



**THIRD SECTOR**  
Dumfries and Galloway

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**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

**REPORT OF MEETINGS**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY**

*Working together to put our sector first*  
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

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## KEY POINTS

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS OF TSDG, CLAIRE BROWN. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.**

1. Helen Keron, Chair of TSDG, remarked on the continued lack of meaningful engagement with the third sector in relation to the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and asked if there was more detail to follow regarding the investment plan for Dumfries and Galloway. TSDG pressed for more information regarding what the money will be spent on prior to the end of March 2023 and how any underspend will be managed. A commitment was made by DG Council to come back with information and to continue the conversation with TSDG; there was a reaffirmation to work in partnership with the third sector.
2. John Dougan, Vice Chair of TSDG, asked what work had been done to review the membership of the community planning stakeholder group; DG Council responded by explaining that the stakeholder group had not been active since before Covid, all members have been contacted and responded with an indication of their level of interest and commitment to continued involvement. There are plans to reinstate the group as part of the review of community planning structures, covered later in the agenda.
3. Graham Dunn gave a presentation on Community Transport Strategy and the transition from the current PSP model to the creation of a social enterprise for community transport. It was noted that there is currently no core funding for community transport operators in the region, only funding through the PSP model. The following points were raised by the Board:
  - Funding for community transport should come from community planning partners to meet key strategic objectives, not from a dedicated transport budget.
  - Mapping of community transport to identify provision v need
  - Take time to stop and reflect on funding strategies and review allocations; if this is a significant priority then we need to consider funding streams and where money should be allocated – some work behind the scenes is needed to do this.
4. Helen asked, what will happen when the PSP ends in March 2023 if the social enterprise can't get off the ground? Without core strategic funding we are fumbling around the edges and risk losing the benefits of the PSP.
5. It was agreed that the CPP will look to see what can be done to deliver a community transport strategy for DG. It was agreed that there would be discussion at Chief Officer level following this meeting to discuss synergies and opportunities; this should happen at pace. DG Council will help Graham Dunn take this forward. Dawn Roberts, Chief Executive DG Council, noted the sense of urgency and gave a commitment to take this forward.
6. A presentation was given on the Regional Transport Strategy. Consultation on the Regional Transport Strategy will close on 2 January 2023 ([HERE](#)). It was noted that there is clear overlap between community transport and a regional transport offer. Community transport is a critical and integral part of public transport moving forward.

7. Helen noted that there could be more focus in the strategy on the outcomes that effective transport enables – show the benefits of focusing on improving transport; she stressed the importance including what is not there in a mapping exercise i.e. where there are clear gaps in transport provision.
8. John noted that Covid has allowed many people and organisations to work differently, but that sometimes there is simply a need to travel and in DG it is often impossible to avoid using a car.
9. A discussion took place around the proposed new model for community planning. The importance of balancing a bottom-up communities-based approach with a top down vision in community planning was recognised, connecting empowered communities into planning.
10. The TSDG-led locality hubs were acknowledged and recognised as a vehicle to ensure community planning in action at local level, strengthening the entry point into community planning through the hubs. Locality hubs will help identify priorities and collectively identify resource to help tackle key issues to be elevated to CPPB/CPEG as required, driving forward a collaborative partnership approach.
11. It was noted that third sector representation and TSDG's The Voice project must be taken into account as new models are developed. Helen stressed the importance of all community planning partners having equal power and the third sector being recognised as an equal partner.
12. Helen gave an update on TSDG's third sector representation report, The Voice, which aims to build better third sector representation and maximise third sector contribution to decision making, seeking to ensure the sector can work as effectively as possible. The board supported the work and agreed to work with TSDG on recommendations within the report. TSDG agreed to provide an outline of which community planning committees could be taken forward to pilot the recommendations and committed to providing a further update in early 2023.
13. DG Council outlined the community planning contribution to the cost of living crisis. John explained that he anticipates more third sector service users will be looking to attend appointments in person to access a warm space. In relation to digital exclusion he saw it as important to note the Scottish Government work on 1 to 1 digital device provision and sought support from the CPPB to continue to support this work and ensure it is not forgotten, building on TSDG's research into digital exclusion. A number of points were made in response:
  - Advanced discussions taking place between TSDG and DGC in relation to mapping of warm spaces which will be supported by the locality hubs and captured on the DG Locator tool and via to DG Cost of Living website, launching soon.
  - Use locality hubs as they have credibility from working together during Covid. Give the opportunity for other partners to engage with people through warm spaces across DG not just in one area.
  - DGC looking at existing activities that are taking place and tying in with these e.g. libraries, community centres etc, taking an active approach to promoting a programme of existing events where, by default, there is a warm space available.
  - Important to consider how warm spaces can network, learning from one another and sharing best practice; what is working well etc. Maximise how people can benefit from being together in a warm space, mapping the contribution of warm spaces to meeting other health and wellbeing outcomes.

- Assurance given by DGC that the work taking place will allow us to get a sense of where hubs have been established, join dots, provide support, add value to what is there, address needs, signpost to funding (Area Committee Funding), identify gaps and look at enhancing and developing what is there through via council facilities.
- In relation to digital exclusion DGC looking at how they can progress this with Scottish Government and SCVO.

14. Helen asked about the report on the analysis of impact of cost of living on Council budgets. It was noted that there is an absolute focus on communities and individuals alongside the impact on council budgets and also the work with partners, particularly around third sector organisations in receipt of things like commissions, where it is recognised that costs are increasing.

15. In relation to the update on the Health and Social Care Strategic Plan, Helen noted the role that home teams could play in being the critical link for non-commissioned services to activate a community response, enabling volunteer networks to support people in their communities. It was noted that small local interventions can make a huge difference and demonstrates localism in practice. It was noted that TSDG is supporting a number of events planned for early December, including the third sector health and social care forum, where alternative solutions to the winter health and social care crisis will be explored.

16. In relation to the update on the Local Development Plan 2, Helen emphasised the importance of including local place plans to ensure the timetabling of local place plans and LDP2 are aligned; the expectation of community engagement and consultation needs to be managed i.e. community needs v national priorities need to be recognised.