

## REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 12 MARCH 2024

### **BANFF AND BUCHAN COMMUNITY PLAN ACTION PLAN 2022-2025 – MONITORING REPORT AND INTEGRATION OF ACTIVITIES FROM OUTGOING LOCALITY PLANS**

#### **1 Executive Summary/Recommendation**

**1.1** This report provides an update on the progress of actions in the Banff and Buchan Community Plan 2022-2025, and an update on the incorporation and alignment of priorities and activities carried forward from the outgoing Fraserburgh and Banff & Macduff Locality Plans, as part of the phased transition to place plans in Banff and Buchan.

#### **1.2 The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1 Note and make comment to the Banff and Buchan Local Community Planning Group on the progress of actions in the Banff and Buchan Community Plan 2022-25.**

#### **2 Decision Making Route**

**2.1** This is the latest monitoring exercise for the 2022-2025 Banff and Buchan Community Plan. The monitoring table for the Plan is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

**2.2** The Banff and Buchan Community Plan (The Plan) 2016 - 2019 was the original fully established plan setting out Local Community Planning Partner priorities across the area. The Plan was refreshed in 2019, extending the plan following a light touch review from 2020–2022 and again in 2022, extending the plan from 2022–2025. The refreshed Plan was considered and endorsed by the Joint Banff & Buchan Local Community Planning Group (BBLCPG) meeting on 28 September 2022 (Item 6), following consultation with stakeholders and Community Planning Partners, and subsequently considered and endorsed by the [Banff and Buchan Area Committee on 6 December 2022 \(item 11\)](#).

**2.3** The Banff and Buchan Community Plan is intended to be a living document that is updated on a frequent basis, to ensure that the plan remains reflective of local priorities and needs. Actions which have been completed, or no longer remain relevant, are removed from the Community Plan where appropriate. Commentary on progress for actions within the plan were provided from Banff and Buchan Local Community Planning Group via interim updates.

### 3 Discussion

- 3.1 It is the intention that existing Community Plans will eventually be replaced by Place Plans covering each of the seventeen school networks across Aberdeenshire. For Banff and Buchan this will likely focus, where appropriate, on the Banff & Macduff and Fraserburgh settlements and their adjacent settlements and rural communities. Work is currently underway to develop a Place Strategy.
- 3.2 Until these new plans are in place, the Banff and Buchan Community Plan will continue to focus on delivering actions developed in response to ongoing and emerging issues affecting the Banff and Buchan area, as determined by partner engagement and local consultation.
- 3.3 Some of the key themes emerging from the Community Plan progress update as attached at Appendix 1 include -
- Evidence of partners' move towards innovative place-based approaches, including participatory budgeting exercises being undertaken by Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) and local Place Economy and Housing teams, as well as input from expert organisations and use of place-based tools, including the Community Chartering Network Citizens Assembly project, Aberdeen for a Fairer World's place-based work with pupils in Banff and Macduff and the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme (Fraserburgh).
  - Continued buy-in from local groups to refresh and/or establish Community Action Plans, with some groups also making tentative enquiries about the development of local Place Plans, reflecting a growing community interest in shaping local land use and spatial plans.
  - Consolidation and strengthening of partnership working, as evidenced through activities in rural settlements such as the Aberchirder Community Action Plan (CAP) refresh and coastal path enhancements, Banff and Buchan's inaugural Wellbeing Festival events spearheaded by Public Health, *'Brew with the Crew'* Scottish Fire and Rescue public drop in events in Fraserburgh with local partners, and the multi-service presence and delivery of a diverse activity programme at community hubs such as the Vinery in Banff.
  - Local community planning partners' continued commitment to deliver both on time-limited events and interventions and complex and deep-rooted challenges such as rural transport, anti-social behaviour and food accessibility planning over the longer-term, drawing down strategic and national resources and funding where available.
  - The steady increase in the demand for welfare, employability, and mental health support arising from the cost-of-living crisis and rural isolation.

- 3.4 Since 2017, Banff and Buchan's Fraserburgh and Banff and Macduff communities have also benefitted from activities delivered in support of the Fraserburgh Locality Plan and the Banff and Macduff Locality Plans, with oversight provided by the Banff and Buchan Local Community Planning Group and the former Connected and Cohesive Communities Committee. A statutory requirement for community planning partnerships – and a key vehicle which supports the delivery of the former Connected and Cohesive Communities theme in the Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) - Locality Plans seek to harness partnership activities to target resources in localities experiencing cumulative disadvantage.
- 3.5 The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board, on 7 September 2022, agreed that the former Connected and Cohesive Communities LOIP theme would cease as a priority, and work underway through that theme – including the Locality Plans for Fraserburgh and Banff & Macduff – would also cease and transition to Place Plans (the Locality Plan for Peterhead will continue and report to the Board by exception only). On 13 September 2023, the CPP agreed that an evaluation report – in respect of the delivery of the Banff and Macduff, and Fraserburgh Locality Plans – be collated and reported to the CPP Board in March 2024.
- 3.6 Work to collate the Locality Plans' close out reports have offered an opportunity to tentatively scope out both continuing and new priorities and actions to be taken forward, as the Banff and Buchan Local Community Planning Group prepare for the development and introduction of Place Plans.
- 3.7 The priority themes earmarked as continued or emerging priorities are summarised below (not in priority order) –
- Tackling Poverty
    - wrap around support for existing and new residents, tenants etc.
    - crisis and transition support to positive pathways/ mental health and physical wellbeing.
  - Tackling persistent Anti-Social Behaviour/repeat offenders/prevention and engagement.
  - Employability support, signposting, and referral.
  - Voluntary Sector capacity building – e.g. volunteer succession planning and support.
  - Security – food, fuel, clothes, transport, and winter resilience.
  - Mental Health – e.g. access and increase cost of living crisis.
  - Rural transport/access to services and essentials in remote and rural areas.

- Childcare provision and access to employment.
- Business engagement, networks and support / town centre and rural settlement regeneration.
- Meeting the needs of the growing older population in larger and smaller settlements and in very rural areas.
- Communication – awareness of service providers, services, and projects; communication modes and reach.

3.8 In terms of local scrutiny and reporting, in the interim period between the close-down of the Locality Plans and the introduction of a Place Plan framework in Banff and Buchan, partner updates on priorities and projects carried forward from the outgoing Locality Plans will continue to be monitored via the Banff and Buchan Local Community Planning Group. Following submission of the Locality Plan close out reports to the CPP in March 2024, and until such time as Place Plans are established in Banff and Buchan, Locality Plan priorities earmarked for continuation will be temporarily incorporated into the ongoing Banff and Buchan Community Plan and reported in future updates to the Banff and Buchan Area Committee.

3.9 Similarly, projects and activities continued from the outgoing regeneration strategy: *‘Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities for Banff, Macduff and Fraserburgh’*, where relevant will be incorporated into the ongoing Banff and Buchan Community Plan and reported in future updates to the Banff and Buchan Area Committee.

3.10 Work is underway to both embed a place-based approach into the focus and working arrangements of the Banff and Buchan Local Community Planning Group, which will include a stakeholder engagement and area profiling exercise to fully scope out and sense check place-based priorities and delivery frameworks for the Banff and Buchan area.

3.11 This work will include a critical reflection on partnership arrangements, priority setting, and evaluation mechanisms (determination of anticipated outputs, outcomes, and SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound) reporting, including learning from, and where relevant applying, place-based assessment approaches such as the Shaping Places for Wellbeing (Fraserburgh) programme.

#### **4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities “Health and Wellbeing” within the Pillar “Our People”, “Resilient Communities” within the Pillar “Our Environment” and “Economic Growth” within the Pillar “Our Economy”.

4.2 This report helps deliver on the Local Outcomes Improvement Priorities – Reducing Poverty and Health and Wellbeing (Mental Health, Healthy Eating Active Living).

4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial		<b>X</b>	
Staffing		<b>X</b>	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	[IIA attached as Appendix 2]		
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing	[IIA attached as Appendix 2]		
Climate Change and Sustainability		<b>X</b>	
Health and Wellbeing	[IIA attached as Appendix 2]		
Town Centre First	[IIA attached as Appendix 2]		

4.4 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 2 and there is a positive impact as follows –

- Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland – activity programmes for younger and older people and support for low-income families and individuals.
- Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing – positive impacts on health, achievement, nurturing and active via food growing projects, transition support, enabling engagement opportunities to shape services and delivery of activities programmes.
- Health and Wellbeing – delivery of projects that create opportunities for active participation, healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing wrap around support and early interventions.
- Town Centre First – Projects to increase town centre footfall and business connections, increase public safety and enhance local social and cultural experiences.

4.5.1 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACORP001 Budget Pressures – in terms of being able to sustain and develop activities in response to ongoing and emerging needs. Mitigated through partnership working and identification of relevant funding sources.
- ACORP005 Working with other organisations – mitigated by regular engagement and knowledge sharing between delivery partners in terms of the operating environment and managing adaptations.
- ACORP006 – reputation management – in terms of community expectations, mitigated through clear and sustained communications.

The registers can be viewed on the Council's website – ([Corporate Risk Register](#)).

No Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level. The register can be viewed on the Council's website - ([Strategic Risk Register](#)).

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.4.1b of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to commenting on the Banff and Buchan Community Plan.

### **LAURENCE FINDLAY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS SERVICES**

Report prepared by: Elaine Sinclair, Community Planning Officer, Banff and Buchan

Date: 27 February 2024

#### **List of Appendices –**

Appendix 1 – Banff and Buchan Community Plan 2022-2025 Progress Update

Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)