ABSTRACT
This report considers local community planning arrangements within the council.

1 RECOMMENDATION
The Committee agree to establish a local community planning team within the Neighbourhood Services Department as outlined within Section 3 of this report.

2 BACKGROUND
The council has a statutory responsibility, as laid out in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, to lead and facilitate community planning in Angus.

As part of this duty the council is required to strengthen the ability of communities and community organisations so that they are better able to define and achieve their own objectives, manage community projects and enterprises and engage effectively in community engagement activity.

To support this duty the Strategic Policy Committee on 27 October 2009 noted new arrangements for local community planning designed to deliver the council’s community planning aspirations.

Specifically the committee noted the establishment of a local community planning team within the Neighbourhood Services Department and comprising twelve staff outposted from the Chief Executive’s and Education Departments as well as staff from Neighbourhood Services itself.

The committee also noted that this arrangement would be subject to review to determine the effectiveness of this approach.

This report presents the outcome from this review.

3 PROPOSAL
The local community planning team has undertaken a significant amount of work in developing our local community planning arrangements.

In particular the team has:

- produced seven ward based local community plans
- identified and developed local aspirations to which ward based groups are committed
- improved working with local elected members in support of their, and community aspirations, for the wards they represent
- provided local support to and worked with community councils and local area partnerships throughout Angus
- worked with local organisations to promote local events
It is now considered appropriate to further strengthen local community planning arrangements within the broader policy and practice framework of the Angus Community Planning Partnership and therefore it is proposed to consolidate the existing local community planning team within the Neighbourhood Services Department.

It is further considered that to effectively deliver local community planning we must ensure that the resources available to the council has available in pursuit of its engagement with communities are as well co-ordinated, focused and integrated as possible in order to:

- support Angus residents, tenants or home owners, to actively participate in their communities
- support council and partner services to engage with communities in ways which positively support the development of their services
- develop a co-ordinated range of neighbourhood and community based services across Angus

Accordingly it is considered that there would also be benefit in aligning all community capacity building activities within the local community planning team and in particular to transfer such responsibilities and associated staff from the Community Learning and Development Service within the Education Department.

The Community Learning and Development Service would continue to provide services to support the national priorities for community learning and development in regard to achievement through learning for adults and achievement through learning for young people.

In strengthening the local community planning arrangements it is important to recognise the relationship with strategic community planning.

This is a two way process. On the one hand it is important that the interface between community planning at a strategic and local level is made with community views informing the work of our thematic partnerships. On the other hand it is important that communities are aware of Angus wide priorities to determine whether they wish to become involved at a local level.

Liaison and reporting arrangements have therefore been agreed between the Chief Executive and Neighbourhood Services Departments to ensure that strategic community planning and local community planning are aligned where this is appropriate.

The functions of the local community planning team are outlined in the attached appendix.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the arrangements outlined within this report will not result in any additional budgetary implications for the council as all costs and posts affected are provided for within existing budgets. Two of the posts involved are currently funded using Fairer Scotland Fund monies and the continuation of this funding is subject to consideration through the 2011/12 budget setting process.

The proposals outlined in this report will entail the transfer of staff and financial resources from the Chief Executive and Education Departments’ revenue budgets to the Neighbourhood Services Department revenue budget. Given the imminent consideration of the Council’s 2011/12 budget the details of the virements to take place will be finalised following the setting of the council’s budget on 10 February but in broad terms it is expected that around £280,000 will transfer from the Chief Executive’s department and a further £280,000 will transfer from the Education department. The finalised virements arising from the proposals in this report will be reflected in the Final Revenue Budget Volume to be published in May 2011.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.
7 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

The local community planning and community capacity building activities will support achievement of the local outcomes contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus.

8 CONSULTATION

The Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

DAVID S SAWERS  RON ASHTON  NEIL LOGUE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

HMR

NOTE  No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.
LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING FUNCTIONS

- Develop and implement a systematic approach to community appraisal/needs assessment.
- Support the development, monitoring and where appropriate, the delivery of local community plans across Angus.
- Liaise with and keep local elected members fully apprised of work to be undertaken.
- Support Angus residents through community based organisations and arrangements to actively participate in the lives of their communities. This includes support to:
  - Local Area Partnerships
  - Community Councils
  - Voluntary sector youth organisations
  - Out of school childcare organisations
  - Village halls and other community facility groups
  - Community, tenants’ and resident’s associations
  - Local festival and event organising committees
  - Community initiative groups
  - Community asset management planning groups
- Support Council and partner services to engage effectively with communities.
- Support the delivery of a co-ordinated range of neighbourhood and community based services. This includes:
  - promoting, participating in and supporting (in practical ways) the work of Local Integrated Children’s and Learning Partnerships
  - contributing to local self-evaluation activity within the field of community learning and development
- Support communities to identify local aspirations, develop their capacity to deliver services and initiatives. This includes working with communities to:
  - define and achieve their own objectives
  - manage community projects and enterprises
  - engage effectively in community engagement activity

Additionally the team will undertake work in relation to:

- Policy development for local community planning and capacity building.
- Tenant Participation policy and management.
- Community regeneration policy and management.
- Grants to community organisations (element of the community grants scheme previously contributed by the Community Learning and Development Service).
- Common Good Fund.
- Leading the Community Capacity Building sub-group of the Children’s and Learning Partnership.
- Supporting Angus Federation of Village Halls, Angus Out of School Care Network, Angus Renewable Energies Group.
- Ensuring the flow of information between local and Angus-wide community planning structures.