

Scottish Community Development Centre submission of 10 June 2022

PE1902/C - To allow an appeal process for Community Participation Requests

When the working group plans to report to the Scottish Government, and if that report will be publicly available

SCDC has organised and facilitated two online sessions of the working group, followed by a larger consultative event targeting mainly community bodies and public service authorities. A draft report outlining emerging ideas from the two initial working group meetings is awaiting agreement by the group. These ideas will be honed into a final report based on current and future engagement work with the working group and wider stakeholders.

A number of possible proposals have emerged related to strengthening the participation request provisions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, and identifying potential models for local reviews, appeals and mediation. However, these require more discussion before being shared in their final form with the Scottish Government.

Therefore, we will continue to work with the working group through the summer and into the early autumn to further develop the proposals, support the group to engage with the Scottish Government and continue to gather evidence on the role that the introduction of reviews or appeals could play in improving the operation and therefore value of participation requests.

The work has been commissioned by the Scottish Government and will report to the Community Empowerment Team in the Scottish Government as part of their consideration of part three of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act. At this stage, it is not possible to say whether the report will be publicly available.

If that report will include recommendations on the introduction of an appeals process

As above, some proposals for a way forward are emerging related to the need to consider options for local reviews of decisions and outcomes of participation requests, and possibly wider, or higher level, appeals beyond this. In addition, the report is likely to include suggestions to strengthen principles and guidance for part 3 of the existing legislation in order to improve delivery of the legislative intent. The thoughts of the working group arising from this process will be presented to the Scottish Government as potential ideas to consider.

What further engagement you anticipate with communities on this issue.

SCDC hopes to be funded to deliver additional work to promote participation requests and support outcome improvement processes. The work to develop further community engagement in relation to reviews and appeals will be part of this process.