

PLANET Network Meeting
Thursday, 6th September

*THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING
SOCIAL INCLUSION
REPRESENTATION
ON YOUR BOARD*

Setting this discussion in context

- Previous discussion on 'Principles of Community Development' at September 2006 Network Meeting
- Promoting Social inclusion and Equality as a priority Principle

Next Programme 2007 - 2013

- The NDP 2007-2013 states, 'the next LDSIP will, as it did in the past, support people and communities experiencing social exclusion. It will continue to target the most disadvantaged areas, groups and individuals.'

Challenges

- The LDSIP is only one of a number of Programmes operated by most Partnerships. Others include Leader, LES, Equality for Women, Rural Transport Initiative, Rural Social Scheme, etc.
- The Cohesion Process

Purpose of this presentation

- Introduction to the New Guidelines
- A time of Challenge and Opportunity
- Principles of Community Development compliment Social Inclusion Objectives
 - Empowerment-naming, addressing needs.
 - Participation-building capacity.
 - Collective Action-leading to social change.

Community Development is the process by which Social Inclusion is achieved.

Why ensure social inclusion representation on your board?

- Social Inclusion - when those experiencing disadvantage are involved in the decision making process.
- Partnership Companies' core role is Social Inclusion, and this should be reflected at Board level.
- In the private sector, it is customary to include consumers in the 'user-centred design.'

Who?

- Community Sector Representation.
- Representation- Target group/Community member (volunteer) V Paid Employee
- Issues
 - Target member-"real poor", individualistic public policy.
 - Employee-knowledge, being informed of reality, mandate, regular checking, capacity building.

Conclusion

Communities have a right to be represented by the most able whoever that happens to be at any particular time.

Social inclusion in the context of Dept. CRGA guidelines

- ***PAGE 29 – 'Additional requirements in the invitation of nominations from the C&V sector:***
- **3.9 ' In respect of the C&V sector nominees, the Board shall request the Director of Services for C&E in the relevant CDB to oversee the nomination process of candidates put forward by the C&V Forum and based on the C&V Forum register.'**

- 3.10 'As an alternative to the procedure suggested in 3.9, the Board may opt to oversee the nomination process for the C&V Sector reps. by supplementing or substituting the list of nominating C&V organisations contained on the C&V Forum register with its own register of relevant C&V organisations and with its own procedures.'

However.....

- 3.11 ' When this option is chosen, the Local Development Company should work with the relevant Director of Services for C&E as part of the nomination process to ensure that no C&V organisation eligible to nominate a Board member through the C&V Forum is excluded from the process by virtue of the preferred nomination procedure proposed by the Company.

Possible Options

Plan A (as per point 3.9 of guidelines)

Community Fora

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graph TD; A[Community Fora] --> B1((C&V Pillar Seat)); A --> B2((C&V Pillar Seat)); A --> B3((C&V Pillar Seat)); A --> B4((C&V Pillar Seat)); B1 --> C1((C&V Pillar Seat)); B2 --> C2((C&V Pillar Seat)); B3 --> C3((C&V Pillar Seat)); B4 --> C4((C&V Pillar Seat));
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- **Nominations and elections from Community & Voluntary Fora for 8 C&V places on Partnership board.**

Advantages & Disadvantages of Plan A

- Adv: Process carried out by CDB
- Disadv: No guarantee of target group or Social Inclusion reps. being elected.
- Disadv: Potential for block voting by groups or geographical areas to ensure their 'candidate' is elected to the board
- Disadv: Can't ensure a balanced board e.g. gender, interest group

Possible options

Plan B1 (as per point 3.10)

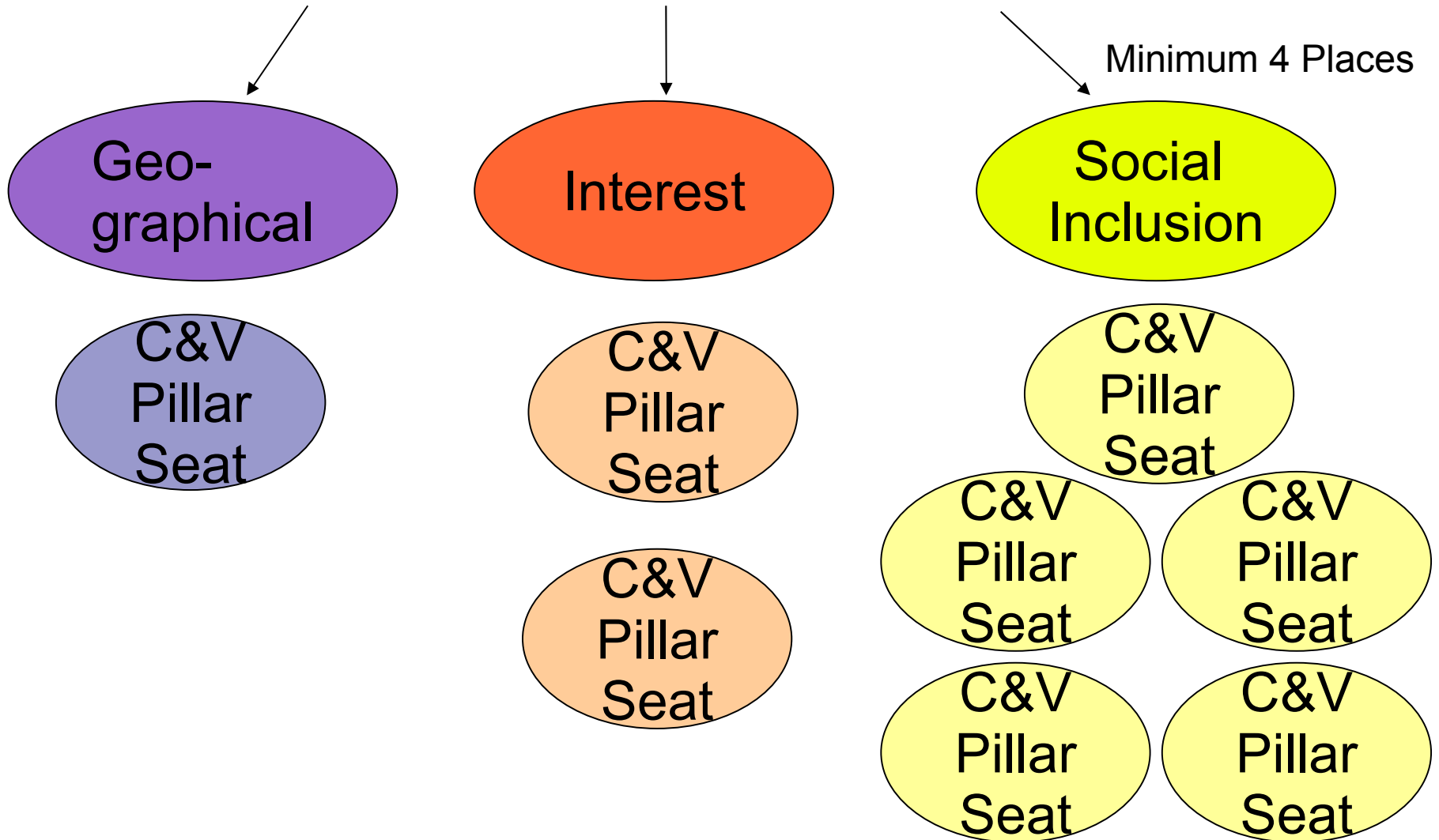
- Compiling of list using Community Forum and/or Community Platform, plus additional groups.
- Nominations and elections could take place on
 - Social inclusion i.e. reps. from LDSIP Key Target groups
 - Other – e.g. environmental, sport & social clubs, geographic etc.

Plan B1

- Recommending a minimum of **four** representatives should have a social inclusion focus.
- Groups could not nominate outside their category.

Plan B1

Partnership Board Compiles List of organisations and defines the categories



Advantages & Disadvantages of Plan B1

- Adv: Guarantees a level of balance (between Social Inclusion and other interests) within the Board, and ensures a minimum level of Social Inclusion representation.
- Disadv. It doesn't guarantee a balance of interests/representation from the Social Inclusion sector.

Plan B2

- Compiling of list using Community Forum and/or Platform plus additions, and segregate them into 'geographical' and 'interest' and 'social inclusion' pillars from this list.
- A Social Inclusion sub-structure of the Partnership i.e. Community Development Working Group, Social Inclusion Network, would develop criteria for the selection and nomination of the 'Social Inclusion' reps.

Plan B2

Partnership Board Compiles List of organisations and categories

Would be appointed based on a vote or through meetings with an agreed selection process

Minimum 4 Places
Would be appointed based on decisions made by Partnership sub-structure

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Advantages & Disadvantages of Plan B2

- Adv. The Partnership has more control over the process.
- Adv. There is more chance to get a is balance within the social inclusion sector
- Adv. It provides the opportunity to support to social inclusion reps. on the board, and provides an accountability structure to the social inclusion sector.
- Disadv. Approval will need to be sought from Dept. as per the guidelines.

Conclusion

- Of these three options, option B2 would give the greatest opportunity for Social Inclusion representation.