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Elma Murray
Chief Executive
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Cunninghame House
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21 July 2014

Dear Elma

As you know, Audit Scotland recently visited North Ayrshire CPP to follow-up on the progress made since our audit in 2012. I am writing to you, as Chair of the Strategic Management Team, to provide feedback from our visit.

In our report in March 2013, we noted that community planning in North Ayrshire was well established and moving in a positive direction. On our recent visit, we were encouraged to see that this momentum has been maintained. The sense of energy and commitment to driving this agenda forward was evident at the Strategic Management Team meeting we attended, and in our conversations with you and your partners.

It is clear that the CPP is taking action to address all of the areas in its improvement agenda. In particular, I would like to highlight the following:

- It was clear from our discussions that community planning partners have continued to build on existing partnerships and networks, to develop the relationships necessary for effective joint working. The Strategic Management Team is driving activity in line with the CPP's shared priorities, allowing the Community Planning Board to operate in a more strategic role.
- There was good evidence that the CPP has made good progress with its neighbourhood planning approach, which was still at a relatively early stage of development at the time of our initial audit in September 2012. Its work in building a comprehensive profile of each of the six neighbourhoods through the use of data (areas of family resilience reports) and consultation with local communities (neighbourhood forums) is a good example of the CPP actively focusing on understanding and planning for place. It is encouraging that partners have been actively involved in this work, and that some have already made changes to the way they operate to better reflect this neighbourhood approach. For example, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service alignment of its local management structures to the six neighbourhood areas.
- The work of the Partnership CPP Resource Planning Group to map partners' spend against the three priorities in the SOA and the six neighbourhood planning areas is clearly an important first step in identifying the resources available to deliver agreed outcomes and shows real progress since our initial audit in September 2012. This will help to inform discussions between partners about the extent to which spending is aligned with need, and to identify opportunities to share or better target resources (including people, buildings and other assets) to deliver the shared priorities in the SOA. We will look forward to hearing more about how you are progressing with this work when we revisit the CPP in 2015/16.
- Partners are clearly committed to improving the effectiveness of the CPP. For example, the RIPE group has revised its membership and remit to focus more on performance reporting and evaluation, to support improved scrutiny. Partners have drafted an organisational development

plan to help coordinate activity that can improve leadership and joint working. These developments give us assurance that there is real commitment in the CPP to work together to improve outcomes for local people.

As you know, we are planning to undertake a formal follow-up audit visit in 2015/16 when we will have a chance to review what further progress you have made since this year's visit.

If you would like to discuss any of these points further, please get in touch. The findings from our follow-up visit will help inform the next national community planning overview report that we are planning to publish towards the end of the year.

I would like to thank the Strategic Management Team for inviting us to their meeting, the partners who gave up their time to speak to us, and Morna Rae for coordinating our follow-up visit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Clark', with a horizontal line underneath.

Antony Clark
Assistant Director, Performance Audit and Best Value