

15 March 2023

Ariane Burgess MSP  
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

By Email: [localgov.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:localgov.committee@parliament.scot)

Dear Ms Burgess

### **Inquiry into Community Planning**

Thank you for your letter of 6 March, advising of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee post-legislative scrutiny of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment Act 2015, which created requirements for community planning. I have attempted to respond to your enquiries below:

#### **1. How Nestrans engages with the CPP and works in partnership with other members.**

Nestrans is a partner in both the Community Plan for Aberdeen and for Aberdeenshire, the two local authority areas covered by the Partnership.

Community Planning Aberdeen does not include Nestrans officers on its Board, but the Director is a member of the CPA Management Group and representatives sit on a number of the LOIP priority groups, including Aberdeen Prospers and Sustainable City Group.

In Aberdeenshire, Nestrans sits on the Community Partnership Board and are active in the priority group focusing on Connected Communities.

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

The biggest issue for Nestrans, as a small organisation with limited staff resource and funding, is to fully engage in terms of the time requirement and the need to make financial contributions to the Community Planning Partnerships. For example, funding contributions tend to be equal whether an organisation has nine staff and a revenue budget of less than a million pounds or major organisations such as NHS or Police Scotland.

#### **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.**

Yes, the Community Planning process is focussed on addressing inequalities and seems to be meeting the objectives of the Community Empowerment Act.

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

Community Planning Partnerships have reviewed representation, but there is no need to revisit the schedule in the Act.

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

Yes, in the north east of Scotland, leadership is sufficient to support community planning.

I hope the above is helpful in contributing to the evidence required for the inquiry, but if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Rab Dickson  
Director