES AND UPDATES

### 1. Anti-Poverty Strategy 2015-20 Action Plan

#### 1.1. Background

The first Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan was agreed at the meeting of Dumfries and Galloway Council on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015. As detailed in a separate report on this agenda, the Strategy has concluded and been evaluated; and the next approach has been considered by Dumfries and Galloway Council and recommendations made for the Board to consider.

As reported to the November Board meeting, the final performance report was submitted and approved by the Communities Committee on 10 November 2020. This report therefore provides updates on issues relating to the Action Plan and referenced in the proposed new partnership Strategy

#### 1.2 Fareshare funding

1.2.1 The Communities Committee at its February 2021 meeting decided on the final allocations of the Anti-Poverty Budget for 2020/21. One of the projects funded relates directly to our Community Planning Locality Plan on Food Sharing - the continuation of the membership of Fareshare and delivery costs for 15 community food organisations within our region. Fareshare re-distributes surplus foods and goods throughout Scotland and from 1 January 2020 - 8 December 2021, 210 tonnes of food were delivered into Dumfries and Galloway which equates to 500,010 meal portions with an overall balance of £750,015 value of stock delivered.

#### 1.3 Research into Poverty and Deprivation in D&G

1.3.1 Also as reported to the Board in November, research on Poverty and Deprivation in Dumfries and Galloway 2020 was launched in a live Webinar on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, with 117 attendees.

1.3.2. Changes to the measurements of how the Scottish Government collect and collate their data sets over the last five years mean like for like comparison with the original Crichton Institute Report is not possible; however, the up to date data provides a high level of analysis and information which will assist all community planning partners.

1.2.6 The key messages are:

- every community across our region has citizens that are affected by poverty.
- the thematic areas our citizens are affected by the most: fuel poverty, digital exclusion, and income deprivation.
- Minority groups with Protected Characteristics experience greater poverty
- Although in some thematic areas (education, employment, health and wellbeing, housing and financial inclusion) we perform better than our comparator authorities, there are

citizens across the region who are affected by those types of poverty and to them it doesn't matter how we compare, as they are living with that type of poverty.

#### **1.4 Tackling Poverty and Inequalities during COVID-19**

1.3.1 The Community Support Group established to deal with our support to vulnerable individuals has continued during the second Lockdown; and has supported a range of organisations to play their part by distributing Scottish Government funding to them. This has covered Emergency Food and Non Food Projects (particularly digital connectivity, energy, housing, information and advice). A complementary piece of work has been information on all aspects of fuel poverty no available on a new webpage [Tackling Fuel Poverty \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/tackling-fuel-poverty).

#### **1.5 Council Anti -Poverty Budget 2020/21 determined by through Participatory Budgeting – Working Our Way out of Poverty**

1.4.1 The call for applications opened on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, closing date is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. There is £200,000 available with the focus being on employment opportunities in third sector organisations. Voting will be undertaken in April 2021 and will fully online.

#### **1.6 Supporting Tackling Poverty Reference Group Volunteers**

1.6.1 Fortnightly Zoom Meetings continue to be held with Reference Group volunteers, providing the chance to interact and provide peer support to all of the Group Members. Volunteers are also continuing to respond to consultations including e.g. reviewing wording for letters which were being sent to residents with Council Tax Arrears.

**Lead Officers: Wendy Jesson, Anti-Poverty Officer and Mark Molloy, Service Manager, Communities Directorate, Dumfries and Galloway Council.**

## **2. Children's Services Plan and Local Child Poverty Action Report**

### **2.1 Background**

2.1.1 Our [2020-2023 Children's Services Plan](#) is Dumfries and Galloway's second statutory Children's Services Plan; and was agreed by the Children's Services Executive Group in February 2020, prior to the first Covid-19 lockdown. The plan contains six priorities which were identified and shaped by the following factors and processes:

- Our evaluation of progress made in our 2017-20 Children's Services Plan, and our identification of any activity within this plan where we needed to continue or expand.
- Our involvement in the Scottish Government's Realigning Children's Services programme and the [findings from the Wellbeing surveys](#). Through these surveys, children and young people gave their views on their own wellbeing; and the valuable insights provided by these views have significantly informed our direction of travel.
- Engagement and consultation with children and young people.
- Findings and lessons from Initial and Significant Case Reviews.
- Audit and self-evaluation activities.
- A self-evaluation of our corporate parenting approaches.
- National and local priorities, for example Child Poverty.
- Engagement with third sector organisations via the Third Sector Children and Young People's Forum.

2.1.2 The six priorities in the plan are that by working together with our children, young people, their families and communities:

1. Children and young people are safe and free from harm
2. The life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve
3. The impact of poverty on children and young people is reduced
4. The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people improves
5. Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential
6. How we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people improves.

2.1.3 When the plan was agreed by CSEG in February 2020, each priority had a high-level action plan that set out the aims and key actions for the 3-year life-time of the plan. Priority Leads and strategic groups were identified for the priorities; and were tasked by CSEG to develop, by the end of 2020, a detailed action plan for each priority with specifics of how the actions were to be delivered; timescales and performance indicators.

2.1.4 The COVID-19 pandemic then had some impact on development of action plans, but this was monitored by CSEG throughout 2020, with Priority Leads being asked to advise CSEG if any actions needed to be re-prioritised due to the pandemic.

### **2.2 Joint Annual Report**

2.2.1 We have a duty to produce and publish a Joint Annual Report on our Children's Services Plan. The [final report on the previous 2017-20 plan](#) described progress made in 2019-20 and also provided an overview of progress over the three years of the plan. This report was presented to IJB Clinical and Care Governance Committee on 12 November 2020; and to

Dumfries and Galloway Council on 17 December 2020. The report has been published on the [Council website](#) and has been submitted to Scottish Government as required.

### 2.3 Progress to date

At the February 2021 meeting of CSEG, the Priority Leads presented updates on their priorities and action plans. A summary of progress is as follows:

2.3.1 Priority 1: Children and young people are safe and free from harm – led by the Public Protection Committee (PPC).

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the PPC had been focusing on high-end work and on ensuring that Chief Officers were regularly updated and kept informed of risks. The Learning and Development and Engagement and Communications sub-committees were reforming and moving ahead. Better links are being made with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) to ensure awareness of the work of the PPC. Some work has been delayed as the ADP has had greatly increased demand for services during the pandemic. The work of the DAVAWP now has a different status, with a Domestic Abuse sub-committee meeting regularly to ensure that statutory and third sector agencies are supported.

2.3.2 Priority 2: The life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve – led by the Corporate Parenting Group.

Our refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan has been shaped both by the pandemic, and by the development and publication of '[The Promise](#)' – the programme of change that was required by the findings of the Independent Care Review. The plan focuses on 4 priorities: accommodation at all stages; health; education and engagement. The plan balances the need to be ambitious, with a pragmatic approach to what can be realistically achieved in the current climate.

2.3.3 Priority 3: The impact of poverty on children and young people is reduced – led for CSEG by Director Skills, Education and Learning.

The Council and NHS have a joint responsibility to produce a Child Poverty Plan; and an action plan for 2020-23 has been developed. Progress on the 20/21 actions have been evaluated and the plan will be refreshed to take account of progress. The COVID 19 pandemic has already posed major economic and social challenges and will continue to do so. The Scottish Government has asked us to focus this plan on three areas of work that are most likely to help reduce child poverty: income from employment, such as hourly pay and the hours worked per household; income from social security and benefits in kind, specifically the generosity and reach of benefit; and the reduction of costs of living such as housing costs and debts. The 21/22 plan must take account of the economic position of the region and the priority actions across these three drivers.

It is recognised that the Child Poverty Plan takes place within a multi-agency landscape where the drivers of child poverty cannot be directly influenced by the membership of CSEG. The support of the Community Planning Partnership is therefore sought in influencing the regional economic drivers which are recognised as having the greatest impact on reducing child poverty.

2.3.4 Priority 4: The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people improves – led by the Mental Health Strategy Group

The priority actions for mental health and wellbeing are: development of a Wellbeing Hub and Pathway; delivery of counselling in schools; better use of data to focus services on areas of greatest need; and ensuring the recognition of, and early intervention for perinatal mental health issues with improved access to psychological and mental health services. The Wellbeing Hub

Pathway is almost complete and will be communicated once finalised. Additional training is now available for Youth Workers, and there is now a training plan for Youth Workers and School Nurses. The Senior Youth Development Officer has used the data from the Realigning Children's Services Programme to identify 'self-esteem and self-image' as issues to focus on, and these will be reflected in the training plan. Key personnel are being recruited for the Peri-Natal Pathway.

2.3.5 Priority 5: Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential – led by the Disability Strategy Group.

Priority 5 has 4 workstreams: development of a neurodevelopmental service; improving educational outcomes for children with complex needs; transition; and the development of a range of support options for children and young people with disabilities. There has been good progress with the development of the neurodevelopmental service. Following participation in following participation in the evaluation of the Scottish Autism Strategy, it was agreed that an Autism Strategy Group will be re-established and will report to the Disability Strategy Group, with Education leading on this. The pandemic has impacted on the ability to do face-to-face work, but work has still been able to continue as the Allied Health Professionals have not been redeployed during the pandemic. The Disability Strategy Group is now meeting more frequently to maintain oversight of the 4 workstreams.

2.3.6 Priority 6: How we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people improves – led by Priority 6 Working Group

There are 4 workstreams within the Priority 6 Action Plan: improvements to the whole maternity journey, with additional, targeted support for vulnerable pregnant women; development of family centres; development of a continuum of structured and coordinated parenting support including evidence-based parenting programmes; and ensuring that parents and carers are able to have their voices heard with regard to meeting the needs of their child. There is good engagement across all services in the Priority 6 Working Group.

## 2.4 Next steps

CSEG have agreed that a robust level of mutual challenge, and rigorous oversight of progress against all 6 priorities is required. A reporting framework will be agreed, through which the Priority Leads will report to CSEG on delivery of their action plans and the agreed outcomes. We are required to produce a Joint Annual Report for 2020-21 and development of this report will commence at the end of the reporting year.

**Lead officer: Jim Brown, Chair Children's Services Executive Group (CSEG)**



### **3. Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan**

3.1 In relation to Section 23(5) of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership is required to complete an Annual Reporting Template developed by CJS, as previously stated this was submitted on 21 September 2020. The report focusses on activity rather than data and statistics reflecting the fact that this is still a relatively young partnership. The Community Justice (Scotland) Act also requires local partnerships to publish a local Annual Report. Following positive feedback and at the request of partners this follows the format of the successful Community Justice Newsletter 'Just Communities'. The local Annual Report Newsletter is available on the Public Protection website and has been shared on social media (see Appendix 2).

3.2 Reconviction figures in Dumfries and Galloway have fallen from 27.3 to 26.1, whilst the average number of reconvictions per person has also fallen to 0.43; the lowest figure in five years.

3.3 As stated in our previous update we are now ten months into the final year of our current CJOIP with progress towards outcomes delayed due to a refocus on new priorities because of COVID-19. It was agreed at the last Community Justice Partnership meeting that the current CJOIP would be extended to take into consideration recovery and restart of the justice system; Community Justice Scotland have since produced a position statement which may not support this.

3.4 An Options Paper went to the next Community Justice Partnership meeting on 12 January 2021 for further discussion and decision. Four options were presented for consideration with Option D accepted; Extension to current plan with the addition of an action plan focussing on issues that have arisen during COVID; digital poverty/inclusion, mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse.

3.5 As stated in our last report there is an expectation that a robust strategic strength and needs assessment for community justice must be undertaken locally before the next Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan can be produced, ensuring the right outcomes are identified for local improvement work. This is reliant on information, data, and statistics from all partners, much of which would be pre COVID-19. Partners recognise that this piece of work would be extremely challenging and would not be the best use of resources at the present time due to the changing landscape, recovery work and the restart of services. Any strengths and needs identified at this stage may be very different in six/twelve months' time. Furthermore, the validity of pre COVID-19 data in relation to local need may be questionable at this time.

3.6 A Cyclical Offending Short Life Working Group has now been established Chaired by the Governor in Charge at HMP Dumfries. Four areas of work have been highlighted as priorities; these are:

- Expand and build on good practice taking place at the Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board meetings for those people being liberated from prison and returning to Dumfries and Galloway.
- Continue to support and remain involved with development of Housing First project.
- Arrest Referral
- Test of change in relation to intensive support for an identified cohort of people involved in the justice system locally.

3.7 It remains important that a strong and connected relationship remains with the new national structures for Community Justice in the Scotland. This should enhance delivery of various projects, engagement of national organisations, strategic commissioning and promote the interests of Dumfries and Galloway. The local Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Manager is the Chair of the National Community Justice Network at present and has supported national work over the last few months in relation to the Emergency Early Release of Prisoners and coordinating national virtual events.

3.8 The Community Justice Scotland Annual Activity Report came out for consultation in January. A local Dumfries and Galloway response to the consultation was submitted on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February; this can be seen in Appendix 3.

3.9 We would once again highlight that nature of funding for the Community Justice Partnership remains a challenge. The Partnership is serviced by a single member of staff with no administrative support and funding is received from Scottish Government on an annual basis subject to spending reviews, potentially limiting long term planning. An additional £12,500 was allocated to local partnerships to support Justice Social Work (JSW) and Community Payback Orders, locally this is being utilised to purchase devices and data for service users and also to produce resources for those with no access to the internet using a blended learning model. Funding for local Community Justice Partnerships has now been confirmed for 2021/22

**Appendix 2 - DGCJP Annual Report Newsletter**

**Appendix 3 – DGCJP Annual Activity Report**

**Lead Officer: Vikki Binnie, Community Justice Partnership Manager, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

## **4. Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021**

### **4.1 CLD Partnership**

4.1.1 The majority of partner resources have been focused on front line response and recovery over the past 12 months and which has included;

>critical support to our young people through mental health and well-being interventions;  
>ensuring our most vulnerable have access to food supplies, medicine, digital devices and are receiving advice and support to access funding and other benefits.

4.1.2 Partners came together on 24 September 2020 for an informal discussion to share what they have been focusing on during the Covid lockdown and response phase and to discuss the longer-term challenges for the future. Despite the ongoing pressures this was well attended by 17 reps from both the Council and external partners.

### **4.2 Preparing for a new CLD Plan 2021-24**

4.2.1 As part of the CLD (Scotland) Regulations 2013, local authorities require to commence the planning process with partners to develop a new plan by September 2021.

Scottish Government released new guidance on preparing new plans in December 2020:

[Community learning and development plans: guidance - 2021 to 2024 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-learning-and-development-plans-guidance-2021-to-2024/pages/1-introduction.aspx)  
([www.gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot))

4.2.2 The CLD Partnership met in January 2021 to work through this guidance and to discuss the key emerging priorities within D&G which should be included with the new plan. The national guidance emphasises that there should be a focus on the following, in particular:

> Ensure that adequate and efficient CLD support is made available to assist disadvantaged communities to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic;  
> Consider the impacts on disadvantaged learners and communities as part of an ongoing assessment and reflect any changes in the planning and review process in 2021-22;  
> Embed priorities for recovery and renewal of local CLD services within Local Outcomes Improvement Plans (LOIP) and other relevant local plans.

### **4.3 Key national strategies in development**

4.3.1 Three key national strategies will also be developed during 2021/22 and which will also have an impact on preparing new CLD Plans:

- Lifelong Learning Framework 2022–27
- Adult Learning Strategy 2021–2026
- Youth Work Strategy 2021-26

4.3.2 In terms of the Adult Learning Strategy, engagement on this was “paused” just before the March 2021 Covid lockdown. This re-commenced again in January 2021 where two online national engagement sessions were facilitated and which had representation from D&G.

### **4.4 Key next steps**

4.4.1 The CLD Partnership are currently assessing and analysing recent Covid related reports on young people, communities, health and digital connectivity to help scope out emerging priorities. Initial conversations with learners and community groups are planned for March/April 2021.

**Lead Officer: Stephen Jack – Lifelong Learning Manager, Chair CLD Partnership**

## **5. Local Development Plan**

### **5.1 Background**

5.1.1 The Council adopted its second LDP (LDP2) on 3 October 2019. The Plan is available on the Council's website at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/ldp2](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/ldp2). The Plan guides the future use and development of land in towns, villages and the rural area. It is a corporate document for the Council (as planning authority) and its Community Planning Partners.

5.1.3 LDP2 applies the land use elements of the Community Plan (LOIP) and other Council and Government strategies into an overall spatial plan for the region, providing a means to join up messages about place, people, and delivery. The content of the plan is informed through extensive public consultation and engagement with members of the public, key agencies, elected members, developers and planning agents.

### **5.2 National updates**

5.2.1 The Scottish Government published their Fourth National Planning Framework Position Statement in November 2020. The Statement sets out the Government's current thinking and aims to inform further discussion as they work towards producing a draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) in Autumn 2021. The Position Statement signals a key shift towards a net zero agenda and sets out thinking over 4 key themes – net zero emissions, resilient communities, wellbeing economy and better greener places. Once adopted, NPF4 will have the same status in the planning decision making process as the Local Development Plan (LDP2).

5.2.2 Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Borders Council submitted a joint indicative Regional Spatial Strategy for the South of Scotland to the Scottish Government in September 2020. The Strategy sets out the strategic ambition for the South of Scotland to 2050 and is based on 5 strategic themes: climate change, economy, people, place and connectivity. The Strategy is one of 13 prepared across Scotland and will be used by the Government to inform the preparation of NPF4. The Government provided feedback on the strategies at the end of January 2021 and are allowing groupings to review and amend their strategies based on the feedback, engage with stakeholders and resubmit by the end of April 2021. This opportunity will allow us to ensure the Strategy aligns fully with wider strategies and programmes at a regional scale such as the Climate Emergency Declaration Strategic Plan, the emerging Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, the Strategic Transport Project Review and other strategic infrastructure investment programmes.

5.2.3 Although we are waiting on further Regulations from the Government on how to prepare Local Place Plans, we are exploring how we can align community and spatial planning to ensure that decisions that are made on behalf of communities accurately reflect their issues, interests and aspirations, and that resources are targeted effectively. It is hoped that the locality hubs established in Dumfries and Galloway to support the Covid response work at local levels will be able to support this area of work. This approach will also support implementation of the Scottish Government's Place Principle. A separate report on this agenda sets out this work in the wider partnership context.

**Lead Officer: Shona McCoy, Team Leader, Local Development Plan, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

## **6. Local Housing Strategy**

### **6.1 Local Housing Strategy**

6.1.1 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on Local Authorities to produce a Local Housing Strategy (LHS), which sets out its strategic priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services. The Strategic Housing Forum, which is the subject of an annual report to this meeting, was established to facilitate contributions from partner organisations to inform the strategies development. This thematic partnership continues to meet to review and monitor delivery of the LHS action plan.

6.1.2 Delivery of the available funding allocated to the region by the Scottish Government from the Affordable Housing Supply and Energy Efficient Scotland programmes for 2020/21 aims to secure investment in excess of £25million. This is further supplemented by leveraging additional finance from external sources. While improving the living standards of many local people, it will also help create and sustain a range of good quality jobs in the construction sector, including apprenticeships and training opportunities. The Council anticipates that the allocations for 2021/22 will be announced in the coming weeks.

6.1.3 The LHS details the strategic approach of the Local Authority and its partners to delivering high quality housing related services across all tenures, to meet identified need in its region. It also has a key role to play in contributing to the effective integration of adult health and social care. Delivery of the LHS plays a significant role in supporting the Council priorities to 'Urgently respond to climate change and transition to a carbon neutral region', 'Protect our most vulnerable people', 'Provide the best start in life for all our children', 'Be an inclusive Council' and 'Build the local economy'.

### **6.2 Strategic Housing Investment Plan**

6.2.1 The core purpose of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is to set out the key priorities for affordable housing development in the region and identify the resources required for delivery. This is supported by funding from the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) which aims to increase and accelerate the supply of homes across all tenures. The SHIP is subject to regular review due to the complex nature of housing development and changes in policy and funding at a local and national level. The annual update was agreed at the Council's Economy and Resources Committee meeting on 24 November ahead of submission to the Scottish Government in December. This will then go through a period of review before formal feedback is received.

6.2.3 The development of high quality, energy efficient homes contributes to tackling a range of socio-economic challenges and helps to provide secure homes that have a positive effect on the lives of people living in the region. These include young people, those living on low incomes, the homeless or those with specialist housing needs. The economic benefits of delivering new affordable housing also positively impacts on those who gain employment in construction or who are able to access affordable, high quality homes. A number of SHIP developments aim to bring brownfield sites back into use, regenerate empty buildings and contribute to the sustainability of town centres. Finding a productive use for derelict sites can meet community aspirations for their area and also help to address climate change by limiting urban sprawl and reducing commuting distances. In addition, this approach helps to improve the buildings, streets and public spaces that make up the physical environment of a place. A recently completed development has seen 4 Passivhaus standard properties completed within walking distance of Dumfries Town Centre. The low heating costs of properties of this type also help to alleviate fuel poverty, improving the financial security of the residents.

### 6.3 Town Centre Living Fund

6.3.1 The Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) highlights support for the Town Centre First principle, an approach to decisions that considers the health and vibrancy of town centres from the outset. Enabling development of high quality and affordable housing in these locations increases the number of people living in our town centres while also supporting the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration Action Plan. In addition, the Town Centre Living Fund aims to support objectives set out in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal:

- Empower local communities to imagine and then build a long-term future for the towns they live in
- Retain and increase our working age population and our resident workforce
- Maintain and raise the standard of the physical environment in our towns and town centres
- Maintain and increase the number of people living in our towns and town centres.

6.3.2 Increasing high-quality accommodation is a key driver to create footfall and support the regeneration of town centres. It also helps to lower carbon emissions by providing homes within easy access of services and employment, reducing the need for travel and car ownership. The use of empty properties helps retain and maintain the area's built heritage and finding a new use for brownfield sites reduces the impact of development on the environment while improving how people feel about their local area. A number of projects have now been supported through this route, including in some of the region's smaller towns, which will also help sustain local services such as schools and public transport.

### 6.4 Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme

6.4.1 The Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme (ABS) 2020/21 projects for Dumfries and Galloway aim to assist homeowners, as well as people living in the private rented sector and has the following objectives:-

- To reduce fuel poverty
- To reduce carbon emissions
- To attract Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) funding.

6.4.2 ABS draw on a range of data sources including the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), child poverty and the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS). The Dumfries and Galloway Local Housing Strategy 2018-23 seeks to maximise the use of funding to deliver energy efficiency measures to homes in the private sector. While the reduction of fuel poverty is a key driver, by reducing carbon emissions, the project also contributes to the Climate Emergency Declaration Strategic Plan which aims to ensure the region is net zero for carbon emissions by 2025. Improving the energy efficiency of existing homes in the private sector helps provide a key contribution to this aspiration.

6.4.3 The Council continues to work with the Energy Agency (EA) to develop and deliver the ABS programme. They are a charitable organisation providing free and impartial advice to households. In partnership with the Energy Savings Trust they also deliver the energy efficiency advice centre for South West Scotland. At the 2019 National Energy Efficiency Awards, the EA were awarded special commendations in both the Insulation Project and Multi Measure Project categories as well as placing third for Project Management. This partnership approach allows local people to benefit from their expertise and the awards received highlights that the approach taken is considered best practice.

The EA carries out a range of promotional activity, including attendance at Community Council meetings, promotional events, mailings and media advertising.

**Lead Officer: Jamie Little, Strategic Housing Investment, Economy and Resources Directorate, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

## **7. Regional Economic Strategy (RES) 2016-2020**

### **7.1 Dumfries and Galloway Economic Leadership Group Update**

The Economic Leadership Group has met and kept in touch through Microsoft Teams during the pandemic. Three workshops have been held in February to review the group's future and the Annual Report elsewhere on this agenda provides a full update.

### **7.2 Carbon Negative Economy**

The partnership bid submitted by Dumfries and Galloway College, the Economic Leadership Group and Dumfries and Galloway Council was unsuccessful at the final stages.

### **7.3 South of Scotland updates**

#### **7.3.1 South of Scotland Enterprise**

South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) commenced on 1st April 2020 and have published their [Engagement Framework](#) and their [Operating Plan for 2020/21](#).

#### **7.3.2 South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership**

7.3.2.1 The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP) brings together a wide range of expertise and sets the direction of our regional economy. It held its first virtual meeting on 18 September 2020. Its role is to inform the development of and oversee the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

7.3.2.2 The partnership forms part of a new regional structure in the South of Scotland to help drive economic success. This includes supporting the new South of Scotland Enterprise agency (SOSE), which went live on 1 April 2020, which will operate alongside existing public agencies and Dumfries and Galloway (D&GC) and Scottish Borders Councils (SBC). The REP also links into the Convention of South of Scotland (COSS) which is chaired by the Deputy First Minister and brings together local agencies and organisations with Scottish Government.

7.3.2.3 Members of the REP were appointed through a recruitment process to join Elected Members from both Councils (D&GC and SBC) and South of Scotland Enterprise Board members. The Chair of the REP until 31 March 2021 is Councillor Rob Davidson, Depute Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

#### **7.3.3 The South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy (RES)**

7.3.3.1 This strategy will aim to set out a clear, collective and compelling vision for the region, which will focus on long term outcomes and ensure that the South of Scotland delivers its economic potential.

7.3.3.2 RSM UK Consulting LLP (RSM) has been appointed by South of Scotland Enterprise Agency (SOSE) to develop a Regional Economic Strategy for the South of Scotland covering a minimum 10-year period (2020 – 2030).

7.3.3.4 The programme for the South of Scotland RES remains on track to deliver an early draft report towards the end of March 2021, with a final strategy anticipated in late May 2021. The consultation process underpinning the strategy is informed by a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and current engagement activities are due to conclude in early March.

**Lead Officer: Juliette Cooke, Team Leader (Economic Policy & Partnerships), Dumfries and Galloway Council**



## **8. Regional Transport Strategy**

### **8.1 National Transport Strategy 2 Delivery Plan**

8.1.1 The NTS2 was published on 5 February 2020 and is available through the following link <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/national-transport-strategy-2/>

8.1.2 The National Transport Strategy 2 (NTS2) sets out a “vision for a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system helping to deliver a healthier, more prosperous and fairer Scotland for communities, business and visitors”. The Strategy outlines four priorities for our transport system: that it reduces inequalities; takes climate action; helps deliver inclusive economic growth; and improves our health and wellbeing.

8.1.3 To achieve the Priorities, the NTS2 sets out to embed a Sustainable Travel Hierarchy for decision making which overarches all the Policies. This will promote walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people. Promotion of efficient and sustainable freight transport for the movement of goods, particularly the shift from road to rail will be prioritised.

8.1.4 All future investment decisions will be assessed against their contributions to supporting the NTS2 and, in particular, how they impact against the climate action outcomes within it as well as wider climate change targets. A Sustainable Investment Hierarchy will be used to inform future investment decisions and ensure transport options that focus on reducing both inequalities and the need to travel unsustainably are prioritised.

8.1.5 The first NTS2 Delivery Plan was published on 17 December 2020. The Plan sets out the broad actions the Scottish Government is taking to deliver on its NTS vision and priorities to end-March 2022. It has a specific focus to support a green recovery from the global pandemic; including a new action to encourage people back on to public transport post-COVID 19 when it is safe and appropriate to do so. The Plan can be accessed at: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/national-transport-strategy-nts2-delivery-plan-2020-to-2022/>

8.1.6 Transport Scotland have established an NTS2 Delivery Board, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, to bring together senior representatives across the transport sector to be accountable for the successful delivery of NTS2. This includes actions to extend free bus travel to young people aged under 19; support active travel and other sustainable options including support for people working from home; and support interventions to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030, as set out in the update to the Climate Change Plan as discussed under section 5 of this report.

8.1.7 The Delivery Plan sets out a commitment to engage with Local Authorities, Regional Transport Partnerships, operators, businesses and individuals on the best way to share information, examples of collaborative working, and to agree initial evidence base actions.

8.1.8 The Transport Governance and Collaboration Review Group will continue the work outlined by the NTS2 Roles and Responsibilities review. Initial work will expand and update the evidence base on transport governance and delivery across the country. This will be used to highlight and share good practice in the context of delivering the vision and priorities set out within the NTS2 and related Regional and Local Transport Strategies. The work will also inform longer term thinking on potentially strengthening the regional approach with a view to helping deliver better outcomes for citizens and businesses. Changes to Transport Governance is

included within the updated SWestrans Risk Register in a parallel report to this meeting.

8.1.9 The Scottish Government has committed to publishing annual Delivery Plans from 2022 onward. To ensure accountability on progress, they have also committed to publishing a monitoring and evaluation report covering the period out to end-March 2022, followed by annual monitoring and evaluation reports from March 2022, as well as reporting three-yearly, to Parliament, as required by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

## 8.2 National Planning Framework

8.2.1 The National Planning Framework is a long-term plan for development and investment across Scotland.

8.2.2 The current National Planning Framework (NPF3) was published in 2014. The Scottish Government are reviewing NPF3 and also Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) which contains detailed national policy on a number of planning topics. The updated document which integrates SPP and the national spatial plan will be known as National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).

8.2.3 NPF4 will consider what Scotland should look like in 2050, set out national planning policies and guide where future development should take place. On 26 November 2020, a Position Statement was published which sets out the Scottish Government's current thinking on the issues that will need to be addressed when preparing Scotland's NPF4:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-fourth-national-planning-framework-position-statement/>

8.2.4 The Position Statement aims to inform further discussions and is not itself a document setting out policy. It has been developed through information received through a 'Call for Ideas' process that took place over late 2019/early 2020, which SWestrans officers contributed.

8.2.5 Over the year ahead the Scottish Government will continue to work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders to further develop these proposals. It is expected that the draft NPF4 will be laid in the Scottish Parliament in autumn 2021, and a public consultation on the fuller proposals will be undertaken at that stage.

8.2.6 The final content of NPF4 will only be established following consultation and consideration, and approval, of the draft revised framework by the Scottish Parliament.

8.2.7 The Position Statement highlights that the 'Outcomes for 2050' will be driven by the overarching goal of addressing climate change. Scotland must play a full part in tackling the global climate emergency by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with their legal targets. The Government currently expect that NPF4 will focus on achieving four key outcomes:

- Net-Zero Emissions
- Resilient Communities
- A Wellbeing Economy
- Better, Greener Places

Detailed information on each of these four key outcomes is contained within the Position Statement.

8.2.8 The Statement also includes with a section on Delivery which highlights that an infrastructure-first approach to development. There are clear synergies to transport policy with a focus on the Place Principle to deliver change that leads to better outcomes for places whilst strengthening links between development planning and future infrastructure investment

including the Draft Infrastructure Investment Plan and the second Strategic Transport Projects Review. There will also be work ongoing to ensure NPF4 aligns with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies set out in the National Transport Strategy.

8.2.9 As work progresses towards a draft NPF4, the SWestrans Board will have further opportunities to be involved and there will be an extensive consultation on the detail of a future draft NPF4 in Autumn 2021. SWestrans officers are currently involved in ongoing communication with Dumfries and Galloway Council's Roads and Planning Teams on NPF4 matters.

### 8.3 Update to the Climate Change Plan

8.3.1 The Scottish Government 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan sets out how Scotland will continue to drive down emissions over that period. The aim within this Plan was that by 2032, Scotland will have reduced its emissions by 66%, relative to the baseline, while growing the economy, increasing the wellbeing of the people of Scotland and protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

8.3.2 The Plan provides for a reduction in annual emissions of just over 10 megatonnes by 2032, but new targets mean that a reduction of 25 megatonnes will now be needed by the same date. To reflect this, the Scottish Government published an update to the Plan on 16 December 2020, 'Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – update', which is available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero-update-climate-change-plan-20182032/>

8.3.3 The updated Plan sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to the new and ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019. It is a key strategic document which sets out a green recovery from COVID-19 and will inform the future Regional Transport Strategy.

8.3.4 The Plan includes a chapter on Transport and its important role in delivering required climate change (Chapter 3; p.112-134). It sets out a number of transport related aims and the current challenges to achieve these; a route map of delivery (p.120) and the actions which are to be taken. These include:

- By 2024: the majority of new buses are zero emissions.
- By 2025: the need for any new petrol and diesel light commercial vehicles in public bodies phased out; and the delivery of the first Active Freeways; segregated active travel routes on main travel corridors.
- By 2030: the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans phased out; conditions created to phase out the need for all new petrol and diesel vehicles in Scotland's public sector fleet; and car kilometres reduced by 20%.
- By 2032: Scotland's passenger rail services considerably decarbonised, with just a few years to go until they are fully decarbonised.

8.3.5 There is also a call to other Scottish Public Sector organisations which is relevant for SWestrans as a Regional Transport Strategies (p.129-130), as follows:

'Public Sector bodies recognise the level of ambition required to see the scale of change needed on transport, as Scotland's largest emitting sector. Community engagement and participation, for example through local authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships, will be increasingly important to garner support for this shift, delivering local measures that encourage use of active and sustainable transport and reduce car use.'

Transport Scotland will also work with these key local and regional partners to continue to ensure that local and regional transport strategies that are developed or updated, e.g. parking strategies, support transport's contribution to Scotland's climate change targets. For example, we have recently seen the Spaces for People fund used by local authorities to support temporary road space re-allocation for active travel, and we will work with local authorities on permanent schemes where appropriate. We will also work closely with local authorities on the further measures that will necessary to dissuade car use; for example, bus prioritisation in town centres and parking restrictions.'

#### **8.4 Hydrogen Policy**

8.4.1 On 21 December 2020, the Scottish Government published a Hydrogen Policy Statement which is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-hydrogen-policy-statement/>

8.4.2 The Statement sets out the high level Scottish Government policy positions that are supportive of hydrogen development and deployment in Scotland. It commits to making hydrogen a key element of Scotland's decarbonisation plans, setting out the potential roles for hydrogen in our energy transition and the ambitions and strategic priorities of Scottish Ministers regarding the various applications of hydrogen in our energy system in light of the net zero commitments.

8.4.3 Chapter 8 (p.39-45) of the Statement relates specifically for the role of hydrogen in the transport sector. It argues that Scotland is well positioned to be a global destination for development and deployment of hydrogen technologies in the transport system.

8.4.4 The Hydrogen Policy Statement will provide the framework for the development of a Hydrogen Action Plan in 2021 which will provide further details on the planned approach and necessary actions to implement the policy positions outlined in the Policy Statement.

#### **8.5 Strategic Transport Projects Review - South West Scotland Transport Study**

8.5.1 The second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) will inform transport investment in Scotland for the next 20 years.

8.5.2 STPR2 is a Scotland-wide review of the strategic transport network across all transport modes, including walking, wheeling, cycling, bus, rail and car, as well as reviewing wider island and rural connectivity.

8.5.3 STPR2 will help to deliver the vision, priorities and outcomes for transport set out in the National Transport Strategy (NTS2) and will align with other national plans such as the Infrastructure Investment Plan, National Planning Framework (NPF4) and the Climate Change Plan.

8.5.4 STPR2 involves conducting an evidence-based review of the performance of Scotland's strategic transport network across all transport modes – walking, wheeling, cycling, bus, rail and road plus wider island connectivity – to identify interventions required to support the delivery of Scotland's Economic Strategy.

8.5.5 It will report in two phases, the first of which will make recommendations on transport interventions for investment in the short term, as the world deals with the COVID-19 pandemic and the Scottish Government plans for a green recovery. With Phase 2 reporting in Autumn

2021, STPR2 will then give Scottish Ministers a programme of potential transport investment opportunities for the period 2022-2042.

8.5.6 On 3 February 2021 Transport Scotland published the Phase 1 recommendations and associated impact assessment progress reports. These are the first STPR2 recommendations for transport investment, focussing on recommendations for transport projects or interventions that significantly contribute to STPR2 objectives, align well with NTS2 priorities, and can be progressed or delivered within the current spending period and will help support a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Lead Officer:** Douglas Kirkpatrick – SWestrans



# Just Communities

## 2019/20 Annual Round Up!

Welcome to our third Annual Report Newsletter, and the second one relating to our current Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan. 2018-2021

We were asked to complete an annual reporting template for 2019/20 in July this year which was submitted to Community Justice Scotland in September. This shows how the work we do locally helps to meet National Community Justice Outcomes and every local authority area in Scotland is required to do this by law. As always we also like to present work towards local outcomes in our local newsletter, making it more relevant and relatable to us all across Dumfries & Galloway. We hope you enjoy reading what has gone on over the last twelve months and beyond.



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It's always good to remind ourselves of what Community Justice is. Ultimately it's about us all working in partnership to try and put things in place to reduce offending and reoffending; this involves lots of people! Ultimately those who have the most influence on others are local communities, and friends and family; most of those involved in this partnership live and work in Dumfries & Galloway so we are also part of local communities across Dumfries and Galloway. When we start to think about solutions we need to also think about why people behave the way that they do. This means we need to think about trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), smarter responses to people offending, like more use of community sentencing options, diversion and diversionary activities, and some of the wider societal issues behind offending behaviour. This means it's crucial that we also link effectively with other partnerships like the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Violence Against Women and Girls Group (part of Public Protection) Suicide Prevention Group and Youth Justice Partnership. No one can tackle this alone.



### Annual Report

#### Special points of interest:

- Local Priorities 2019/20
- What did we do?
- Trauma Awareness and Resilience
- Moving from Partnership to Collaboration
- Throughcare/Aftercare
- Community Sentences; the smart option!
- Partners working together
- Challenges
- Case studies; the journey
- Feedback from Partners
- Final words

#### Remember

**Strong, connected communities working together can have a much greater effect on the lives of people than services alone ever could.**



Because Community Justice is so broad this is reflected in the make up of our partnership. The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 identifies a range of statutory partners who have a duty to cooperate. These are:

- D&G Council (mainly social work)
- NHS
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Police Scotland

- Skills Development Scotland
- Integrated Joint Board
- Scottish Courts & Tribunals Service
- Scottish Prison Service
- Crown Office Procurators Fiscal Office

We also have third sector involvement which definitely adds to our partnership



## Foreword from the Chair

I remain proud to be chairing the Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership, and fully endorse the work detailed within this, our third Annual Report for our communities.

2019/2020 was a year which saw the three-year plan we agreed in 2018, develop further with strengthening of working relationships and practices across wider agenda. In working towards our local priorities in partnership, there have been real achievements as evidenced throughout this report.

It is often easy to overlook the difference much of the work of partners make in the individual lives of those in our community. I hope that the use of case studies in this report brings home the impact that can be had, and the importance of supporting those partners and agencies to provide critical life changing support.

During the end of the reporting period, service users, staff, partners and the partnership were significantly affected by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has continued to challenge everything we do, and change how we work with communities and each other.

I would wish to take this opportunity to thank staff and partners across our region, especially the Third Sector for the dedication, innovation and commitment to ensure key services continued to operate whilst facing increasing challenges and risks

Vikki Binnie, our Community Justice Partnership Manager, in addition to being pivotal for all Community Justice Partnership progress locally, has also chaired the National Co-ordinator/Manager network through a very challenging time. In co-ordinating the voice of all Community Justice Partnership Co-ordinators/Managers, this role has extensively liaised with national bodies to ensure they are aware of the very difficult reality that local partners and staff have faced and continue to face on a daily basis.

We are aware of the continuing challenges in delivering services and the fast pace of change that we all now face daily to do so. As a local partnership we will always focus on our local priorities and where possible support national initiatives. I thank our local partners and communities for their dedication to improving the lives of those who reside alongside them.

***Gordon Pattinson,  
Chair, Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice  
Partnership***





# 2019/20 HIGHLIGHTS



Reconviction figures in D&G have fallen from 27.3 to 26.1

Of those reconvicted the average number of reconvictions per person has fallen to 0.43, the lowest figure in 5 years

586 Community Payback Orders have been undertaken, supported by Justice Social Work

144 people were diverted from prosecution

The Care Inspectorate carried out an Inspection of Justice Social Work Services; extremely positive feedback was received

Police Scotland colleagues delivered 'The Unnecessary Criminalisation of Children' Pilot

Multi agency training was delivered including Trauma Informed Practice and Emotional Unstable Personality Disorder

Operation Safety reached 1471 primary age children across Dumfries and Galloway

Resilience screenings continued, linking with colleagues in Education and Elected Members

Moving from Partnership to Collaboration Joint Event took place in November

An HMiP Inspection of HMP Dumfries took place in January 2020 with several areas of good practice highlighted

The Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board was set up to ensure all those leaving prison and coming back to Dumfries and Galloway received support



Just Communities

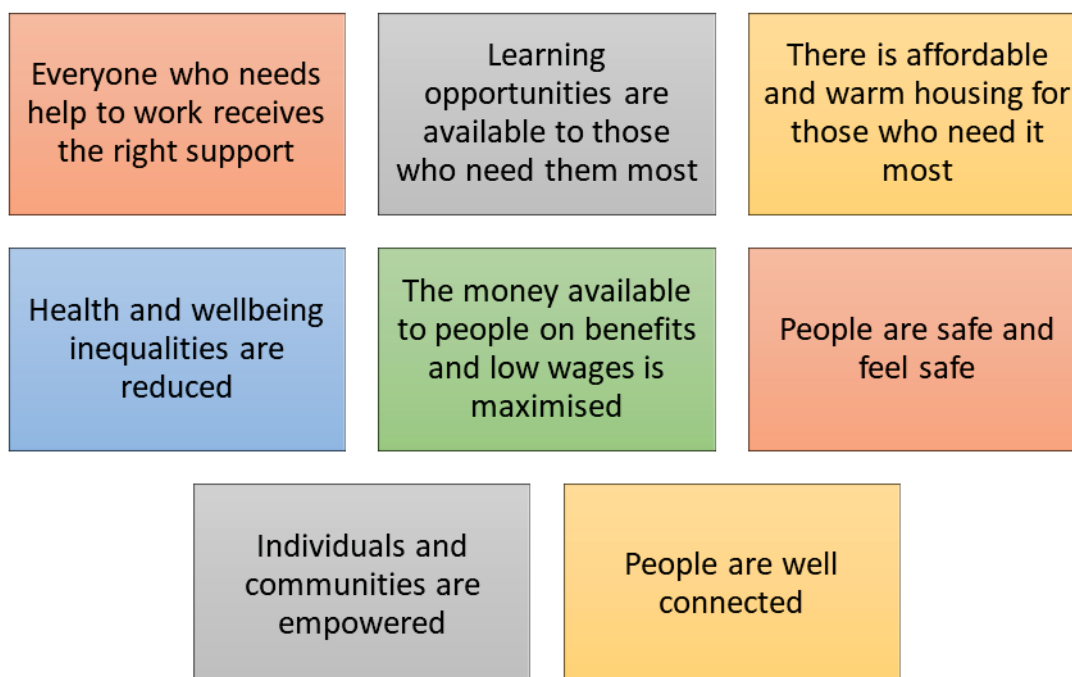


# What are our local community justice priorities?



This was the second year of our Just Communities three year plan for 2018-2021. This plan is called a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and is underpinned by lots of tasks within an action plan that shows the different people involved and steps we will take to work towards achieving our outcomes. Progress was made towards all the strategic priorities however there were some actions we were unable to take forward; some of this was due to developments at a national level and some due to capacity but we will tell you more about our challenges and successes later in this report. You can be assured we will continue to work hard to achieve as many actions as we can by March 2021, although the onset of COVID 19 has had an impact.

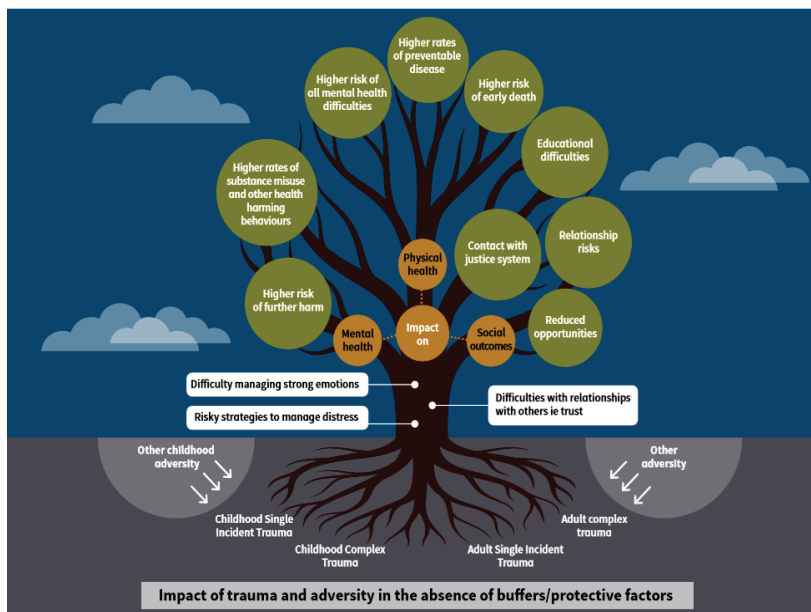
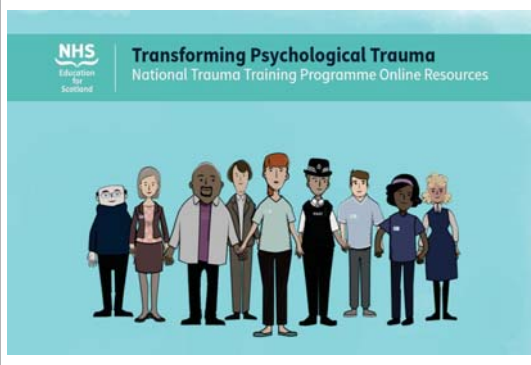
Our local Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan also has to feed in to and support the overarching Local Outcome Improvement Plan that sits across the Community Planning Partnership; we provide quarterly updates to the Community Planning Partnership to help demonstrate this. These overarching outcomes can be seen below



# What did we do?

## TRAUMA AWARENESS

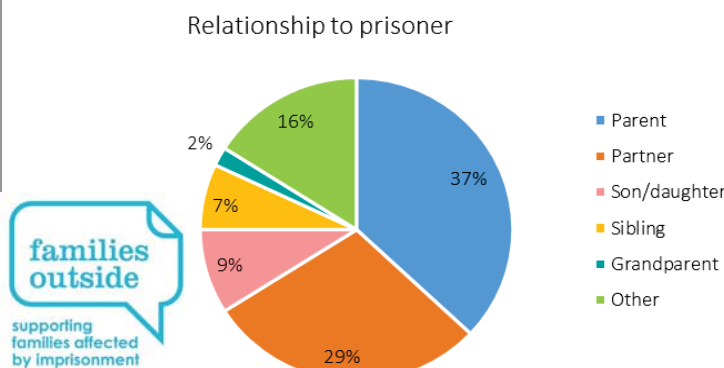
We continued with our programme of Trauma Informed Practice training and awareness raising across Dumfries and Galloway, delivering sessions in Stranraer Library and Dumfries Fire Station. This built on the success and enthusiasm for training carried out in the previous year. We have also shared online Trauma training via TURAS with all partners; this has been cascaded through the Learning and Development Group of Public Protection. The Public Protection Partnership are now discussing the coordination of more specialised trauma training.



We kept our promise to coordinate five sessions of Emotional Unstable Personality Disorder training, this was delivered by colleagues from health, and 100 staff attended from across social work, prison service, police and third sector. Demand for the training was high and attendees reported an increase in their understanding following the training.

Colleagues from Families Outside delivered two multi agency sessions of their 'Out of the Shadows' training, highlighting the impact of imprisonment on children and families. Sessions took place both East and West of the region with over 30 people attending.

The Community Justice Partnership supported and coordinated a funding bid to ADP on behalf of third sector partners Families Outside, this bid was successful and led to the continued local support to those local people with a family member in prison. Over the reporting period 21 families were supported by Families Outside, nine received direct one to one support and twelve received support via the helpline. This impacted on 35 family members

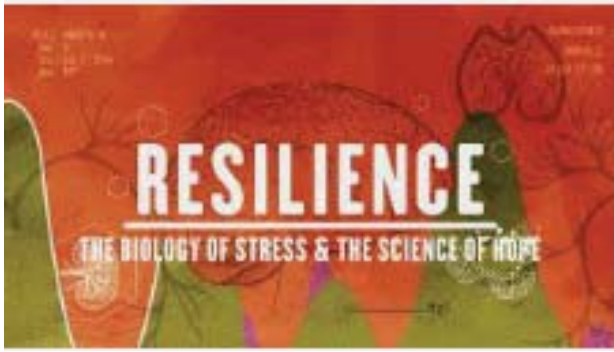


Our Community Justice Partnership Manager continues to provide an input to social work students at University of the West of Scotland Crichton Campus encouraging them to consider the benefits of Partnership working in justice; this is now an annual commitment and is good for both the students and the partnership. All Community Justice Partnership information and news is shared with one of the Lecturers from UWS who shares this with students to enable further learning and understanding. As a result of this we recently received the following feedback:

“A wee word to thank you for pushing out this information. I wish I had time to read it all, but I select some parts to take out and pass on to my students. I know that some of them are reading and following up on them. I am aware that 'pushing things out there' can feel unrewarding and not worthwhile in the absence of feedback. You are providing a valuable link”.

## Resilience Film

*Just Communities*



This year saw us continue to highlight and promote multi agency screenings of the film Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope. The film focusses on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on future life and health outcomes. During 2019/20 we have used the film at a local Head Teachers Conference at The Bridge in Dumfries (May 2019), this was followed by a panel discussion made up of partners from across Community Justice. Following this the film was picked up and used for a school cluster event at Lockerbie Academy in the East of the region. The Depute Headteacher from Lockerbie Academy told us: 'We did this as many of us had seen it at The Bridge. As a cluster, this one was of our targets on our improvement plan; to raise awareness of ACEs. This was the first part, staff across the cluster have now completed an online course. 93 staff were present on the evening. Now that this has been on tv, we have had this recorded on ClickView for all staff to watch as part of their induction to Lockerbie Academy'

The film was also used at a primary school cluster at Sandhead Primary School in the West. Following the screening and discussion at Sandhead Primary further information and links were shared and are being maintained as part of our work going forward. When we asked the Headteacher from Sandhead why she had asked for her staff to see the film she said "I watched the resilience doc when it was on at Dumfries Theatre for my

own professional learning. It struck me straight away that there are many families and children in the community that have experienced a high number of ACE's. I was shocked to learn about the impact on future health and life outcomes on children if they didn't have the appropriate support "buffers". This made me realise even more clearly that the adults in the school need to be these positive "buffers" at all times.

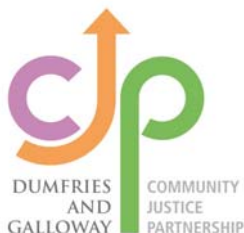
I needed to ensure all my staff understood ACE's and trauma and how this can impact children and families but also understand the strategies we can embed such as nurturing approaches.

I set up two inset days dedicated to learning about trauma and nurture. The first day was the multi-agency viewing of Resilience doc followed by a panel discussion supported by Vikki and other Community Justice Partners. It was absolutely fantastic to have such a mix of professionals in the one setting and bringing so much experience, knowledge and guidance to the session. This has then created links within my school community with Vikki, health and police and has now led me to become the only primary education representative on the Wigtownshire Health and Well-being Partnership. This has further extended my links working in my local community to try to improve outcomes for our children.

We built on the Resilience training with input from our educational psychologist and are now looking into embedding the nurture principles and GIRFEC into our everyday practice from our 2 year olds in nursery to our P7's leaving for the Academy. Our nursery children are able to talk about the SHANARRI indicators through our "SHANARRI stones" and this is further built upon through the school in our school values system that runs through everything. We moderate and share how we do this with each other as a school team; nurturing approaches and well-being is our core business. It is priority number one on 2020-21 School Improvement Plan".

In February we submitted a paper on Resilience and ACEs to the Integrated Joint Board. This has led to much closer working with colleagues in from health and a strong partnership with one of our local Health and Wellbeing Specialists. This work remains ongoing. An invitation was extended to partners across IJB and Elected Members within the Council to attend a screening of the film; again, this was supported by a Community Justice Partners including our Chief Social Work Officer. Head of Children and Families Social Work, HMP Dumfries Governor in Charge, Senior Operational Manager Social Work Services, Community Justice Partnership Manager and a Health and Wellbeing Specialist. Whilst the numbers in attendance were not as high as expected discussion was good and we have been asked to present a paper to full council later this year. Thought is also being given to engagement and screenings with local community councils. We also hope to continue engaging with colleagues in education moving forward.

# Joint Event: Moving From Partnership to Collaboration



In November we held a joint development session with CJP, ADP, VAWG and Suicide Prevention bringing together 50 stakeholders, many of whom sit on multiple partnerships from across the agenda.

The day was Chaired by the Improvement Service with a brief input from each of the subject leads to set the scene and outline their own area of work. Attendees were tasked with identifying key actions across the four areas under identified areas of joint concern:

- Prevention/Early Intervention
- Trauma
- Stigma
- Children and Families
- Justice
- Housing and homelessness
- Communities
- Awareness/Training/Workforce Development

Feedback from the day provided us with evidence for a joint paper with actions spanning across each partnership and a really strong desire for much more effective collaboration to reach outcomes. It was agreed that the joint actions identified will be included in each of these strategic groups plans

ensuring duplication is reduced and collaborative working increased.

This has also led to a short life working group being developed focusing on reducing stigma and increasing and empowering kind communities. Representation from each of the partnerships/groups and a local University of the West of Scotland Mental Health Nursing Lecturer are hoping to develop a research project suitable for funding via the Carnegie Trust and using the skills of those with lived experience in each of the areas mentioned. We are already listening to people from other areas who have had some success with this and using some of the learning from the previous Recovery College approach in Dumfries and Galloway.



## Did you know?

There is clear evidence showing that individuals who have contact with the criminal justice system are at a higher risk of having suicidal thoughts compared with the general population.

This means that people involved in offending represent a high-risk group for suicide and attempted suicide, as the presence of the most important risk factors in this population is very high.

This means that there are clear links and alignments between the National Suicide Prevention Plan and the Community Justice Outcome plan, and cross-policy and inter agency and multi agency work is crucial to maximise suicide preventative action both locally and nationally.



# THROUGH-CARE AND AFTERCARE

Throughcare is the way we describe the support provided to people just before and after they leave prison. Dumfries and Galloway has a number of different support options in place provided by both statutory and voluntary services including; Criminal Justice Social Work (both voluntary and statutory throughcare), New Routes (originally for men aged under 25 years serving short term prison sentences, this age range has now been extended) and Shine for women (both delivered locally by Apex Scotland).

Whatever service is used, all of them work closely with the person being released to help them make a smooth transition back to their local community. Services work with people to identify and address any barriers they face in order to decrease the chance of reoffending and help them to move on more effectively and successfully. They do this by working closely together to come up with a person centered action plan with each having responsibility for some of the actions. This helps to build relationships and trust, giving people the opportunity to challenge if they need to.



up and be more honest with their mentor over time which may account for some areas where no change is seen or the situation appears worse.

Over the last year Shine received 8 prison referrals which is 7 less than last year and 13 community referrals, which is one more than last year. This means that a total of 21 women received support during 2019/20.

Community referrals allow the women referred to be signposted to other identified services locally which may be appropriate to them or to their families, for example addiction or mental health support, help with housing etc.

The Shine Mentoring Service also offers mentoring support to women subject to Community Payback Orders (CPO).

It is hoped that by working closely with their mentor and Justice Social Worker women will be more likely to complete their order successfully and less likely to breach.

What difference did it make?

Women working with Shine mentors use Outcome Star as their action planning tool. A random sample of the women who engaged showed the changes highlighted below. It's important to understand that peoples lives can be challenging at times, this means that some problems may get worse before they get better. There is also a tendency for women to open

Outcome	Im- proved	Same (higher )	Same (lower )	De- clined
Accommodation		5		
Living skills & self-care	4		1	
Mental health & wellbeing	5			
Friends & community	4	1		
Relationships & family	1	2	2	
Parenting & caring		5		
Drugs & alcohol	3	2		
Positive use of time	5			
Managing strong feelings	5			
A crime free life	4	1		

### ALL WOMEN WHO WANTED SUPPORT ON RELEASE FROM PRISON DURING 2019/20 RECEIVED IT

*As mentioned last year we need to recognise that Throughcare can be challenging for us locally as there is no local facility for women or for young men. We also have a men returning from prisons all over Scotland, not just HMP Dumfries. This happens for many reasons. Robust information sharing between SPS and local partners is crucial. The Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board plays a huge part in this.*

*More about that later!*

## THROUGH-CARE AND AFTERCARE

**NEW  
ROUTES**

Dumfries & Galloway  
COUNCIL

**Justice Social  
Work**

During 2019/20 22 men were approached whilst in custody and offered support by New Routes mentors. Of these 18 signed up with the service, 13 have since been liberated from prison. Of those 13, nine men continued to engage and work with their mentors across Dumfries and Galloway. This is a slight decrease of one on the previous year. Eight of the men received support from their mentor to engage with other local support services and of those, seven made progress to improve their situation in the following areas:

Employment skills improved, financial situation was better, more stable accommodation, social improvement; including improvements in relationships.

Because there is no consistent assessment tool used to measure distance travelled we cannot compare outcomes between the two services mentioned which continues to present a challenge.

During 2019/20 22 our local Justice Social Work service supported 135 people subject to Statutory Throughcare, both in prison and on release once they came home

A further 59 people engaged with Justice Social Work after their release from prison for Voluntary Throughcare/Aftercare help. Of those 59 people, 54 were men and there were five women.

It is important to note that people can choose to work with multiple support services on their release from prison with many of the women and men engaging with both Justice Social Work and the other third sector mentoring services.

**SPS**  
SCOTTISH  
PRISON SERVICE

### **Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board (MACRIB)**

The idea for the MACRIB originated from an SPS staff member who had visited HMP Grampian and seen their Case Management Board. He recognised this as an area of good practice and promoted it to all establishments. When he returned to HMP Dumfries the Throughcare Support Officers had introduced a mini Case Management Board that looked at their Caseload. Based on these two models and on a desire to support everyone being liberated back into D&G from any custodial facility the MACRIB was introduced and has developed over time, this development is ongoing. Partner Agencies actively involved included Social Work, Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership, Job Centre Plus (DWP), Apex, New Routes, Sacro, DAGCAS, NHS – Addictions & Mental Health, Aberlour "Families2gether", We Are With You and Families Outside.

An HMiP Inspection of HMP Dumfries which took place in January 2020 highlighted the MACRIB, stating in their report: 'A Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board operated for the short-term prison population and should be regarded as good practice to be commended to other establishments'. Between April 2019 and December 2019, 94 people being liberated back to D&G were discussed at MACRIB. As the MACRIB continues to develop and through experiences seen throughout the Covid-19 lockdown it has identified a need for an individual pathway for everyone returning to D&G and this is something MACRIB are in the process of developing.

## Community Sentences; The Smart option

### Inspection of Justice Social Work Services in Dumfries and Galloway

The Care Inspectorate Inspection of Justice Social Work Services with a focus on Community Payback Orders took place throughout the last four months of 2019. Preparing for, and supporting an inspection is a huge piece of work and partners came together to evidence the positive impact Community Payback Orders and colleagues in Justice Services were having in Dumfries and Galloway. The service evaluated really well with the report saying

'There were encouraging examples of people becoming better connected to sources of support, which was helping to reduce isolation and improve social integration. There were similar improvements in personal relationships and the mental health and wellbeing of a significant number of individuals. Positively, many individuals were benefitting from employability support and encouragement to access further education. There were also examples of improvements in relation to accommodation, general health and substance use'

Justice Social Work staff were described as genuine, reliable and regularly 'going above and beyond' to support individuals to achieve positive outcomes. A huge well done to you all!

Please use the following link to access the full Inspection Report which clearly evidences the impact of Community Payback Orders in Dumfries and Galloway: [Inspection of Justice Social Work Services in Dumfries and Galloway](#)

### COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS

The unpaid work team is made up of both community payback officers and unpaid work supervisors. They have continued to organise projects and supervised daily work groups from their bases in Dumfries, Newton Stewart, Stranraer and Annan. A range of unpaid work opportunities has been available right across our huge geographical area.

This has supported individuals to complete projects that benefitted their local communities. This localised provision also means there is reduced time spent travelling, while the provision of travel passes encouraged regular attendance.

The CPO team worked in partnership with Fare Share to provide hot and cold food to the community and those using justice services. The CPO group that delivers Fare Share on Thursdays are also able to attend the Apex soup kitchen and get a bowl of soup or a cup of tea with other people who attend from the wider community. This helps to break down any barriers that some people carrying out CPO may feel in attending Apex for further support with other issues. The justice service worked in collaboration with

partners so that the majority of people on CPO can benefit from 'other activity' opportunities as part of their order. Activities could be tailored, offering opportunities for people to use existing strengths and develop new skills. This includes working closely with Apex, Addaction (We are with you), Turning Point Scotland, Venture Trust and Shine mentoring service. Innovatively the addition of online courses helped individuals develop IT skills, offering learning in a variety of things.

As well as enhancing access to employability skills and learning opportunities good partnership working has facilitated access to over 50 online courses including food hygiene, health and safety and emotional management. This was one of our areas of focus in our local CJOIP and helps to build employability skills and confidence which in turn impacts on offending behaviour.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
CPO Unpaid Work Only	223	184	240
CPO Supervision Only	104	114	176
CPO UPW & Supervision	136	146	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>586</b>

## How local communities have benefitted?

Justice Social Work Unpaid Work were contacted by the Head Teacher at Johnstonebridge Primary School to see if they could help them create an outdoor classroom area in woodlands near their school.

At the time, the school did not have any suitable access into the nearby wooded area, so they asked Unpaid Work to build them a bridge. The Unpaid Work team removed what was left of the old bridge and replaced it with a new one (see photographs opposite).

The bridge was built at the workshops in the unpaid work unit and then transported to the site at the school. Service users also cleared a large area of the woodland, which was littered with rubbish and old tyres, creating a much safer environment for the children to play and learn.

Ensuring information on successful completion of local projects which have involved those on community payback orders is shared helps local communities to see the value of such orders. It also offers communities the chance to engage with those involved, seeing them as people rather than 'offenders'. People who worked on the project learned new skills such as woodwork and ground clearance as well as team working, problem solving and communication skills. Johnstonebridge Primary school were delighted with the results.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



The gardens project at Blackparks Unpaid Work site in Stranraer has been running now for several years. Service users are involved in planning, planting and growing fresh produce, such as potatoes, lettuce, onions, carrots and numerous fruit and herbs. Once harvested the produce is donated to local day centres, care homes, drop in community cafes and voluntary organisations. Service users are also encouraged to take home fresh produce and cook healthy, nutritious meals for themselves and their families.





## Partners working together



### OPERATION SAFETY

Community Justice continues to be included as just one of the partners for "Operation Safety" a region wide education session for Primary 7 pupils from Stranraer to Langholm since. Events take place in the West (1 week in Stranraer during May) and East (3 weeks over September and October) This means messages that contribute towards community justice outcomes are delivered with the emphasis on engagement, safety and early intervention.

During 2019/20 412 pupils attended Operation Safety in the West of the region whilst 1059 attended in the East.



### Fire setter Intervention

The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service also deliver a Juvenile Fire setters Intervention .

This involves engaging with young people who have become involved in risky fire setting . Referrals can be made by Youth Justice, Police Scotland, Schools, or families. Each session is unique and specific to the young person, their needs, and the type of behaviour they have been displaying or taking part in. During 2019/20 10 sessions were delivered in the West and 5 in the East of the region. Young people receiving this input can see the damage caused by their behaviour and consider steps to change that behaviour.

Due to the small numbers involved we are unable to provide any further details to protect confidentiality.



2019 saw some significant changes to Policing in Dumfries and Galloway that has enabled them to provide a more efficient and enhanced service across the region. All changes contribute to both local and national community justice outcomes. These include the introduction of the Contact Assessment Model (CAM), the launch of mobile devices for the police workforce and the Unnecessary Criminalisation of Children in Care pilot.

Research carried out by the Centre of Youth and Criminal Justice identified the opportunity for Police and care homes to work better together to support children. It was identified that minor acts of disorder, that would go unpunished if they happened in a regular home environment, were entering the youth criminal justice system. So in 2019 Dumfries and Galloway Police Division piloted a 'test of change' to reduce the criminalisation of children living in care homes. This required a collaborative and consistent approach between Police and staff within care homes to ensure effective intervention and a potential reduction in criminalisation. The key was to change the thinking of how alleged criminal conduct within a care home setting was dealt with. In cases where Police are dispatched some incidents result in a child or young person being reported for their conduct, however since the start of the pilot it is now being considered whether criminalisation is the most suitable response for that child. Although the volume of calls have only marginally reduced between 2018/19-2019/20, the volume of calls where an incident has resulted in a crime being committed has significantly dropped with a reduction of 62 offences against the previous year; down from 100 to 38 crimes during 2019/20. Each care home now has a dedicated link officer who is responsible for routine visits to build positive relationships with the home and the residents. Routine visits are carried out fortnightly and reports are completed. Missing person incidents were accountable for lots of incidents reported. In 2018/19 there were 74 reports of missing children: 44.8% of total call volume. There was a big reduction during 2019/20, with 48 reports recorded which was 29.3% of the total. The impact can be seen from the following "One young person was being reported missing daily. This young person was getting the train back to his hometown and spending time with his friends, but when he didn't return at a set time, staff would contact Police. Although staff knew where he was and were in contact with him by telephone, they still reported him missing. Following the joint training, staff took a 'not at home' approach to the young person, and instead of reporting him missing kept regular contact with him on the telephone. The young person's behaviour did not change, and he continued to go to his home town, but the hours spent on a nightly basis, by both Police and Care Home staff stopped, given he was no longer being reported as a missing person."

This way of working also stops any unnecessary contact with children and young people who may have experienced trauma and increases positive contact with police only.

## Dumfries & Galloway Crisis Assessment and Treatment Service (CATS)/ Police triage

The pilot was designed and delivered during 2018/19 providing a safer outcome for people of concern in a community setting with a potential mental health issue who come to the attention of police; this is achieved by CATS working in partnership with Police Scotland locally. Following the pilot this way of working has continued and been expanded across the region. The aim is to ensure people receive access to relevant treatment or support as quickly and appropriately as possible, reducing the need for Section 297 to be invoked, reducing attendances at A&E and to ensure that police get quicker advice leading to a quicker resolution for the individual. Community Psychiatric Nurses (CPNs) based within CATS aid the decision-making process of operational police officers around managing risk when dealing with any suspected mental health incident. If Police officers come across someone they are concerned about who may require CATS input, assistance can be requested from a CPN with the CATS team through the NHS switchboard 24 hours a day. The nurse discusses concerns with the attending officers, triages the incident and can make a clinical decision regarding the best course of action for the individual. Details of the results if calls made during 2019/20 can be seen below:

REASON FOR THE CALL/OUTCOME:	
Police advised to take person to A&E for mental health assessment	34
Police took person to A&E for mental health assessment without discussion	31
Crisis team speaks with distressed person on phone and situation resolved	68
Advice on telephone to police officer	57
Medical assessment (at A&E) needed	13



There are currently no measurements in place to record time saved for police officers or in relation to reduced costs to services. There is also nothing in place to ascertain whether the people involved feel less stigmatised as a result of this approach. This may be worth consideration moving forward.

### CHALLENGES

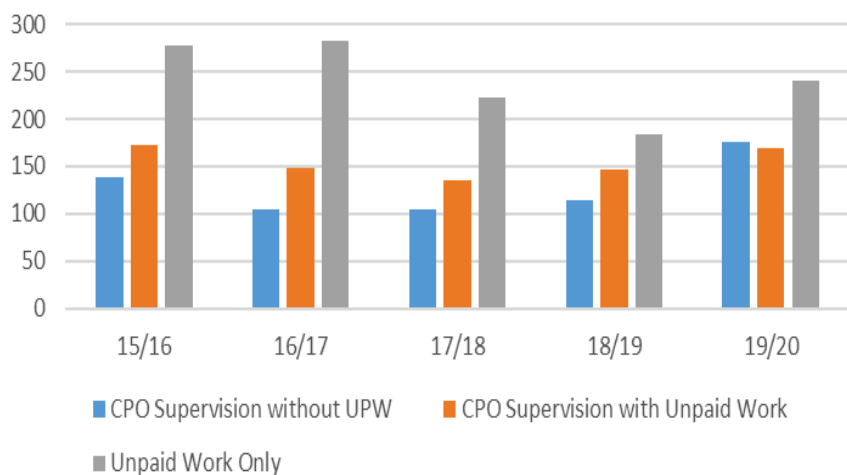
Funding continues to be a challenge with our local partnership supported by only one member of staff. This means that all meetings are coordinated and administrated by our CJ Partnership Manager who also supports partners to drive work forward and achieve outcomes. There is no additional funding for local Community Justice Partnerships to try out small tests of change or support partners to develop services.

Due to covid and the timing of this report it has been particularly challenging for us to access data and statistics from some of our partners including Police, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service and Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service. This was reflected in the Annual Activity Template submitted to Community Justice Scotland.

## Moving forward together, just communities, strengthening relationships

The following pages shows some of the data we were able to collect from partners and also contains some real life stories from those in the justice system receiving support from services.

### CPO Information 2015/16-2019/20



**CPO**—Despite a 5% decrease in the number of Community Payback Orders last year (2018/19) we have seen a substantial increase during 2019/20. The use of programme requirements is almost double the national average and continuing to increase, from 2.7% in 2017-18 to 13.6% in 2018-19. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 there were 659 CPOs open.

Over the last three years the percentage of women undertaking community payback orders has increased from 16% of the total number of people on such orders to 20% which is positive.

### Drug Treatment and Testing Orders 2017/18 to 2019/20

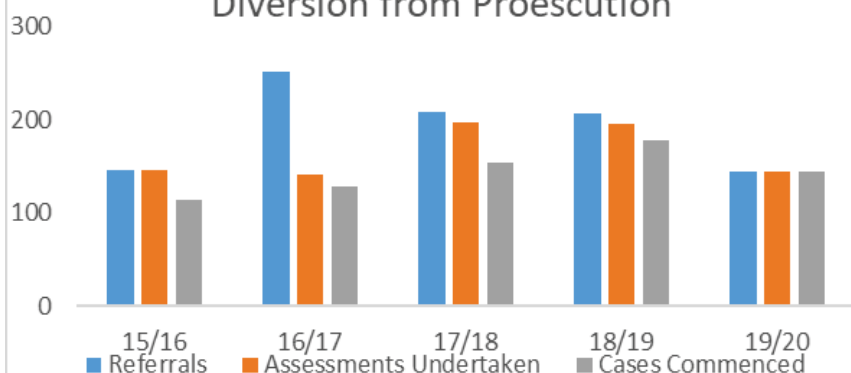


■ 2017/18 ■ 2018/19 ■ 2019/20

**DTTO**—As can be seen from the chart opposite the use of DTTO has more than doubled in Dumfries and Galloway since 2017/18. This is a positive; justice social workers have built skills within this area of the service.

Time has also been spent on developing groupwork for those service users involved in substance use. This is in its infancy but should provide a more holistic and robust case management model and link better with recovery orgs.

### Diversion from Proescution



**Diversion** has decreased this year, although most of the 145 people referred and who have been assessed have started (144) which is encouraging. Multi agency discussions are required to understand the decrease.

Apex Scotland's Moving On service provides support to service users (16+) across Dumfries and Galloway to address personal barriers to employability. The service is aimed at those involved in or at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviours, and those who are socially isolated as a result of problems including homelessness, substance misuse, low literacy and numeracy, lack of work or education, etc.; obviously this is something Apex cannot achieve alone. The Moving On service is contributing already to the Scottish Government's report "No One Left Behind" - next steps for the integration and alignment of employability support in Scotland. Although the service has a focus on employability staff carry out a holistic assessment, supporting and signposting to other relevant partners for help with addiction, mental health etc. As part of the employability work people are encouraged to take responsibility for their offences and work with a Personal Development Mentor to produce a letter of disclosure, enabling them to disclose previous convictions to employers in the correct way, whilst focussing on the positive steps they have taken to move their lives forward; this can be extremely empowering for the individuals involved. Attendance at Moving On appointments contributes towards an individual's other activities for their CPO both in Dumfries and Stranraer. This has increased over the last year by increasing the frequency of attending the CPO inductions in both Dumfries and Stranraer

During 2019-2020 the Moving On Service received 196 referrals (256 2018/19) with 109 people engaging 55.6% (186 engaged 2018/19), this is a decrease on the previous year. 169 of those referred were male which mirrors the previous year and the majority (93 people) were aged between 25 and 40 years old.

#### **Soft Outcomes - The following soft outcomes were achieved:**

Displayed a positive change in attitude, confidence and self-esteem:	90	(45.9%)
Completed Letter of disclosure and understand relevance of their convictions:	41	(20.9%)
Completed a CV:	55	(28%)
Applied for jobs:	31	(15.8%)
Interview for employment/education:	9	(4.5%)
Referred to specialist support agency:	5	(2.5%)
<b>Total achieving at least one soft outcome:</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>(45.9%)</b>



#### **Hard Outcomes (40% will achieve a hard outcome.)**

Achieved full time/part time employment:	12	(6.1%)
Undertook accredited training:	40	(20.4%)
Achieved full time education:	0	(%)
<b>Total achieving at least one hard outcome:</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>(26.5%)</b>

Whilst the percentage of people achieving hard outcomes has remained largely the same there has been a fall in the number achieving soft outcomes. Anecdotal information from those delivering the service has been that people referred to the service have been particularly chaotic this year therefore engagement for support has been more challenging and should be recognised as an outcome in its own right.

PEOPLE SAID.....


**Chris\* from unpaid work**

"Yeah its improved a lot. I was on Community Service (unpaid work) six or seven years ago and you were always treated as part of the crowd. You know we all were made to do the same thing. Now it's like so much more accommodating.

As well as increasing my awareness & understanding in order to help families I will be able to share information with families.

I don't like groups and the workers helped me to feel like an individual. There was one worker who helped me a lot with woodworking, this guy found of way of being able to relate to me and explained things in a simple and helpful way. I learnt a lot making benches and planters and now me and my dad make stuff like that at home. It's been good to be treated like an individual and not a criminal. I just want to get on with my life now, keep myself to myself and look after my kids. Unpaid work has been good for me".

This training has given me a basis for potential work with young people referred who may have a parent/sibling in prison. I don't have any of my caseload at the moment but have had several in the past. I will pass on some of the information and resources within my own team.



Sarah\* was attending her CPO induction and was made aware of the Moving On Service. She agreed to attend an initial appointment at Apex to find out more and create an action plan with her Personal Development Mentor. Sarah had never been employed as she was a young mother of four children and due to the abusive relationship, she had been in found herself on the wrong side of the law. Her confidence was low, and she couldn't see a positive future for herself and her children.

At her second appointment she had time to think about what she wanted to do and what the Moving On service could offer her. She agreed to start our SQA Level 4 Employability course and to volunteer in the foodbank with these hours going towards her CPO.

Sarah's confidence has grown, and she has commented on how working with others has helped this along with a feeling of growth and moving forward by learning new skills and getting properly prepared for employment or further studies. Sarah continues to engage as a volunteer and will be completing her Subject Access application so she can get a good understanding of how her conviction might affect her future prospects and how to overcome this in a positive way.

Paul\* has been an Apex service user in the Moving On service for several years. He has a long history of offending behaviour and completes some of his CPO hours helping at Apex in the food bank and charity shop. Paul has a long history of substance misuse and is a recovering heroin user who is medicated and also supported through drug support services.

Paul suffers from depression and anxiety (largely around the death of his brother) and requires regular checks to ensure he is coping. At the start of March Paul's Personal Development Mentor (PDM) had concerns regarding how Paul would cope with the impending Covid-19 lockdown, these concerns were discussed with Paul's community health drugs worker and it was agreed that the best course of action would be to see if we could find a family member who would be willing to have Paul stay with them during the lockdown.

Initially it was felt the best person within the family to support Paul would be his sister, Paul was assisted to phone his sister and ask if he could come and isolate with her and her family. This however proved not to be possible as his sister was not willing to risk Paul staying and not living within the rules of lockdown and therefore putting both her and her children at greater risk. Paul's sister also had concerns around the risk of Paul returning to his substance misuse habits. Paul's sister however advised that their mother might be willing to have him stay and isolate with her, (Paul has not had contact with his mother in 7 years due to an argument).

Paul's sister phoned his Apex PDM to say that their mother was willing for Paul to go and stay with her during the lockdown. No one was sure how Paul would react to this so his PDM spoke to him about this and Paul eventually agreed to give it a go. Paul's PDM contacted his drugs worker to get his medication sorted to a chemist in the new town which was more than 90 miles away from where he currently lives. He also contacted Criminal Justice to inform them of his change of address (for curfew and bail purposes).

Paul was given bus times and a food parcel to take with him to relieve some financial pressure on his mum and the household. Paul's PDM would phone him the next day to check he had arrived safely and to check how things were going. His PDM has phoned him 2-3 times per week to offer support and advice and just to check that everything is going well. He has spoken to both Paul and his mother regularly, and things are going very well. Paul was reminded to contribute financially when he got his benefits through and he did indeed give his mother £200 towards bills and shopping.

Paul's PDM has kept in contact with all other agencies to keep them informed of how things are going, and everyone is very pleased that this has worked out and Paul has been with his mother for 5 weeks now. This has worked out better than anyone could have expected, and it is great to know that Paul is safe during these difficult times and he is also building family bridges that had been fractured for so many years.

The stories provided demonstrate the chaos that many people in the justice system live with. Thanks again to all involved for allowing us to share these stories. Next year we would like to share stories from those going through the journey, in their own words rather than the words of those supporting them. Watch this space!

## WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAID....

*As the Governor in HMP Dumfries I have been working with Dumfries and Galloway (D&G) CJP for nearly two years. We are a small establishment and D&G is a small local authority. What works here and what is promoted and supported by D&G CJP is the synergy between the partners. Due to our size many of us attend the same meetings related to community justice, this allows a greater understanding of our respective roles and responsibilities. D&G CJP are central to this concept, bringing partners together and promoting multi-functional working to achieve agreed outcomes.*

*Down here small is definitely beautiful and with D&G CJP all partners have a voice and are recognised and valued for the work we do. I believe this in turn promotes a high degree of reciprocity which generates the enthusiasm to look at local approaches and solutions which, contribute to national outcomes by best meeting the needs of this community*

*Linda Dorward, Governor in Charge, HMP Dumfries*

The partnership I feel has really grown and strengthened over the last year. As a Third Sector partner I don't feel any less valued than the statutory agencies and it really gives us a voice. I am confident that everyone in the partnership really wants to make a difference to individuals involved in the justice system in Dumfries and Galloway and realise it can't be done in isolation. The partnership allows us to work collectively together to make the difference.

*Mhairi Ross, Service Development Manager, Apex Scotland*

*Dumfries and Galloway Police Division value the multi-agency partnership working that exists within the Community Justice Partnership. This wider network enables us to share best practice and look for opportunities for shared learning and continuous improvement. Our collaboration with the CJP is key to delivering our Policing priorities*

*Inspector McCombe, Police Scotland*

**“SHE'S NOT ENOUGH OF AN ADDICT. SHE'S NOT ENOUGH OF A MENTAL HEALTH PATIENT. SHE'S NOT ENOUGH OF A CRIMINAL, YOU KNOW. SHE'S JUST NOT ENOUGH OF ANYTHING TO GET LIKE A PACKAGE.”**

One of the key pieces of research published in June 2019 was the [Hard Edges](#) Scotland Report. This report clearly demonstrates overlap between mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse, involvement in the justice system and poverty in Scotland. One of the standout quotes from the report can be seen above. The other main finding was that the criminal justice system was used as the last resort 'safety net' for people facing SMD whom other services routinely failed to provide with the help they desperately needed. We can and must do better, but none of us can do that alone.



**As always we are finishing by saying thank you.**

**Thank you to all our partners who support the work of the partnership as well as working hard within their own organisation, none of this could have been achieved without you all!**

**From the case studies we continue to see how hard people work to turn to their lives around, and how hard our partners work to support them to do that. Nobody wants to live their life in and out of courts and prison but it takes a lot of work and commitment to make things different; often this begins with hope! Thank you to all of you and we hope your journey continues on a positive path.**





## Community Justice Scotland Consultation Annual Activity Report 2019/20 Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership response Report prepared by: Vikki Binnie, Community Justice Partnership Manager and Gordon Pattinson, Chair of D&G CJP and Public Protection Manager

The Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership welcome the opportunity to be involved in the consultation. The following information is in response to our request for comments to local community justice partners on the **Community Justice Scotland Annual Activity Report** and is submitted on behalf of the Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Once again, overall, the report is useful, demonstrating the breadth of work taking place across Scotland and it is particularly useful to see local practice examples and links to community justice case studies and activities evidencing local partnership approaches to meeting outcomes. This reflects some of our feedback we made on last year's report in relation to explaining how areas highlighted achieved the work undertaken. The report is easy to read and understand and instruction within the covering email made it easy to navigate in its current form, we understand that the final document will be even easier to read through.

As we stated in our feedback last year, whilst we recognise this report is a legislative requirement and based on evidence from local CJPs it would be useful to include a section outlining the activity and progress of Community Justice Scotland towards National Outcomes. This would enable us and our local communities to see more clearly how the work of the national body is supporting work taking place in local areas and allowing local partnerships to build on work taking place nationally. Furthermore, it would allow us as local partnerships to evidence to our communities, the role Community Justice Scotland play which remains lacking. Whilst we understand Community Justice Scotland provide a separate Annual Report, we again believe the lack of reporting on Community Justice Scotland activity within this document is a significant omission and would be useful; it would also help demonstrate collaborative partnership working.

As stated above the report outlines progress towards national outcomes however there is no information regarding the critical local outcomes all partnerships are also working towards. Perhaps a paragraph explaining that local areas are working towards local outcomes which then support national outcomes would be useful contextually. Many local partnerships will be prioritising local outcomes for their activity.

It would be useful to outline the different models' local partnerships are utilising across the country and how this potentially impacts on the work taking place. For example, Community Justice Ayrshire uses a pan Ayrshire model with all three local authority areas working together. This has meant there is a single partnership supported by three times the funding of other areas broadening the scope of work which can be undertaken and supported, with a team in place to carry out that work; Community Justice Glasgow has also pulled in additional resource and is supported by a wider team of people. It would be useful and fairer to outline some of these structural differences to provide context.

As stated last year we would reiterate that it would be useful to have access to the annual report before Christmas to enable a longer consultation period, three weeks is a short timescale to comment on such a substantial document, particularly in the current situation.



## FOREWORD

It is slightly disappointing that the foreword is framed particularly negatively which may not encourage those with little knowledge of the justice system to continue reading. The foreword acknowledges pressures of the pandemic but then states, *'Irrespective of challenges, it is crucial that community justice partners meet their statutory duties, and it is evident that, despite some good practice around the country, some areas in Scotland are not achieving this'*. It may be useful to add here how Community Justice Scotland as the National body are supporting local areas to meet these duties as part of their improvement role.

The foreword goes on to state that *'Although a broad range of community justice improvement activity is being delivered locally there is a lack of evidence to show a deep understanding of the people, their needs and the composition of community justice services'*, this is a particularly damning and unwarranted statement to make based on lack of understanding at a national level of local pressures; we would argue that partners involved in community justice do indeed have a deep understanding of the people using their services, particularly colleagues in Justice Social Work and third sector; perhaps more consideration needs to go to how this might be better captured within the reporting template.

The report recognises the difficulties and challenges in aggregation of information, but we must accept that evidence does not always require data, the expertise of partners around local community justice partnership tables should be recognised and accepted as an evidence base when it comes to local need.

It is interesting that drug related deaths feature in the foreword. Whilst it is entirely true that a public health approach has never been more needed there is no recognition or explanation of the fact that all funding in relation to this sits with local Alcohol and Drug Partnerships. Perhaps some joint resource allocated between CJP's and ADP's may help with this approach.

The revision of the OPI Framework is welcome. Notwithstanding, local areas are once again sadly criticised in relation to data and it is once again noted that no consistent comparison or measure of progress can be demonstrated by local areas. Yet point four in the Executive Summary states *'It will not be possible for CJP's to fully assess their progress against local and national outcomes until a revised OPI framework has been published'* it is therefore unfair to criticise local partnerships when the fault lies at a national level in the original OPI design; we acknowledge this was prior to the creation of Community Justice Scotland.

The report states *'local Coordinators shoulder much of the burden of analysis, reporting and coordinating, which is too broad a role for most to perform'* it is good to see this recognised. Additional resource at a local level would help with this, enabling local partnerships to consider utilising funding for analytical support for local performance frameworks (if required, however the review of OPI may mean a local framework is not needed), support with SNSA etc. Once again there is a strong emphasis on SNSA production. As a local partnership we also agree that this work is crucial to underpinning improvement activity however the report does not take in to account either the current pandemic situation, pressure on partners, restart, and recovery of various stages of the justice system or the single officer structure. Partnerships are also currently still working towards outcomes within current plans which are several months behind due to Covid.



Whilst SNSA guidance<sup>1</sup> is welcomed there is no additional resource available at a local level to undertake this work which is what is actually required. As mentioned last year the original intention was for a national SNSA to be undertaken which would then support local areas to undertake their own local SNSA. We understand that this could not be done due to a lack of resource and whilst this was accepted at a national level, these same challenges do not seem to be recognised in the same way in relation to local partnership capacity despite local areas having significantly less resource available to them.

Later in the foreword it does however state *'There is a huge ask of CIPs and partners going into the next reporting year, to work together and adapt the delivery of services and address backlogs caused by the pandemic, whilst continuing to look for opportunities to prevent offending, repair lives and improve our communities. This should not be underestimated. The lives of the people passing through our services will have been radically changed, and many will have deteriorated'*. This is such an important point yet, as stated earlier local partnerships are still being asked to undertake significant SNSAs within this landscape which is both inappropriate and unrealistic. The last twelve months and current ongoing Covid situation make strategic planning extremely challenging whilst services and partners need to prioritise the ability to remain flexible and dynamic in their response.

We agree that longer term funding for third sector services would be beneficial and increase efficiency and effectiveness, enabling better planning. We would argue that it would be more appropriate for this funding to sit at a local level ensuring the right services are being delivered to meet any locally identified needs/gaps. If a national approach was taken the one that that worked well for Dumfries and Galloway was the Public Social Partnership model with a national service ensuring consistency but delivered by local service providers with well established relationships in local areas. It should be noted that this was more successful with the women's mentoring service than the New Routes mentoring service for men.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary states that *'CIPs are skilled at demonstrating person centred outcomes through the development of personal stories and case studies.'* This statement appears to be at odds to earlier statements in relation to local partnerships not understanding the needs of people.

The Summary of Recommendations on page eight is particularly useful, it is encouraging to see recommendations for Community Justice Scotland and Scottish Government within this.

CJ Coordinators were told that a training needs analysis would be undertaken in 2017, and the required support/training given. The first training delivered to Coordinators/Managers in relation to SNSA regarding inference and interpretation of data took place in December 2020; this training was extremely useful but would have been even more beneficial prior to the first SNSAs being produced prior to the first year of local CIPs.

Governance and accountability have been highlighted again this year. The new model for community justice was set up to enable local areas to structure partnerships and governance in a way that suited them best, it should be no surprise then that this is now very different across the country. It is useful to be reminded of the Care Inspectorate Guide to Self-Evaluation for Community Justice in Scotland, reminding us to make more use of this at a local level to measure effectiveness. The link to self-evaluations that have already been undertaken is helpful.

<sup>1</sup> See page 18 'Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way – Key findings.



Whilst it is part of our statutory duty and a legislative requirement to have an up-to-date Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan it is not helpful or useful to name the areas where this work is outstanding. This tactic is not conducive to building supportive and collaborative relationships between local and national, appearing to name and shame rather than support and improve. As mentioned previously it would also be useful to provide information within this section on what steps have been taken by CJS as the national body, to support and work towards improvements. This may help add some context and aid understanding. The graphic showing the range of partners and stakeholders that attend CJP meetings could be clarified by stating that this includes subgroups of CJsPs and national meetings.

The Community Justice Key Facts presented on page thirteen is useful, if some of this could be broken down by local authority area it would be even better and could be used for local briefings, training sessions etc. The inclusion of 'Areas for improvement in 2018/19 reporting period' throughout the report is also useful, it is helpful to see what progress has been made to the areas highlighted over the last year.

## MAIN REPORT

The standardisation of CPO exit questionnaires is mentioned several times throughout this report. This is the third year that this has appeared in the CJS Annual Activity Report with a previous recommendation that CJS would work with colleagues in Justice Social Work on this. We would be interested to know if there has been any progress in this area as this would appear to be a fairly easy and achievable action.

Engagement with third sector and victim organisations is an ongoing feature within the report, and we agree this is extremely important. As one of the areas who has good third sector involvement it would be more balanced if it were acknowledged that this already takes place within some partnerships; perhaps highlighting any positive differences it makes.

Whilst those attending partnerships locally are representing their organisation, it is important to remember that they are also members of the local community, in Dumfries and Galloway this includes attendance and involvement from people from both the East and the West of the region. We feel it is therefore unfair to state that '*At a partnership level there is only one known example in Scotland where members of the public are standing members of a CJP, representing their community*<sup>2</sup>'.

The report states<sup>3</sup> that regular briefings are carried out with Chairs and Elected Members, at the time of publication there had been two meetings with Chairs with a third planned. It would be useful if CJP Coordinators/Managers were also informed of any briefings for either Chairs or Elected Members beforehand for local briefings to be provided and questions raised if required.

In relation to the data sharing agreement between local authority areas and SPS, whilst CJS were responsible for a great deal of work in relation to this which is to be applauded it would be useful to acknowledge that the Emergency Release of Prisoners was the catalyst for the final sign off for such agreements across Scotland.

It would be useful to outline the outcomes achieved from the **Making the Change** programme within this report rather than simply being directed to the main programme report. Evidencing just one or two tangible outcomes would add value to the project and make it more worthwhile.

<sup>2</sup> See page 16 'Involving people with lived experience'.

<sup>3</sup> See page 18 – Key findings point four.



Whilst it is correct that a number of services are delivered within community justice it should be made explicitly clear that local Community Justice Partnerships do not receive enough/any additional funding to undertake specific tests of change or commission services. Whilst funding is provided to deliver community justice services this is ring fenced through S27 for statutory services or awarded to third sector partners following successful funding bids. As a local partnership we have supported third sector partners with funding bids and applied for funding on their behalf to our local Alcohol and Drug Partnership, but we are not in a position to commission services ourselves as such. The commissioning paper referred to is useful to reference as a framework for collaborative working but is not focussed on funding or securing money for service delivery. Partners locally found the use of the word commissioning confusing and somewhat misleading.

It may be worth noting within the Self Evaluation section of the report that the Care Inspectorate continued with their Inspections of Justice Social Work last year with local Community Justice Partnerships supporting some of that work and development of staff locally; this was noted in the Inspection report for Dumfries and Galloway.

Page 22 of the report states *'Multi-agency working demands robust information sharing arrangements. The rules around information sharing are generally poorly understood and CJPs are anxious to ensure they get information sharing arrangements right to avoid the creation of barriers in connecting people to services.'* Do local partnerships require data sharing agreements with local partners when many of these are national statutory partners involved in Community Justice? Could, or should this action be driven forward at a national level mirroring some of the successful work previously carried out with SPS. Where is the evidence that rules around information sharing are poorly understood by local partnerships?

The report goes on to state that SDS launched their My World of Work website in 2019. My world of work was actually launched on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 not 2019. It was majorly refreshed in 2015; since then, it has continued to be developed further on an ongoing basis.

We note the section within the report which says that there is no universal bail support and supervision intervention with structured deferred sentences and diversion services also being inconsistent. Surely this is an issue that needs to be raised at Scottish Government level rather than CJP level as SG currently provide ring fenced funding to Justice Social Work through Section 27 and this may need to be increased to ensure consistent delivery across the country. Furthermore, ultimately the decision to use bail support and supervision sits with the Sheriff who can choose to use this option or not.

Information around the outcome considering effective interventions<sup>4</sup> seems to focus on the impact of the pandemic when the effects of the pandemic were just beginning to be felt in March 2020. Further, the section detailing the Caledonian System states that a series of guidance notes were produced by CJS to support Caledonian System Managers in the delivery of this sensitive work. This guidance was not available until 25th March 2020, five days before the end of the reporting period for this report; at this stage it is difficult to ascertain how useful the guidance was and how it was utilised. We would expect this to be reported on in the next reporting period (2020/21)

Page 27 of the report states that local CJPs are unable to consistently provide data within their submissions for this report in relation to community interventions and sentences. Is this to do with

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<sup>4</sup> See page 26.



the timing of the report and availability of data or is this referring to local partners and their ability to provide data? It is important to clarify this and add valuable context for improvements to be made. It is acknowledged throughout the report that the OPI Framework as it stands is challenging, with some of the data unavailable, it would be useful to re-emphasise this in this section to offer more balance.

The recording and reporting of remand decisions is an important issue, it is positive to see this being highlighted within this report.

The report states *'There is no common tool used to measure person-centred outcomes.'* This is something that we have highlighted locally since the inception of the current model for community justice and may be something that could be better influenced at a national level. This is supported by the following statement and recommendation from page 31 of the report *'A consistent tool or framework is necessary for the reporting of person-centred outcomes at a national level and should be a consideration in the OPI framework review'.*

This is again mentioned in relation to throughcare with challenges highlighted around no consistent measure which captures distance travelled within an individual's reintegration journey. The provision of data in relation to throughcare is mentioned on page 35 of the report. Data was provided regularly to Community Justice Authorities who were represented on both programme and project boards of both national Public Social Partnerships (PSP). This remains a gap under the current model for community justice. Locally we can access data through our local delivery partners on an annual basis, individual cases are discussed via the Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board (MACRIB) Chaired by colleagues in SPS with information now being fed in to CJP as required.

Support for families and friends of those undertaking community sentences is a gap that has been highlighted on more than one occasion, unfortunately the support provided by Families Outside cannot stretch to this group of individuals despite strong, resilient families being a protective factor when it comes to offending behaviour. Support to address this at a national level is to be welcomed.

Whilst a greater use of technology is welcome (see page 36, Key Finding point 2) and suits many people, the pandemic has demonstrated real issues with digital poverty and exclusion in relation to access to devices and data, inadvertently placing additional pressures and costs on many of our most vulnerable people. We also need to recognise that many people still struggle with any internet access at all due to their rurality; a blended approach is therefore required enabling choice and empowering people.

The recommendation on page 39 of this report states that CJS should facilitate a national discussion between the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service in relation to effective engagement with CJPs and this is welcomed. A recent Community Justice Network Event started these discussions in January 2021 and was warmly received by Community Justice Coordinators/Managers. It would be good to see this work continue and built on in the future.

Overall, we acknowledge the challenges raised within this report and appreciate the work that has gone in to producing it. The layout flows better this year and the updates from 2018/19 are positive. Links to work taking place within local CJPs is welcomed and benefits other areas. We have highlighted digital poverty and exclusion within our feedback and consideration should be given to



how people might access some of the information and case examples contained within the document links if they could only access a hard copy of the report.

Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership hope that the points raised are constructive and useful to the consultation being undertaken and as previously stated we welcome the opportunity to comment on this Annual Activity Report 2019/20.





Item 10**ANNUAL REPORTS OF THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP****1. Background****1.1 Our Community Planning**

[Performance Management Framework](#) identifies a number of strategic thematic groups that contribute to the work of the Community Planning Partnership Board and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan; and that the Executive Group receives and scrutinises an Annual Report from each of them throughout the year, subsequently reporting to the Board with an assurance of the effectiveness and efficiency of these partnerships.

1.2 As the Executive Group is currently holding its scheduled meetings due to the COVID Emergency, the Annual Reports are presented direct to the Board for consideration. At this March meeting, Partnerships relating to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Outcomes 1-4 have been submitted.

**2. Key issues**

2.1 Key issues that the Board may wish to consider, drawn from our Partnership '[Working Together Better Guide](#)' checklist are as follows:

- Leadership benchmark – are all members committed?
- Process benchmark – are Objectives set and achieved?
- Practice and learning benchmark – do members learn from each other and elsewhere?

2.2 To assess this, the Board could consider:

- meetings held
- any issues around participation
- main issues in the workplan and achievements
- training and development of members

2.3 The thematic partnerships invited to submit their Annual Reports to this meeting are:

- Economic Leadership Group: Chair Sheena Horner, Support: Lynne Burgess Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Local Employability and Skills Partnership: Chair, Councillor Rob Davidson, Support: Lynne Burgess Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Integration Joint Board: Chair Cllr Andy Ferguson, Support Alison Warwick, Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership
- Strategic Housing Forum: Chair Cllr Archie Dryburgh; Support Jamie Little, Dumfries and Galloway Council

### **3. Recommendations**

The CPP Board is invited to scrutinise the Annual Reports and provide feedback to the Partnerships on possible areas for improvement in the coming year.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
1 March 2021

### **Appendices**

- 1 - Economic Leadership Group Annual Report
- 2 - Local Employability and Skills Partnership Annual Report
- 3 - Integration Joint Board Annual Report Annual Report
- 4 – Strategic Housing Forum Annual Report

**Item 10 Appendix 1****ANNUAL REPORT DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP GROUP**

In 2020 – 2021 a key focus for the Economic Leadership has been on supporting Dumfries & Galloway to become a carbon negative region. At its meeting in November 2020 the Group learned that the bid to the Low Carbon Challenge Fund for a Dumfries & Galloway Business Carbon Challenge project had been unsuccessful in the final stage. While disappointed the group were clear that they would continue to support regional developments for a carbon neutral region.

The group were therefore pleased to hear from Councillor Dougie Campbell and council officers on the council's climate change declaration and noted their interest in supporting the council with this development. The group also heard about the importance of apprenticeships and agreed to nominate 2-3 members to support the development of a regional apprenticeship group. The Economic Leadership Group looks forward to receiving the final data on the Regional Economic Strategy when this is available.

**Future Work Programme**

With the ending of the current Dumfries & Galloway Regional Economy Strategy in Dec 2020 the Economic Leadership Group discussed their next steps. Members agreed that they could support and contribute to the economic recovery of the region and were keen to explore this further.

Three workshops were held in February 2021 and agreed a continued purpose for the group as:

- *a collective voice for the diversity of business in Dumfries & Galloway, advising, advocating and a critical friend to the agencies at a strategic level to influence ministers, senior civil servants and politicians for the benefit and prosperity of the region*
- *a consultative group influencing the outputs from South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Borderlands, Scottish Government, UK Government*

Specifically, the group is interested in contributing to and supporting:

- *Covid Recovery planning*
- *Carbon negative region*
- *Fair Work*
- *Systems change*
- *An enterprising region*
- *Help drive investment into region*
- *A Just Transition*
- *Energy Transition*
- *Wellbeing Economy*
- *Place Based approach*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Education, Skills and Training*
- *Demographic shift*



## **Item 10 Appendix 2**

### **Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board Annual Report**

In what has been a challenging year for the Health and Social Care Partnership, the Integration Joint Board as its governing body has had to change the way it has operated in order that all partners could respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

In previous years the IJB has met on a bi-monthly basis in locations around the region. Following the first meeting of the year in Stranraer on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, and in response to the Pandemic, the meeting scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> April in Annan was postponed, and a decision was taken by the Chief Officer in discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair to convene future meetings via Microsoft Teams. At the rescheduled meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April it was agreed that the IJB would operate interim governance arrangements, delegated power would be given to the Chief Officer if required and that no other Meetings, Committees and Workshops other than the IJB would take place until further notice.

Throughout the year the IJB met a total of 9 times and Members adapted well to the new way of working and to the use of Microsoft Teams for meetings. Committees reconvened in the later part of the year with the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> September to take Members through the Annual Report and Accounts and Clinical and Care Governance Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> November which discussed the Joint Annual Report for Children's Services, Technology Enabled Care and an update by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Fortunately the Integration Partnership Forum managed to hold 3 of its 4 scheduled meetings throughout the year and the Strategic Planning Partnership 1 meeting to begin to take its Members through the next iteration of the Strategic Commissioning Plan.

At its meeting in October the IJB noted changes to its NHS Voting Membership, the Vice Chair Penny Halliday was replaced by Laura Douglas, existing voting member, and new Voting Members Marsali Caig and Vicky Keir and Bill Irving, Chair of Area Partnership Forum was appointed as a substitute NHS Voting Member.

The focus of 2020 for the Integration Joint Board was to receive reports on the Partnership response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Remobilisation Plans, the work of the Sustainability and Modernisation Programme including delivery of its tactical priorities, a revision to the Integration Scheme, development of the new Strategic Commissioning Plan, Financial Plans (including the Annual Accounts), Performance Reporting, Housing with Care and Support Strategy, Plan for Palliative Care, Digital Health Strategy, Drug and Alcohol Partnership updates, Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report and the Care and Support at Home Framework.

Looking forward to 2021 the Integration Joint Board will see changes to the position of Chair and Vice Chair, will continue to receive reports on the response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Sustainability and Modernisation Programme (delivery of the Mass Vaccination Programme, Test and Protect, Redesign of Urgent Care, Redesign of Planned Care and the development of Home Teams and Single Access Point within the Community setting) as well as progress work on the next Strategic Commissioning Plan.

At this time the Integration Joint Board continues to operate in interim governance arrangements.

**Alison Warrick**  
**Corporate Governance Officer**  
**Integration Joint Board**  
**February 2021**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY LOCAL EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS PARTNERSHIP**

Dumfries & Galloway Local Employability & Skills Partnership (LEP) has met six times since the last Annual Report with additional subgroups meeting to work on the action plan, the delivery of the Young Person's Guarantee and supporting a regional approach to the UK Government Kickstart programme. The current membership is attached as Annex A . The remit of the group is outlined in the framework document at Annex 2.

### Performance

- Collaborated on a three-year action plan for the LEP
- Approved new Terms of Reference and action plan for Young Person's Guarantee Partnership, including endorsement of role for Youth Council as critical friend to the partnership.
- Requested establishment of regional approach to Kickstart, aligned to Young Persons Guarantee training allowances. Four local Gateways now working together providing consistent and coordinated approach for private, public and third sector employers

### Future Work Programme

Due to the pandemic the partnership is currently meeting on a monthly basis. Members are working on a three-year action plan which will be reported on at each meeting and reviewed at least annually.

- Collaboration with Scottish Borders LEP for potential development of app to provide coordinated access to employability support across the South of Scotland.
- Working in a collective leadership approach to prepare for and support economic recovery
- Using the Scottish Approach to Service Design to enable co-production of a regional person-centred employability service

### Contributions to the LOIP

The partnership action plan objectives strongly support outcome 1 of the LOIP with good cross-functional contributions to the other outcomes. Those LEP objectives designed to support Outcome 1 – Everyone who needs help to work receives the right support are:

1. To drive forward and implement the shared ambitions and actions of No One Left Behind and the response to Covid -19 and Brexit to ensure the right support is available in the right way at the right time.

2. To use a range of evidence including labour market data and the actual experience of service users to inform decision making, identify priorities and support effective partnership delivery.
3. To agree shared local governance to streamline the employability landscape, support collaborative working and coordinate resources to improve opportunities and outcomes.
4. To set and monitor quality standards for employability provision and encourage compliance by providers.
5. To align delivery with delivery of the Young Person's Guarantee as per the Young Person's Guarantee Partnership Terms of Reference
6. To encourage employers to adopt fair work principles and promote inclusive growth which is sustainable for people and the planet.

Any other issues to bring to the attention of the CPP Board

- Forward planning for continued collective delivery of Young Person's Guarantee and note that the partnership themed week to support shared communication of the Young Person Guarantee is this week commencing, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Membership

• Organisation	Name
Dumfries & Galloway Council Chair Economy & Resources Committee	<b>Cllr. Rob Davidson (Chair of LEP)</b>
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Steve Rogers, Head of Economy & Development Lynne Burgess Employability, Skills & Partnerships Manager
Dumfries and Galloway Council Education Services	Gillian Brydson Director, Skills, Education & Learning
Department for Work and Pensions	TBC - Craig Hope Employer & Partnership Manager
Skills Development Scotland	Hazel Mathieson, Head of Region Andrea Hall, Area Manager
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	Victoria McDade
Dumfries & Galloway Economic Leadership Group Chair	Sheena Horner Chair, ELG
Dumfries and Galloway College	Janet Weir Director of Curriculum
Scotland's Rural Colleges	Nick Sparks Dean South West Faculty
South of Scotland Enterprise	Brian McGrath Director of Operations
Developing Young Workforce Regional Group	Laura Douglas Chair
Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway	Norma Austin Hart Chief Executive Officer
Community Justice Partnership	Vikki Binnie Community Justice Partnership Manager
Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI)	Gary Robertson South of Scotland Manager
Chief Executive, Loreburn Housing Association	Lorraine Usher Chief Executive
South West of Scotland Transport Partnership	Josef Coombey Policy & Project Officer
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Thomas Keay Group Commander



## Framework for Local Employability Partnerships

### Purpose

To enable collective leadership and shared commitment across partners to effectively implement the policy intent for a more aligned approach to national and local employability support in Scotland, reflecting the need to deliver a more coherent employability provision locally, in line with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan aligned to the National performance Framework.

The Partnership will take forward at a local level the actions from the No One Left Behind delivery plan<sup>1</sup> and Covid – 19 response based on the principles which underpin the approach contained within the **partnership agreement** for employability agreed by Scottish and Local Government.

In addition Schedule 1 outlines the local partnership framework for delivering the Young Person's Guarantee.

### Vision

Supporting people into fair, sustainable jobs is central to delivering many of the ambitions for an inclusive, sustainable economy with well-being at its core. Employability services are pivotal to avoiding the widening of social and economic inequalities by supporting those who are most vulnerable. Local Employability Partners recognise the vital role that a range of organisations across the employability landscape play, and are committed to protecting a diverse range of provision and ensuring that the right support is put into place for those who rely on these services.

The partnership will build on the strengths of existing national and local services, to better align funding and to improve the integration of employability services with other support to ensure that services are designed and delivered around the needs and aspirations of those using our services.

### Objectives

- To drive forward and implement the shared ambitions and actions of No One Left Behind and the response to Covid -19 and Brexit to ensure the right support is available in the right way at the right time
- To use the Scottish Approach to Service Design to co-produce an all-age employability support service that is person-centred, more joined up, flexible and responsive to individual needs.
- To involve service users throughout the process
- To co-ordinate information-sharing and action between strategic and delivery partners.
- To utilise labour market statistics and available data to inform decisions, identify priorities and support an effective partnership response
- To co-ordinate resources to improve opportunities and outcomes
- To align as appropriate with regional and national approaches
- To align the delivery of the Young Person's Guarantee at a local level as per Schedule 1

### Key Roles and Responsibilities

We will adopt a collective leadership approach and ensure that we operate in a manner that is open, honest and accountable. We will work collaboratively to create an environment of trust and respect.

## Item 10 Appendix 4

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC HOUSING FORUM**

Elected Members agreed to establish the Strategic Housing Forum as a method of consultation with partner organisations to enable the development of the Local Housing Strategy 2018-23 (LHS). Membership includes Elected Members, a range of Council services, our Community Planning Partners, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), the Private Rented Sector and representatives of Private Housing Developers.

The broad terms of reference for the Strategic Housing Forum are to:

- Implement an inclusive approach to the development of the LHS.
- Provide opportunities for partner organisations and key stakeholders to identify local housing priorities.
- Ensure links are made with the other key strategies, policies and sectors through the development of a shared vision.
- Allow the opportunity to develop a shared “Dumfries and Galloway” response to key national housing policy issues.
- Maximise opportunities to attract inward investment to deliver new housing by working together.

Five strategic priorities have been identified within this strategy, though connected, they represent the complex nature of Dumfries and Galloway’s housing system and the potential for a range of diverse and positive impacts. These priorities are:

- Ensure that the available housing stock in our region is fully utilised and new housing development supports the sustainability of our towns, settlements and villages.
- We will work together with a range of stakeholders including the Adult Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure solutions are delivered that enable people to live as independently as possible in community settings.
- We will ensure that households who live in the private rented sector have a home that is safe, warm and achieves the required standards.
- We will help everyone in our region to live in warm, affordable, energy efficient homes.
- Ensure that people who live in privately owned property are able to live in homes that are of a high quality and in good condition.

It is a major challenge for the Council and its partners to deliver these strategic priorities within the constraints of limited resources. However, during consultation throughout the development of the LHS, all have expressed a willingness and commitment to work together collaboratively to achieve shared strategic priorities and to explore new ways of delivering positive outcomes for local residents.

## Operational arrangements

The LHS details the strategic approach of the Local Authority and its partners to delivering high quality housing related services across all tenures, to meet identified need in its region. The Forum continues to meet to monitor delivery of the LHS Action Plan and has come together once since the last annual report in November 2020, with a further meeting arranged for the 19 March 2021. Following the move to virtual events, the group have agreed to modify arrangements from the previous full day 6 monthly meetings to a half day quarterly forum. Preparations are underway to put in place this approach for the remainder of 2021. The Council's Climate Emergency Project Officer has now become a member of the Forum to ensure there are further opportunities to support the delivery of the new Council priority to 'Urgently respond to climate change and a transition to a carbon neutral region'.

## Performance

High quality housing is a vital part of the drive to secure economic growth, promote social justice, strengthen communities and tackle inequality. The Scottish Government recently published the Affordable Housing Supply Programme Out-turn Report for 2019-20. This highlighted that £18.7million of national investment was utilised in Dumfries and Galloway to increase the number of affordable homes available for local people. The Council's development partners have further supplemented this finance from their own funding arrangements, contributing to provide a total of 241 affordable homes in the financial year. To enable future delivery, approval was also granted for a further 355 homes, with site starts achieved for 166 properties. The construction of new affordable homes not only benefits those who are able to secure high quality accommodation. Other beneficiaries include the wider community in areas of derelict sites and people who secure employment in the construction sector and related industries plus the owners of local businesses where developments are located.

A project taken forward in partnership between the Council, the Adult Health and Social Care Partnership, the Scottish Government and Loreburn Housing Association has recently completed, providing new high quality homes for vulnerable people. Station Court in Annan was formerly a derelict building at a key gateway to the town centre. The new development has been specifically designed to meet the needs of residents from within the Annandale and Eskdale locality with learning disabilities. This will not only provide better living standards but also improve the delivery of services by partner organisations. Key learning from this project will be taken forward across this region to inform the work of the Housing with Care and Support Strategy Group.

The LHS is supported by a comprehensive action plan which sets out commitments to deliver its strategic objectives. A number of these actions are ongoing throughout the lifetime of the document and some examples are listed below:

**Strategic Objective 1** - Ensure that the available housing stock in our region is fully utilised and new housing development supports the sustainability of our towns, settlements and villages.

Example Action - Deliver the Council's annual £1million Town Centre Living Fund to maximise the impact of wider regeneration activities.

**Strategic Objective 2** - We will work together with a range of stakeholders including the Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure solutions are delivered that enable people to live as independently as possible in community settings.

Example action - Develop innovative housing models in partnership with key stakeholders for people with particular needs to be delivered through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

**Strategic Objective 3** - We will ensure that households who live in the private rented sector have a home that is safe, warm and achieves the required standards.

Example Action - Implement the Scottish Government's proposals to introduce energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector.

**Strategic Objective 4** We will help everyone in our region to live in warm, affordable, energy efficient homes.

Example Action - Support the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Declaration Strategic Plan by improving the energy efficiency of homes in our region.

**Strategic Objective 5** - Ensure that people who live in privately owned property are able to live in homes that are of a high quality and in good condition.

Example Action - Put in place a Scheme of Assistance detailing how the Council will provide advice and support to people who live in the private sector.

### Future Work Programme

The LHS and associated plans are continually reviewed to ensure they remain relevant in light of new and emerging policy directions. The next meeting of the Forum will consider further ways to support the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration Strategic Plan. There will be presentations to highlight the role that the housing sector locally is playing already, and the further support that can be provided. Subjects to be discussed include the construction of Passivhaus homes, recycling of furniture and household goods, enabling rural and community led housing and the future Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

### Contributions to the LOIP

The LHS contributes to a number of the outcomes contained in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2027, particularly Outcome 4 – There is affordable and warm housing for all.

The delivery of high quality housing and related services also supports the following outcomes and the actions drawn from supporting strategies and plans:

Outcome 3: Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced.

Outcome 5: The money available to people on Benefits and low wages is maximised.

Outcome 6: People are safe and feel safe.

Outcome 7: People are well connected.

Outcome 8: Individuals and communities are empowered.

### Any other issues to bring to the attention of the CPP Board

The Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 sets out a number of national funding commitments, including allocations for housing investment. Locally, investments from these sources will aim to support the aspirations set out in the LHS. At this time, further detail and allocations for this region are not yet known. However the successful delivery of these projects within Dumfries and Galloway will benefit local people in a number of ways, including through the improvement of living standards, creation of jobs, alleviating fuel poverty and reductions in carbon emissions. Some of these commitments are listed below:

- **Affordable Housing Supply Programme** - Delivering more affordable and social homes, helping to create great places, and continuing to ensure the right types of homes in the right places to support Local Housing Strategies and regional development priorities.
- **Energy Efficient Scotland** - Investment in domestic energy efficiency programmes and support the elimination of poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty.
- **Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund** - Fund to accelerate the delivery of energy efficient, low and zero carbon heat provision to social housing.
- **Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme** - A programme of investment supporting reuse of vacant and derelict land as part of a fair, green recovery.
- **Regeneration and Place** - Capital investment in support of Place, community led regeneration, town centres and 20 minute neighbourhoods.

The ongoing delivery of the LHS action plan and the role of the Strategic Housing Forum will be to improve the housing services delivered within the region. In addition, opportunities to provide wider strategic benefits will be key to maximise the

positive impacts for local people. The 23 March 2021 meeting of Economy and Resources Committee will consider funding allocations by the Council to support the Scheme of Assistance and the Town Centre Living Fund.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD - PROGRAMME FOR 2021

### 1. Background

This report updates members on the Community Planning Partnership Board's meeting arrangements for 2021.

### 2. Key issues

2.1 The Board at its meeting on 13 November 2020 agreed its forward plan for 2021.

2.2 The COVID emergency and Guidelines for social distancing have meant that meetings are currently fully virtual; with the intention that they will continue to operate on a hybrid basis as soon as possible.

2.3 The Executive Group meetings have been suspended since February 2020 due to the COVID19 Emergency and ongoing close liaison in the Resilience groupings. Therefore, annual reports from thematic partnerships and working groups are presented direct to the Board during this period.

### 3. Recommendations

The CPP Board is invited to agree the Board meeting arrangements and programme for the remainder of 2021 as set out in the Appendix, with partners encouraged to bring reports and issues to partners for consideration.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
26 February 2021

### Appendices – 1

1 –programme for CPP Board meetings for 2021 as at 26 February 2021



**DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
WORK PROGRAMME 2021**

	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Partnership Annual reports</b>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play Charter</li> <li>• Local Child Poverty Action Plan Annual Report 2020/21 and Action Plan for 2021-23</li> <li>• Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway Business Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Services Executive Group</li> <li>• Joint Meeting with the Youth Council</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locality planning progress report</li> <li>• New approaches to supporting vulnerable people – COVID Community Support Group - Lessons Learned</li> </ul>	For Outcomes 5-8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLD Partnership</li> <li>• Equality and Diversity Working Group</li> <li>• Tackling Poverty and Inequality Partnership</li> <li>• Participation and Engagement Working Group</li> <li>• Safer Communities Partnership</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOIP and Locality Plan Annual Reports</li> <li>• CPP Board Improvement Plan</li> <li>• CPP Board Risk Register</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID Recovery Group</li> </ul>

Notes:

- each meeting will receive an update on COVID and current strategic issues on the 12 key Plans and Strategies that support the LOIP
- the Community Planning Improvement Board will participate in one of the meetings – date tbc