

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 5 MARCH 2026

REPORT ON: LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS IN THE WEST END & THE FERRY

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 74-2026

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to discontinue the West End and The Ferry Local Community Planning Partnerships, reducing the Community Officers by one full-time equivalent.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that Committee approves the revised model of operation as set out within section 4 of this report which reduces the Local Community Planning Partnerships from six to four by discontinuing the partnerships in the West End and The Ferry. This will result in the subsequent removal of the Communities Officer post servicing locality planning arrangements in those wards.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed agreement of these recommendations will result in additional recurring savings of £68,000 within the staffing budget of the Neighbourhood Services.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The Communities Service within Neighbourhood Services is the lead service for the delivery of Local Community Planning in Dundee. A Communities Officer leads the operational work of each Local Community Planning Partnership in Dundee, including the partnerships in the West End and The Ferry.

4.2 Local Community Planning is a statutory function under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2013 which, in s.9, states:

1. Each community planning partnership must, for the purposes of this Part, divide the area of the local authority into smaller areas.
2. The smaller areas mentioned in subsection (1) (“localities”) must be of such type or description as may be specified by the Scottish Ministers by regulations.
3. Having carried out the duty under subsection (1), the community planning partnership must identify each locality in which persons residing there experience significantly poorer outcomes which result from socio-economic disadvantage than—
 - (a) those experienced by persons residing in other localities within the area of the local authority, or
 - (b) those experienced generally by people residing in Scotland.
4. In carrying out the duty under subsection (3), a community planning partnership must take account of the needs and circumstances of persons residing in the area of the local authority.

4.3 The levels of socio-economic inequality are significantly lower in West End and The Ferry than in other wards in Dundee. No part of The Ferry’s population lives in the most deprived data zones in Scotland. 10% of the West End population live in one of these data zones.

- 4.4 In seeking to meet our statutory duties under the Act, the six other wards (4 remaining Local Community Planning Partnerships) will be prioritised for the purpose of locality planning to focus on reducing the impact of socio-economic disadvantage on those areas where the need is greatest.
- 4.5 In Dundee City Council's Budget Consultation there were 2,939 responses with the average impact rating being as low as 2.04. More detailed narrative feedback was received from 631 people and common themes included:
- Concern about losing community roles which link residents, community groups, charities, and businesses with the Council. They felt these officers are important for local decision-making and collaboration with some stating that there would be particular impact on vulnerable groups such as low-income families, elderly people.
 - Some respondents were concerned that the changes could create inequality by ignoring any pockets of deprivation within these areas. Others worried that removing the LCPPs would lead to more dominant voices, less accountability, loss of local knowledge and reduced community engagement.
 - A noticeable number of respondents stated that the proposal would not affect them personally. Others held the view that the posts were unnecessary, duplicated existing work, and were not an essential service and that more affluent areas could self-organise or fundraise without relying on council resources.
 - Suggestions which were made which could lessen impact included reducing the number of meetings rather than removing the service entirely or sharing roles across multiple wards to retain some level of support. Others suggested that communities could be supported to transition to voluntary or community led models provided the council continues to offer guidance, capacity building and clear points of contact.
- 4.6 In stepping down locality planning arrangements in those areas, there is no longer a requirement for having a Communities Officer covering those two wards. The Communities Officer's distinct role, compared to other officers in the Communities service, is the co-ordination of community, DCC services and partner agencies for the purposes of Local Community Planning.
- 4.7 Responsibility for addressing inequality in the datazones in the West End that do experience higher levels of deprivation, those being the datazones running along Lochee Road and City Road would pass to the Lochee Local Community Planning Partnership.
- 4.8 Individual community groups such as community councils or Friends of Groups will be able to continue to get capacity building and development support, if required, from the Communities teams in Lochee and East End for West End and The Ferry, respectively. This could include supporting community councils to take on a leadership role in developing community activities in those areas.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of/ mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

Tony Boyle
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

22 January 2026

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: LCPP XX-2026

Document Title: LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS IN THE WEST END & THE FERRY

Document Type: Service

Description:

To seek approval to discontinue the West End and The Ferry Local Community Planning Partnerships, reducing the Community Officers by one full-time equivalent.

Intended Outcome:

Budget Saving

Period Covered: 01/04/2026 to 31/03/2027

Monitoring:

Through Neighbourhood Services management systems

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: Negative

Concerns about potentially negative impacts on older people were highlighted in the budget consultation results although without detail. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Disability: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of measures to develop community spaces as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. This could disproportionately affect people with disabilities and long term health conditions from accessing support locally. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: Negative

There may be negative impacts on the delivery of family empowerment work which would disproportionately affect women. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Race / Ethnicity: Negative

There may be negative impacts on the ability to co-ordinate community cohesion in the affected wards.. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: Negative

There may be negative impacts on the delivery of family empowerment work which would disproportionately affect women. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	No Impact
Lochee:	No Impact
Coldside:	No Impact
Maryfield:	No Impact
North East:	No Impact
East End:	No Impact
The Ferry:	Negative

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: No Impact

Lone Parent Families: Negative

Potential negative impacts on lone parent families were expressed through the budget consultation results but with no specific impacts identified. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Single Female Households with Children: Negative

Potential negative impacts on lone parent families were expressed through the budget consultation results but with no specific impacts identified. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Greater number of children and/or young children: Negative

Potential negative impacts on lone parent families were expressed through the budget consultation results but with no specific impacts identified. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Pensioners - single / couple: Negative

Potential negative impacts on older people were expressed through the budget consultation results but with no specific impacts identified. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts..

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of measures to reduce social isolation through the development of community spaces as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. This could disproportionately impact people with poor mental wellbeing Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of recovery work as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: No Impact

Income: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of work to reduce the impacts of cost of living as set out in the Local Community plan 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): Negative

Potential negative impacts on lone parent families were expressed through the budget consultation results but with no specific impacts identified. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Affordability and accessibility of services: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of work to develop community spaces in West End and The Ferry as set out in the Local Community plan 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Fuel Poverty: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of work to reduce the impacts of cost of living as set out in the Local Community plan 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of work to reduce the impacts of cost of living as set out in the Local Community plan 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of work to reduce the impacts of cost of living as set out in the Local Community plan 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: No Impact

Health: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of measures to reduce social isolation through the development of community spaces as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. This could disproportionately affect people with poor mental wellbeing. There may also be negative impacts on work to co-ordinate recovery activity. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of measures to reduce social isolation through the development of community spaces as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. This could disproportionately affect people with poor mental wellbeing. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Negative

The removal of a resource in the affected wards may have a negative impact on neighbourhood satisfaction and the connection of communities to public services. Dundee City Council will continue to offer proportionate capacity building and community development support in each ward

Transport: No Impact

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of measures to reduce the impact of climate change as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of measures to reduce the impact of climate change as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: Negative

Removal of this resource could impact negatively on the co-ordination of measures to improve green and open spaces as set out in the Local Community Plans 2022-27. Dundee City Council will continue to provide proportionate capacity building and community development support to communities in both wards but there may still be negative impacts.

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: Negative

There is potential political reputational risk from Dundee City Council being seen to be withdrawing services. However, we do not have a statutory duty to provide these services.

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: No Impact

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: Positive

This change will enable Dundee City Council to focus resources on those communities which experience higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage a where we have statutory duty under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to identify such areas and take action to reduce those inequalities.

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.