

Ariane Burgess MSP
Convenor
Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
Scottish Parliament
localgov.committee@parliament.scot

3 April 2023

Dear Ariane,

RE: INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY PLANNING

Thank you for your recent letter seeking **sportscotland's** input into the Committee's inquiry into Community Planning. I am happy to provide a response to your six questions.

1. How a national body such as Sportscotland engages with CPPs at a local level and works in partnership with other members.

As the national agency for sport, **sportscotland** is committed to working with all 32 local authorities, their Leisure Trusts (arms length external organisations), and Community Planning partners to contribute to the development of a world class sporting system for everyone, aligned to our corporate strategy, Sport for Life.

sportscotland currently invests in and works with all 32 local authorities through either customised 4-year Partnership Agreements (2023-2027) or 1-year Agreements to deliver shared national and local outcomes and priorities for sport and physical activity.

Our local authority Partnership Agreements align with the national strategic context (the National Performance Framework, the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework, Scotland's public health priorities and Sport for Life) and with Local strategic context (Community Planning outcomes, Local Outcome Improvement plans and local strategies for sport and physical activity).

Our engagement with CPPs varies across the 32 local authorities, dependent on the structure and priorities locally.

In our experience, our engagement is of most value where we are a full member of thematic sub-groups of the CPP Board. The sub-groups are an opportunity to bring more partners around the table. In practice, our engagement is most commonly a health and wellbeing sub-group. In some cases the local sport and physical activity strategy is also aligned to the CPP, with the leadership group for the strategy reporting into the CPP structures. Along with engagement at this thematic sub-group level, we benefit from a degree of visibility at CPP Board level, with attendance at CPP Board meetings on an agenda driver basis

Examples of this approach include North Ayrshire where we are represented on the health and wellbeing alliance, and Aberdeenshire where we are invited to the CPP Board and also the Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategic Partnership Group.

Head Office

Doges, Templeton on the Green, 62 Templeton Street, Glasgow G40 1DA
Tel: 0141 534 6500 Fax: 0141 534 6501 Web: www.sportscotland.org.uk
Chair: Mel Young MBE Chief Executive: Stewart Harris

sportscotland is the trading name of the Scottish Sports Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

2. Whether there are any challenges or barriers to that engagement being effective.

The quality and added value of our engagement is inevitably influenced by the local priorities of each CPP. Where a CPP prioritises health and wellbeing, sport and **sportscotland** have a lot to contribute. While sport can contribute to a range of wider outcomes, our contribution at the strategic level of CPP's can be more limited.

There is a general expectation of senior management representation at CPP Board meetings. This is understandable, but also a challenge for national agencies. We feel attendance at four to six CPP Boards meetings a year for each of 32 local authorities would be an unrealistic expectation on our small senior management team.

3. Your views on the whether the Act is meeting its objective of reducing inequalities, and the effectiveness of Local Outcome Improvement Plans and locality plans.

Given our role and expertise, as well as our mixed approach to engagement across the 32 CPPs, we do not feel that **sportscotland** are well positioned to assess whether the Act is meeting its objective of reducing inequalities or the effectiveness of LOIPs and locality plans. The approach to LOIPs and locality plans does align well to our approach to developing sport and physical activity locally.

4. Whether the statutory partners as set out in Schedule 1 of the Act needs revisiting.

sportscotland is content to remain a statutory partner listed within Schedule 1 of the Act. While we have good relationships locally, as a national agency, we find it can be helpful to be a named statutory partner to ensure that we are considered by those staff leading CPPs. We approach our inclusion as a statutory partner on the basis that we retain the flexibility to engage with each CPP in a manner that suits local priorities and structures, as outlined in our response to question 1.

Looking beyond **sportscotland**, in general our view is that it is more important to bring the right partners together than to focus on a list of statutory partners as the basis for a CPP. For example, within the sporting system, Lesire Trusts (ALEOs) play a vital role locally and will contribute to many outcomes, but their engagement in the CPP should be driven by engaging them in the right forums, mechanisms and processes of the CPP at the right times, rather than necessarily requiring them to be named as statutory partners.

5. Whether there is sufficient leadership at a local or national level to support community planning.

As is to be expected, in our experience, there is variety in the leadership of community planning across the 32 local authorities. We see some examples of excellent local leadership that are really helping to bring partners together around shared priorities.

6. Whether the Scottish Government's Letters of Guidance to the authority include requirements to engage in community planning.

Our current Scottish Government Strategic Guidance letter asks us to “expand your reach to the inactive and underrepresented in sport and physical activity... through more innovative and creative community based approaches. This should include... building on your relationships with local authorities and community planning partnerships”.

While we welcome this guidance, given our long standing approach to partnership working across all 32 local authorities and recognising our position as a statutory partner within the Act, this guidance simply reinforces our existing commitment to community planning.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee. Should we be able to provide anything else, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Forbes Dunlop
Chief Executive

Head Office

Doges, Templeton on the Green, 62 Templeton Street, Glasgow G40 1DA
Tel: 0141 534 6500 **Fax:** 0141 534 6501 **Web:** www.sportscotland.org.uk
Chair: Mel Young MBE **Chief Executive:** Stewart Harris

sportscotland is the trading name of the Scottish Sports Council



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®