

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities Committee

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref SP/MC

Date 28/04/25

Community Boards and Partnership Communications Strategy

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Executive Summary

This report provides an update on key progress linked to supporting the development of the Community Boards model including updates on cycle 1, 2025 Community Board meetings which took place throughout February/March 2025.

- Progress with the delivery of the nine Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) and the implementation of an associated Monitoring and Management Framework and Partnership delivery approach
- Progress with the Community Board Development Programme
- Work to commence development of a Partnership Communications Strategy
- Continued development of a Partnership Communications Strategy

As previously agreed by committee, reports on the work of the nine Community Boards are provided to the committee relating to each committee cycle. Progress is also reported to the North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Strategic Leadership Board to reflect the statutory nature of the Boards in Community Planning terms in providing local governance for the Local Outcome Improvement Plans. This report covers cycle 1, 2025 Community Board meetings.

The process and focus of reporting on the work of the Community Boards will continue to be reviewed and elements included within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan monitoring and management framework.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities Committee:

- (1) Recognises work to continue to develop and improve the integrated approach to supporting the local Community Board model.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Enhance participation, capacity, and empowerment across our communities

Ambition statement (20) Improve the involvement of communities in the decisions, and development of services and supports, that affect them

1. Background

- 1.1 Community Matters - A Framework for Working with Communities set out the Community Planning Partnership's commitment to engaging with communities underpinned by a set of principles and approaches designed to deliver on key priorities associated with working with communities which included the creation of Community Boards. The framework was approved by the Policy & Strategy Committee at its meeting on 19 March 2020.
- 1.2 The Community Boards are integral to supporting community participation and providing a single coordinated approach to governance for local communities, reflecting statutory and regulatory requirements. The Boards continue to develop in a manner consistent with influencing and delivering the Plan for North Lanarkshire outcomes at local level. This is being driven through the Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) for each of the nine areas, ensuring a partnership focus on supporting service design, delivery and community action reflecting both the ambitions within The Plan for North Lanarkshire and the priorities and circumstances of individual areas. The LOIPs are published on the North Lanarkshire Council website and were circulated to all Community Boards.
- 1.3 The monitoring and management framework for the delivery of the LOIPs is in place and operational along with supporting partnership delivery approach through the establishment of Local Partnership Teams. This is being used to inform reporting to Committee, the North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) Strategic Leadership Board and individual Community Boards. A separate LOIP update is provided to the Communities Committee and the NLP Strategic Leadership Board on a 6 monthly basis providing a snapshot of highlights and future priorities for each of the board areas and a detailed progress report is submitted to each of the 9 Community Boards annually.
- 1.4 Cycle 1, 2025 Board meetings have now taken place, and an example of an agenda is included in Appendix 1.

Table 1 – Cycle 1,2025 Community Board Meetings

Area	Meeting Date & Time	Location
Shotts	18/02/2024 at 6:30pm	Online via Teams
Northern Corridor	19/02/2024 at 7:00pm	Chryston Parish Church
Coatbridge	27/02/2024 at 6:30pm	Coatbridge Community Centre
Cumbernauld	25/02/2024 at 6:30pm	Abronhill Community Centre
Kilsyth & Villages	26/02/2024 at 6:30pm	St. Patrick's Primary School
Wishaw	27/02/2024 at 6:30pm	Coltness Community Centre
Airdrie	05/03/2024 at 6:30pm	Clarkston Primary School
Bellshill	06/03/2024 at 6:30pm	Salvation Army Hall
Motherwell	11/03/2024 at 6:30pm	Dalziel and St Andrew's Parish Church

2. Report

Community Boards – Cycle 1, 2025

Representation at Community Board Meetings

- 2.1 At this cycle of Community Board meetings, attendance reflected a good mixture of partners, elected members, community groups and local people at all Board meetings. Approximately **225** people attended this cycle which was an increase on the previous cycle of meetings. There were **83** community organisations an increase of **9** from the previous cycle with **105** community representatives in attendance an increase of **29** from the previous round of Board meetings. In addition, **14** individual local people attended meetings.
- 2.2 A broader range of community representation is generally in evidence at Community Board meetings with **11** new organisations attended Community Boards in this cycle.
- 2.3 The categories of participants in Cycle 1, 2025 Community Boards are as set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2 - Participants (Cycle 1, 2025)

Participants at Community Boards (Cycle 1, 2025)	
Community Councils	Tenants and Residents Associations
Historical/Cultural Groups	Community Forums
MSYP/Youth Fora	Police Scotland
Scottish Fire & Rescue	NHS Lanarkshire
Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	NL Disability Access Panel
Elected Members	Council Officers
Faith Groups	Parent Councils
Local people/residents	Voice of Experience Forum
Community Organisations	African Collaborative

Participation in Meetings

- 2.4 Work is continuing by all Community Planning Partners to encourage wider representation at Community Board meetings. Meeting information is circulated across social media channels including NLC website and My Town pages four weeks in advance of each meeting with additional promotion scheduled 1 week in advance and on the day of the Board Meeting. Posters are also circulated to approximately **1300** Community Board members and local groups and organisations for wider local circulation to Community Councils and Tenants and Residents Associations and wider networks to raise awareness about Community Board meetings. All Community Planning Partners, Elected Members, and Board members have responsibility for encouraging wider participation at Board meetings and for using information from wider

engagement activity through LOIP subgroups and community networks to represent the views of the wider community as appropriate.

- 2.5 There was a marked increase in the number of Community groups represented at this cycle of Board meetings in comparison to the previous cycle in November/December 2024 for example, in the number of Parent Council's, Tenants and Residents associations, Community Council's represented. **18** Council's and Tenants and Residents Associations in attendance at this cycle of Board meetings.

Agenda Items

- 2.6 During this cycle, **all nine** Community Boards had agenda items put forward by community groups and organisations in advance of Board meetings. Examples of Agenda items put forward included: Bedlay Cemetery and LOIP pilot in the Northern Corridor, Dumbreck and Garrell Marsh and ALISS in Kilsyth; Cumbernauld Theatre and Safer Kildrum and Beautiful Scotland submission in Cumbernauld; Deaf services Lanarkshire Drop-in in Coatbridge, Litter issues in Bellshill, Spotlight on Shotts; Calderbank Village Heritage and Rail 200 and North Lanarkshire Council in Airdrie; Gowkthrapple housing concerns and Wishaw Main Street waste management and Wishaw Substation in Wishaw.
- 2.6.1 In addition to the agenda items above, local community groups provided updates at some Boards including Cumbernauld Creative Spaces and Cumbernauld Community Learning Centre in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth Old People's Welfare at Kilsyth Board, Moodiesburn Community Action Group at Northern Corridor Board, Deaf Services Lanarkshire at Coatbridge Board and YMCA update on services in Bellshill.
- 2.7 Council officers were also asked to attend or provide updates to Board meetings in response to agenda items and issues raised by community representatives. Council and Community Planning Partnership Partners will continue to be invited to attend in relation to specific agenda items raised. External organisations are also invited to attend Board meetings in response to agenda items raised by communities as required. For example, in this cycle, the Team Leader for Water Management was asked to attend the Kilsyth Community Board and NLC Greenspace and Country Parks Manager was asked to attend Northern Corridor Community Board.

Opportunities to Provide Updates and Share Views

- 2.8 As previously reported, all **nine** Community Boards endorsed Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) which have been published and can be accessed via this [link](#). Community Board agendas are now organised around LOIP priorities and updates from communities and partner agencies are linked to priorities where possible to ensure clear focus on progress towards achieving actions to address the key priorities that were identified by local communities. Local people can also raise ad hoc issues or share local information through the Community Matters section of the agenda.
- 2.9 Positive progress continues to be made with subgroups meeting to progress agreed actions to address local priorities where this is the most appropriate mechanism. Work is ongoing and meetings are taking place and scheduled with local community groups and organisations to further develop subgroups.
- 2.10 Following on from the Community Board Self Evaluation Workshops that were carried out throughout November/December 2024, Community Board Chairs have been participating in a working group to help develop the Community Board Conference that

was previously agreed with NLP. The conference is scheduled to take place on Saturday 17 May 2025.

Special Board Meetings

2.11 No special Board Meetings were requested at this round of Community Boards.

Community Board Local Development Programme (LDP) Projects

2.12 As previously reported, community organisations requested a positional statement regarding outstanding Local Development Programme projects. The LDP report, continues to be split by Community Board area, and detailing the status of projects, was circulated in advance of cycle 1, 2025 Board Meetings. The project proposal form identified in previous reports to committee, continues to be utilised to record LDP project ideas and suggestions put forward from local communities. LDP continues to be a set item on the agenda at all Community Board meetings and is subject to a separate report to this committee.

Involving Communities

2.13 This cycle of meetings saw continued involvement of seldom heard voices in Community Board meetings. The Community Partnership team will continue as a priority to proactively work with local community groups and people with lived experience to support this objective.

2.13.1 Work is ongoing with youth groups to encourage them to provide a presentation/ update to Community Boards in Community Board areas. At this cycle of meetings, MSYPs attended Community Board meetings in Cumbernauld and Kilsyth and provided an update on their role and involvement in youth engagement activity. Consultation took place with 17 people from Deaf Service's Lanarkshire around the development of the Community Safety Strategy and to provide information about Community Boards and Local Outcome improvement plans and how to contribute/become involved. Members of Lanarkshire Deaf club also attended Motherwell Community Board meeting supported by interpreters. Further information will be provided in due course.

2.13.2 A range of engagement and consultation opportunities have taken place with young people between November/December and February/March Board Meetings demonstrating a strong commitment to involving young people in shaping their community and addressing issues that matter to them. Further information on activity that has taken place is included in **Appendix 2**.

Our Lives – An exploration of the Lived Experiences of North Lanarkshire's

2.14 Black, Asian, and other Minority Ethnic People

2.14.1 Community Planning Partner organisations continue to progress the work associated with the recommendations set out in the Our Lives Research.

2.14.2 As highlighted in the last report a significant development has been the work to form a Cultural Committee for North Lanarkshire to support and develop activity to reflect and celebrate the rich cultural diversity across the authority.

2.14.3 To date over 26 organisations with a focus on advancing race equality are represented on the Committee with private individuals also participating. Two key areas of focus for the committee at present are:

- the development of Terms of Reference to guide its work and;
- the creation of an on-line cultural calendar which all members can use to highlight and promote local events as well as key national and international celebrations and observances.

2.14.4 The Committee is provided with support from the Council's Equalities Team and Community Learning and Development Service while it gets established. The next full meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place in April 2025.

Moving Forward

2.15 Community Board Chairs

At this cycle, **8** out of **9** Community Board meetings were chaired by Community representatives. The Motherwell Board meeting on this occasion was chaired by a Council Officer as the Chair was unable to attend the meeting.

Community Board Development Programme

2.16 As previously reported, Community Board Members have been removed from the NLC employee mandatory e-learning list and are no longer receive enrolment or reminder emails to complete the e-learning. There is now a new hub for Community Board Members only, where a specific setting has been added to the audience set up removing them from the mandatory e-learning.

2.16.1 An activity report run in March 2025 identified that **73** members have logged in and accessed different areas of the hub with the most recent activity dated 10th March 2025.

The Role of Chief Officers as Community Coordinators

2.17 As previously reported, Community Coordinators are in place and attending their designated Community Board Meetings. Community Coordinator updates continue to be included as a standing item on all Community Board agendas as well as participation in discussion relating to a range of local matters. Community Coordinators meet with key senior partners between Board cycles to discuss common matters, any leadership action required, and to collectively consider input to future meetings.

Future Board Meetings

2.18 The next cycle of Community Board meetings will be held in May/June 2025. Following consultation with community group representatives and elected members who attend Community Boards, it was identified that most Boards preferred a mix of online and face-to-face meetings moving forward and during this cycle, **eight** Board meetings took place face-to-face in Community Facilities and one online via Teams.

Cycle 2, 2025 meeting dates are set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Community Board Meeting Dates (Cycle 2, 2025)

Community Board	Day	Date
Shotts	Tuesday	20/05/2025
Northern Corridor	Wednesday	21/05/2025
Coatbridge	Thursday	22/05/2025
Cumbernauld	Tuesday	27/05/2025
Kilsyth & Villages	Wednesday	28/05/2025
Wishaw	Thursday	29/05/2025
Airdrie	Wednesday	04/06/2025
Bellshill	Thursday	05/06/2025
Motherwell	Tuesday	10/06/2025

Local Outcome Improvement Plans – Partnership Delivery, Monitoring, and Management Framework

2.19 As previously reported, the online LOIP monitoring, and evaluation framework is in place. This management tool is being used by community planning partners to ensure that progress towards addressing key priorities that were agreed with local communities is monitored, recorded, and reported.

3. Measures of success

3.1 Delivery of LOIP outcomes and increased levels of engagement with local communities and partners, resulting in generally positive impacts on communities across a variety of priorities and key issues identified through effective locality planning and the implementation of the Community Boards, particularly in areas where further consultation has been required.

4. Supporting documentation

4.1 Appendix 1 Example of Cycle 1, 2025 Community Board Agenda.



Stephen Penman
Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement)

5. Impacts

5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.6 Technology / Digital impact Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?

Yes No

5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact

Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.8 Communications impact

Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.9 Risk impact

Is there a risk impact?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?

5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes No

Community Board Agenda (Cycle 1, 2025)

AGENDA (example)

1. **Welcome and Introduction:**
 - NHSL to record the minutes of Board meetings.
2. **Apologies**
3. **Minute of previous meeting and matters arising**
4. **Local priorities** Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) updates:
 - Local priorities for each Community Board Area
 - Local partner updates from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, NHSL, VANL related to LOIP priorities.
5. **Community Matters**
6. **Local engagement/investment**
 - Local engagement/consultation
 - Funding opportunities
7. **Standing agenda items**
 - Community Coordinator update
 - MOWG report and recommendations
 - Local Development Programme (LDP) update
8. **AOCB**
9. **Date and time of next meeting.**

Case Studies - Youth engagement and consultation

The following activity has taken place between November/December and February March Board Meetings demonstrating a strong commitment to involving young people in shaping their community and addressing issues that matter to them.

Cumbernauld

Youth engagement is a priority action for the Cumbernauld Community Board. Young people in Cumbernauld have been engaged and consulted in local decision-making processes and in community activities including:

- **Young people continued to attend and actively participate** ensuring youth representation at Community Board Meetings
- **The Community Partnership Team engaged with 28 young people** from Carbrain, Kildrum and Abronhill in three separate sessions in January 2025 to find out young people's views on issues that are important to them including community safety issues. Young people provided some excellent feedback, sharing their experience of living in Cumbernauld and highlighting their concerns around Community Safety.

Northern Corridor

Youth engagement is a priority action for the Northern Corridor Community Board. Young people in Northern Corridor have been engaged and consulted in local decision-making processes in the following ways:

- **Northern Corridor Youth consultation**
As part of an ongoing Community Partnership Team youth engagement consultation with young people across the Northern Corridor, 20 young people who attend Our Lady's and St. Maurice's High Schools about issues that were important to them. The pupils from Moodiesburn, Gartcosh and Cardowan highlighted their views on community safety, health and public transport issues and this will form part of a report and inform future action in relation to Northern Corridor Children & Young People LOIP priority.
- **Design-a-Sign competition**
As part of the Community Partnership Team's delivery of Local Development programme in the Northern Corridor, pupils from Gartcosh and St. Barbara's Primary Schools recently took part in a Design-a-Sign competition as part of the development of a new play area at Blades Court in Gartcosh. A winning name and image for the playpark sign were chosen from over 200 entries, with signage due to be installed when the Council holds an official opening event in April 2025.

Kilsyth and Villages

Youth engagement is a priority action for the Northern Kilsyth and Villages Community Board. Young people have been consulted and engaged in a range of ways incl and consulted in local decision-making processes in the following ways:

In response to the youth consultation carried out with young people across Kilsyth and Villages area and following an extremely successful youth engagement event targeting young people who attend Future Fridays held in Kilsyth Academy last year, partners involved in the youth engagement subgroup, including Community Partnership Team, Police Scotland, SFRS, CLD, St Maurice's High School and local Community organisations agreed to arrange a further engagement event targeting young people from Kilsyth and Villages who attend St. Maurice's High School.

This highly successful youth engagement event took place at St Maurice's High School on the 14 March 2025 providing an opportunity for partners to respond to issues that were raised by young people during previous extensive consultation. The event helped build positive relationships between young people and Police, Scottish Fire and Rescue and other partners in attendance.

The event provided a range of practical interactive stalls which helped young people to find out more about issues such as drugs, alcohol, healthy eating, and vaping and about volunteering opportunities available to them all of which were identified through consultation as issues that were important to young people. Free period dignity products were also provided at the event.

Airdrie

Airdrie Action Partnership (AAP), a collective of third sector organisations and NLC officers including the Community Partnership Team, Youthwork and Adult Education plus Health Improvement and VANL that constitutes the Local Outcome Improvement Plan subgroup for the Airdrie locality.

This partnership organised and held an Airdrie Winter Warmer Event at the @Home Centre on Friday 14th February 2025 with young people who attend the @Home Centre involved in planning and organising the event including promoting the event amongst their peers, helping set up, sign in sheets, organising teas and coffees, and providing entertainment.

Young people were supported by Youth Workers to have conversations around health and safety and risk assessments which will go towards the young people's goals of achieving their SQA Assisting with an event, add to their Saltire hours and help them gain volunteering experience. Young people also interviewed attendees, and the information will inform the next project that the partnership will take forward.

As part of Airdrie Action Partnership Christmas Appeal 2024, children and young people were involved in supporting toy drive events, organising donations and followed up with local businesses who offered support. The Christmas Appeal was supported by 13 young people across all projects, who accumulated a total of 200 hours of volunteering time gaining Saltire Awards for their contribution to their wider community.

Motherwell

- **Consultation around the development of a playpark**

Consultation was carried out with children in Our Lady and St. Frances on 6 March 2025, the catchment school for the Jerviston area. 12 children, one from each class, who lived nearby the proposed site participated. A mixture of interactive activities was used to gain insight into what the children liked to do at a park and the type of equipment they preferred. The children were extremely enthusiastic about taking part in the consultation and were keen to participate further in the project including 'design a sign' competition and the opening of the park

- A further consultation took place with 31 children at Jerviston Family Fun Day on 18 March 2025 around the development of the playpark. As the fun day was a very busy/loud environment a flipchart with play equipment choices and features on it and asked the young people to identify their favourite equipment and choose some features for the play area.
- Three consultation sessions were held with students from Brannock High School and Coltness High School as part of the Period Dignity initiative. Focus group sessions were aimed to gather insights into students' experiences, challenges, and perceptions related to menstrual health to better meet the needs of students and create a stigma-free, supportive environment for menstrual health.

Bellshill

- **Consultation** was carried out with children in St. Gerard's and Noble Primary Schools around the development of Clay Crescent Muga. 24 children were consulted, 18 from St. Gerard's Primary School who all lived on Clay Crescent and 6 children from Noble Primary School Pupil Council.

Children from both schools were excited to discuss the possibility of a new MUGA, discussed the games they would play and offered suggestions around additional items that would work alongside the new MUGA including storage for bikes and benches/seating.

- A further **consultation focus group** was held with students from Cardinal Newman High and Bellshill Academy, as part of the Period Dignity initiative. The session aimed to gather insights into students' experiences, challenges, and perceptions related to menstrual health.

The session explored awareness and Access to Period Products, Stigma and Inclusivity and identified suggestions for Improvement. The engagement highlighted potential gaps and offered practical solutions to address them. These insights will help to better meet the needs of students and create a stigma-free, supportive environment for menstrual health.