



REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2006 / 2007

Board Meeting – 21 June 2007

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Board's endorsement of East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board's Regeneration Outcome Agreement 2006/07 Annual Report, due to be submitted to Communities Scotland by 29 June 2007.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Submission of an Annual Report is a requirement of Communities Scotland's National Performance Management Framework 2006-08 for the Regeneration Outcome Agreement and related Community Regeneration Fund and Community Voices Programme, and guidance on the format of the report has been provided by Communities Scotland.

3. ANNUAL REPORT: 2006 / 2007

- 3.1 The second Annual Report summarises progress made over the year, 2006/07, and sets out forward information in the form of the main challenges for the year ahead.
- 3.2 A range of background information is requested by Communities Scotland, including:
- Appendix 1 - Outcome Achievements
 - Appendix 2 - Output Achievements
 - Appendix 3 - Community Engagement Assessment and Action Plan
 - Appendix 4 - Financial Information.

These appendices will be forwarded to Communities Scotland with the main document and will be available for inspection at the Board Meeting on 21 June 2007 (therefore not attached to this paper).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i) endorses the 2006/07 Annual Report, subject to minor textual amendments, for submission to Communities Scotland by 29 June 2007;
 - ii) remits the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to commission the production of the Annual Report in an interesting and attractive format, which can be widely circulated throughout East Ayrshire; and
 - iii) otherwise, notes the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
28 May 2007



COMMUNITY REGENERATION IN EAST AYRSHIRE

DRAFT

Regeneration Outcome Agreement

**ANNUAL REPORT
2006 / 2007**

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Our Vision

“East Ayrshire will be a place with strong, vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.”

East Ayrshire, The Community Plan (2003-2015)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The second Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) Annual Report of East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board provides us with an opportunity to highlight the significant progress and achievement over 2006/07 as we strive to meet the challenges of both the local and national regeneration agendas.

A history of strong partnership working by all the Partners, including the local community, which has been positively recognised in a range of Community Planning audits, provides a firm foundation from which we can jointly address issues in respect of disadvantage locally and ensures a co-ordinated approach to the regeneration of our most disadvantaged communities.

In addition, the significant progress and achievements demonstrated by many of the projects and initiatives funded via Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) and Community Voices Programme (CVP) resources in 2006/07 ensures that we are well on track towards the delivery of the three-year ROA, which received approval and 'sign off' by Scottish Ministers in July 2005.

The existing quality, innovation and good practice are perhaps best illustrated by some of our most noteworthy successes over the last year.

- **Recreation Partnership Project: SHOUT Card**

Developed by the Recreation Partnership Project, which provides a range of activities in schools and the community encouraging children to be more active, more often, the SHOUT Card is aimed at improving the health of children in East Ayrshire by ensuring that they can access a wide range of services, which will have a direct impact on their health and wellbeing without worrying about the cost. All children aged 5-12 years can apply for a SHOUT card free of charge, giving them:

- access to a wide range of physical activity sessions, such as Kids Clubs, CHAMPS (Challenging activities in Health, Arts, Movement, Play and Sport) Clubs, sports coaching sessions and specialist arts workshops, either free of charge or at a reduced rate;
- membership of the Council's extensive library network;
- discounts at a number of local retail outlets and events; and
- opportunities to build up SHOUT card points, which can be exchanged for a variety of unique rewards, by borrowing library books, attending activity sessions or using the SHOUT card in certain retail outlets or leisure facilities.

At the end of 2006/07, approximately 7,500 primary school aged children had applied and received SHOUT Card membership, which is 78% of all children within this age group living in East Ayrshire.

- **The EASY Project**

It is vital that we prepare young people more effectively to play their part in a prosperous and successful economy. The Scottish Executive has identified East Ayrshire as a 'NEET hotspot', where the issue of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) poses a particular challenge. Addressing this challenge requires an integrated approach involving a range of Community Planning Partners to ensure that the support required by the hardest to help young people, and also appropriate support for those who are disengaging from school, is provided and that the needs of these young people are met.

The EASY Project (East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth) builds confidence in young people aged 16 to 18 years and enables them to upgrade their skills, particularly in IT, communication and job seeking. In 2006/07, 32 of the most vulnerable young people in East Ayrshire's disadvantaged communities were assisted by this successful project into employment and 14 young people moved into further education opportunities.

- **Healthy Living Initiative: CHIP (Community Health Improvement Partnership)**

The recent Audit of Best Value and Community Planning in East Ayrshire clearly demonstrated that the CHIP delivers continuous improvement and best value. The report highlighted that, as the managing department for the initiative, the Council's

Leisure Services can demonstrate a very strong commitment to joint working with other Council services and with partners, and enthusiasm for innovation to deliver services to customers with changing needs and expectations".

More specifically, the report states that CHIP is an example of where "communities can see tangible benefits as a result of Community Planning activity". The report goes on to state that "CHIP adopts an effective approach to promoting the healthy living message".

The service is delivered by staff that have specialist knowledge in community development, exercise adherence, counselling and health improvement"; and "The rural nature of the area, makes the CHIP van the ideal 'vehicle' to promote health and well-being across East Ayrshire".

- **Coalfield Community Transport**

Key to improving opportunities, particularly in rural areas, are transport solutions which continue to meet the needs of the residents of East Ayrshire in respect of employment, leisure and recreation.

The Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) initiative, which provides affordable and accessible transport for community and voluntary groups living in the Coalfield Area of East Ayrshire, has been a huge success, attracting national recognition. An

increasing number of people are accessing the services, with passenger numbers rising from almost 20,000 in 2004/05 to over 27,000 in 2006/07.

A range of very successful initiatives continues to be operated by CCT. 'Wheels 2 Work', the scooter loan service, assists young people to access training or work. In partnership with the Scottish National Union of Mineworkers, transport is provided to miners and their families to the Union's convalescence home in Culross. The Early Years Service takes young children from outlying areas across the Coalfield Area to the Netherthird Nursery and Family Centre. In addition, the 'Awayhopper' offers affordable short breaks to members of the increasingly popular 'Dayhopper' service, which itself is a lifeline for many, allowing them to visit shopping centres and participate in a range of social activities.

- **New Sporting Futures: Premier Night Leagues**

The Premier Night League Programme provides free, informal yet structured opportunities for young people aged 12-18 years to participate in football and attracts well over 100 young people across five venues every Friday night. This type of night-time diversionary activity has been tried, tested and proven to work both at home and throughout the world. Its success locally is due to a dynamic and meaningful partnership involving East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Development Services, Community Police Officers, Community Wardens and Kilmarnock Football Club, which manages the programme.

- **Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects**

The Scottish Executive's new 'People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement' highlights the importance of environmental improvement work in regenerating communities. Through the Restoring Communities Programme, Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects provide communities with a longer term, detailed programme of improvement for individual settlements, covering a period of approximately 5-10 years. The Action Plans identify a 'wish list' of projects for each settlement, which are prioritised by communities. Projects are implemented utilising Community Regeneration Funding as well as funding from a wide range of external sources, with over £666,000 external funding confirmed in 2006/07 and £440,000 already being secured in 2007/08 for project development.

The Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects are produced following a full community consultation exercise and identify environmental improvement projects which are a priority for individual communities. Since the first Action Plan was prepared, a wide range of projects has been successfully implemented, including streetscape improvements, landscaping and planting, community newsrooms, community gardens and footpath improvements.

The programme aims to improve the quality of the environment for those who live and work in East Ayrshire and has been identified by an independent evaluation as an example of good practice resulting from successful community engagement and partnership working.

- **Community Planning in Action – Celebration and Showcase**

To highlight the work that has been done with people of all ages by the Partners working together, a programme of activity across East Ayrshire's communities was

organised at the end of March 2007, which provided an opportunity to raise awareness of what Community Planning means for the residents of East Ayrshire.

The celebration of Community Planning culminated in a production at the Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock, which showcased the exciting work being undertaken with young people in schools and community settings from across the area and new work being undertaken by commissioned artists. The two nights of music, drama and arts activity were not to be missed!

CONCLUSION

Significant progress has been made in tackling deprivation and inequalities faced by the most disadvantaged individuals and communities in East Ayrshire, in the second year of the three-year lifespan of the ROA.

The partnership continues to work effectively and we are committed to building on the successful programme, to date, to deliver the outcomes identified in the ROA by 31 March 2008.



COMMUNITY REGENERATION IN EAST AYRSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 / 2007

Welcome to the second Annual Report, prepared by East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board, which provides an opportunity for us to highlight our progress and achievements in 2006/07 in respect of the Strategic Regeneration Objectives set down in the three-year Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), underpinned by the Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) and Community Voices Programme (CVP).

This year, we have been able to build upon the success of last year's ROA programme and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our local people and in our most disadvantaged communities. Sitting under the Community Plan, the ROA provides a framework through which we will continue to tackle deprivation and address issues in respect of inequalities to ensure that we reduce the opportunity gap between our most and least deprived communities.

2006/07 has been an important year, which saw the implementation and successful conclusion of the first four-yearly review of Community Planning, culminating in the successful Celebration and Showcase events, with many CRF and CVP projects and initiatives involved in this activity across East Ayrshire's communities.

Strong partnership working and the full involvement of our communities in the local Community Planning process remain key to our success, which has been highlighted in both local and national Community Planning audits progressed by Audit Scotland during 2006/07.

Through the ongoing commitment to a joint-working approach by all the Partners, and the achievements of the projects and initiatives in the current CRF/CVP programme, we will demonstrate in this Annual Report that we have made a positive impact on people's lives and in our disadvantaged communities.

SECTION 1: UPDATE OF THE ROA STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND FORWARD LOOK

There has been no significant change to the strategic context of Community Planning in East Ayrshire since the 'sign-off' of the ROA in July 2005 by the Scottish Ministers; this has been demonstrated through the recent review of East Ayrshire's Community Plan, which provides the overarching strategic framework for the delivery of services by all Partner agencies to improve the lives of people living in East Ayrshire between 2003 and 2015.

At the inception of Community Planning in April 2003, Partners gave a commitment to carry out a review of East Ayrshire's Community Plan and related thematic Action Plans on a four-yearly basis. The first review was progressed during 2006/07 to ensure that the Community Plan continues to be 'fit for purpose' and a revised set of

Action Plans were ready for implementation by 1 April 2007. Wide-ranging consultation and engagement with our communities, Partners and other key stakeholders confirmed that our vision and priorities identified in 2003 are still as relevant today as they were then.

Early in 2006 consultation with our communities and other key stakeholders confirmed that they key priorities for 2007 to 2011 remained unchanged and efforts would continue to be directed at the key themes of:

- Promoting Community Learning;
- Improving Opportunities;
- Improving Community Safety;
- Improving Health;
- Eliminating Poverty; and
- Improving the Environment.

The ROA, which sits under the overarching Community Plan, provides an effective framework for directing a range of community regeneration activity in our most disadvantaged communities, with the purpose of closing the opportunity gap between these communities and other communities within East Ayrshire.

The Strategic Regeneration Objectives identified in the ROA also remain unchanged, each of which are underpinned by effective community consultation and engagement, and are as follows:

- **Active Communities**, where people are actively participating in their communities and influencing the democratic process;
- **Skilled Communities**, where people have the skills, capacity and opportunities to access employment, training and community-based learning;
- **Safe Communities**, where crime and the fear of crime are reduced;
- **Healthy Communities**, where everyone can enjoy and have equal access to a healthy life; and
- **Attractive Communities**, where people are proud and happy to live.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

East Ayrshire has been, and continues to be, affected adversely by the historic decline of deep mining and manufacturing industries. While it was expected that there would be approximately a 2% growth in new jobs by 2010, the manufacturing industry is projected to decline by a further 19%. At December 2006, the unemployment rate for East Ayrshire was the sixth highest in Scotland, at 3.8% compared with the national average 2.6% (Source: NOMIS – claimant count rates and proportions, January 2007). This average masks significantly higher levels of unemployment and deprivation in communities across the area.

To address these issues, Partners are committed to developing the economy as a whole, with a particular focus in terms of business and industry on capitalising on economic opportunities within Kilmarnock, through exploiting its proximity to the Clyde Corridor, and those arising from the extension of the M77, and on regenerating the economy in the coalfield communities.

The Community Plan vision is in alignment with the objective of the 'People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement', published in February 2006, which highlights the need to grow the economy, but there is also a clear need to make a real contribution to tackling the poverty and disadvantage that affect too many of Scotland's communities.

The ROA continues to provide a framework for this community based regeneration, seeking to ensure, for example, that where new employment opportunities are attracted to the area, the most disadvantaged people have the skills to take them up or, where new facilities are provided, people who are socially or geographically isolated can access them.

In June 2006, Alisdair McIntosh, the Scottish Executive's Head of Regeneration, Fuel Poverty and Supporting People, attended the CPP Board meeting to lead on a discussion in respect of the implications of the new Regeneration Policy Statement for East Ayrshire. Partners continue to support the delivery of both the national and local priorities for community regeneration.

POPULATION IN DECLINE

In recent years, East Ayrshire's population has been shown to be both declining and ageing, and based on the latest available estimates is to fall again significantly between 2002 and 2018 (down 7.8%). This compares with an expected 2.4% decline nationally over the same period. The local working age population is also expected to fall by 7% between 2003 and 2013, and faster than the decline forecast for the West of Scotland (down 4%). These trends are forecast to continue in future years.

SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2006

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 was published in October 2006 and highlights that 18% (approximately 1 in 5) of East Ayrshire's residents live within the top 15% most deprived areas in Scotland and we have the eighth largest proportion of population categorised as most deprived. In addition, East Ayrshire has eight local areas assessed as among the 5% most deprived in Scotland and forty local areas in the 20% most deprived areas (Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2006, Scottish Executive, October 2006). In terms of employment deprivation, East Ayrshire has seventy local areas within the 30% most deprived areas in Scotland.

Although it is disappointing that we will not be able to measure our progress in respect of poverty and deprivation in our local communities, as most domains and the overall SIMD 2004 are not directly comparable in absolute terms with SIMD 2006 due to changed data sources and improvements to indicators and methodology, significant poverty and disadvantage in our communities continue to be evidenced by the results of SIMD 2006.

COMMUNITY PLANNING REVIEW

The CPP Board has been fully and directly involved in the Community Planning review process and agreed that CRF financial allocations for 2007/08 would be aligned with the four-yearly review of the Community Plan Action Plans.

The thematic Action Plan Working Groups bring together all the key strategic partners within East Ayrshire and ensure the co-ordinated provision and resourcing of key regeneration initiatives. Their work has resulted in a full set of new Action Plans being developed, which were implemented from 1 April 2007.

In addition, the CPP Board agreed, as part of the four-yearly review process, a review of Community Planning structures to ensure that they continue to be 'fit for purpose'. In particular, the review would focus on the role of the Core Partners' Group and CPP Board.

A review of Community Planning operating structures is currently progressing; however, the CPP Board has agreed to a timescale extension to allow the Council to implement its new Departmental structure on 1 April 2007 and, as part of its Best Value and Community Planning Audit Improvement Agenda, review its overall decision-making arrangements and committee structure. In the meantime, it has been agreed that the status quo regarding the operating arrangements will remain in place until the structures review is concluded.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AUDITS

In 2006/07, three significant documents were published relating to Community Planning in East Ayrshire, namely:

- Community planning: an initial review;
- the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning; and
- the Audit Committee 2nd Report, 2007 on Community planning: an initial review.

All have been positive documents from the perspective of Community Planning in East Ayrshire, reporting significant success and good practice.

The CPP Board, including community representatives, was consulted for both the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning, and the Community Planning Baseline Audit.

The Account's Commission's findings include highlighting that:

"Joint working is a key strength, evident in community planning....Evidence from customers, staff and community partners indicates significant levels of satisfaction."

"Partners report that the council is very well organised and structured with excellent support from the Community Planning Unit."

In addition, an interview with the Audit Team behind the East Ayrshire Report states that:

“It has made significant progress in Community Planning where it is well ahead of other Councils.”

The Audit Committee 2nd Report 2007 set out the Audit Committee’s findings in relation to Community planning: an initial review. This document, in particular, highlighted significant progress in respect of Community Planning in East Ayrshire. The Committee found that the obstacles and difficulties of partnership working have been overcome through creating a culture of trust, openness and commitment.

MAIN CHALLENGES FOR THE COMING YEAR AND PLANS FOR MEETING THESE

East Ayrshire CPP has made significant progress since April 2005 in delivering the agreed CRF/CVP programme of projects and initiatives, which provide effective services and a range of opportunities to meet priorities within the most deprived communities across East Ayrshire.

The ‘People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement’ indicates that the Scottish Executive will continue to work with Community Planning Partnerships and provide targeted funding, such as the CRF, to support regeneration at a more local level. In addition, it will use ROAs as the foundation stone for effective joint working on regeneration by CPPs. However, 2006/07 has raised significant challenges for the CPP Board, in particular, due to the reduced CRF budget available in 2007/08. In addition, it is of concern that the Scottish Executive continues to allocate short-term regeneration funding, which prevents effective long-term strategic planning as well as presenting operational challenges for individuals/projects delivering services on the ground.

Currently, there is an uncertain future in respect of the resources, which will be made available to regenerate our disadvantaged communities beyond the current funding period, which will present particular challenges as 2007/08 draws to a conclusion.

A summary of the main priorities for the CPP Board in 2007/08 are detailed below:

- continuing to respond to community needs;
- ensuring ongoing and effective community engagement in decision-making and effectively implementing the National Standards for Community Engagement;
- continuing to ensure the effective implementation of the ROA and ensuring that strategic links are maintained with the local Community Planning process and the national priorities for regeneration;
- supporting, where appropriate, the sustainability of initiatives funded through short-term funding streams;
- using the ROA as the foundation for effective joint working in respect of community regeneration by Community Planning Partners;
- supporting the national priorities for regeneration, in particular, the Scottish Executive’s regeneration strategy, ‘People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement’;
- concluding the review of Community Planning structures to ensure that they continue to be ‘fit for purpose’;
- implementing a local Community Planning process and rationalising structures, where appropriate;

- implementing activity, where appropriate, to address the actions arising from the annual Partnership Assessment Scorecard;
- ensuring effective consultation with, and the ongoing engagement of, representative organisations in the CPP Board and in the Community Planning process;
- raising greater awareness of Community Planning/Community Regeneration and the benefits to the wider community;
- further enhancing joint systems for data collection, management, analysis and dissemination of key statistics; and the commissioning of research via the Research, Information and Performance Group; and
- supporting the principle of equality within the wider Community Planning agenda.

The priorities for 2007/08 will be driven forward through the co-ordinated activity of all the Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire.

SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ON ACHIEVING OUTCOMES AND THE DELIVERY OF OUTPUTS

The ROA continues to provide a framework for community regeneration, supported by CRF/CVP resources, through a wide ranging innovative and effective programme of projects and initiatives. In 2006/07, nine new projects further strengthened the ROA programme, including four which were previously funded via Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) resources, to build on the good practice of last year and previous regeneration programmes in tackling disadvantage in the most deprived communities in East Ayrshire.

A range of 'flagship' projects, which provide innovative and high quality services, continue to lead the way to achieving not only this year's outputs but also the final targets set for 2008.

Comprehensive and effective performance monitoring systems allow us to track performance against agreed outputs and outcomes, and, in addition, secondary outcomes. Projects report their achievement against more than one national priority or ROA Strategic Regeneration Objective, providing a broader picture of achievement. We have already met and exceeded 11 of the 27 ROA target indicators.

The detail of our programme performance towards achieving the ROA outcomes is reported at Appendix 1. There follows an overview of progress towards each of the Scottish Executive's national priorities.

BUILDING STRONG, SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Our project databases show that over 80,000 individuals from ROA targeted areas have participated in or directly benefited from CRF programme activity in 2006/07. This includes more than 500 people from an ethnic minority and over 400 people who consider themselves disabled. Almost 300 active volunteers are registered with the local Volunteer Centre and, in addition, CRF/CVP initiatives have reported that they have benefited from the support of over 700 active volunteers to deliver the agreed programme of services, maintaining similar levels to the previous year.

Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) continues to offer high quality service provision for individuals residing within the ROA targeted data zones, particularly people living in outlying rural communities. The results of a consultation with members demonstrated that 83% of members said the service offered was excellent value for money, and 91% rated the 'Dayhopper' service as good or very good. The initiative has attracted over 27,000 passengers during 2006/07, which is a 6% increase on the previous year.

In 2006/07, Additional Police Resources has implemented 254 action plans in the most deprived areas, totalling almost 6,500 hours of additional Police patrols. A large proportion of these plans were implemented to tackle violent crime, housebreaking and car crime, drug suppliers, warrants and anti-social behaviour. Significant progress is demonstrated again this year in the reduction in crimes and overall detections rates have significantly increased in targeted communities. The support provided by CCTV resources has, in some cases, been crucial as a source of evidence for the Police in tackling issues in our communities.

Activities to divert young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackle drug and alcohol misuse through education and leisure activities, make a big difference in our communities. The highly successful New Sporting Futures, a youth sport initiative with a difference for 10–18 year olds, provides sport and active recreation for East Ayrshire's young people and, in addition, targets specific groups and geographical areas identified by Strathclyde Police, the Anti-social Behaviour Team and Social Services, providing positive and attractive alternatives to youth crime, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. Over 14,000 attendances of young people were recorded at a range of diversionary activities provided via this extremely popular project in 2006/07.

The Regeneration Policy Statement highlights the importance of environmental improvement work in regenerating communities and a range of large scale capital projects, which impacts on the attractiveness of our local communities, tackles environmental inequalities, and which has a significant impact on residents of the most disadvantaged areas, has been progressed during 2006/07. The Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) will contribute to the regeneration of Kilmarnock Town Centre, identified as a high priority in the Regeneration Policy Statement, and CRF resources allocated in 2006/07 have resulted in a further £870,000 being secured from a range of external funders, with the outcome of further bids awaited.

The combined progress of these and other funded initiatives during 2006/07 demonstrates excellent progress towards outputs and outcomes set down within the ROA, which will provide strong, safe and attractive communities in East Ayrshire. It is anticipated that the full impact of the CRF programme of activity will be realised in the years ahead.

GETTING PEOPLE BACK INTO WORK

CRF resources continue to provide opportunities in employment and training, and promote work-related skills. The projects funded under 'Getting People Back into Work' in 2006/07 have assisted 221 individuals into employment through CRF employability support initiatives and a further 116 individuals were assisted into work by other CRF initiatives. We have already exceeded the final ROA target of 300 residents into work. In addition, these projects have provided opportunities for

almost 1,500 people to improve their work-related skills, which increases to over 1,800 individuals across the broader CRF programme.

In 2006/07, approximately 54% of project participants accessing training/skills development moved into employment, which is an increase from 47% in the previous year. Many of the individuals recruited to employment programmes in 2006/07 continue to participate in training and it is anticipated that they will go on to record positive employment outcomes in 2007/08, which will be reflected in future reporting under this priority.

Examples of programme activity, which have contributed to progress towards 'Getting People Back into Work' in 2006/07 include:

- **CONDUIT**

The CONDUIT Programme, an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) project, which provides training and support to enable unemployed people to access employment opportunities in Administration and Information Communication Technology (ICT), has supported 32 local residents during 2006/07. Of the 9 individuals who have completed the programme, 4 progressed directly into employment and 2 into further education, representing a 67% success rate.

- **East Ayrshire Works**

East Ayrshire Works delivers a series of short job focused training courses focused on the demands of the labour market, which last 13 weeks and aim to assist unemployed residents within targeted data zones into employment. Significant progress has been made in terms of outputs and 66 people have been supported in 2006/07, of whom 63 secured employment, demonstrating a 95% positive outcome. From 1 April 2007, the practice of the project will be mainstreamed by East Ayrshire Council's Working for Families.

- **East Ayrshire Woodlands**

East Ayrshire Woodlands continues to support a range of clients with complex needs through an environmental ILM project. Following an evaluation of current activity, the project has developed its training programme and it is anticipated that the introduction of a Forestry Modern Apprenticeship will provide an opportunity for programme participants to target higher level employment, including supervisory posts, within the forestry sector.

IMPROVING HEALTH

Raising awareness of healthy living factors for all residents and encouraging young people in particular to participate in active lifestyles are central to 'Improving Health' in our most disadvantaged communities and we are able to report significant progress in 2006/07.

A range of high quality and innovative health awareness initiatives attracted in excess of 57,000 project attendances during the year, more than a 50% increase on the previous year. Three new projects to the CRF programme in 2006/07, namely New Sporting Futures, Play and Activity Motivator (Early Years) and the Swimming

Pool Development Programme have contributed to this increase. Programmes targeted at carers, older residents, men, individuals with mental health problems, young people, children with additional support needs and toddlers, as well as the broader community, have been delivered within the ROA targeted data zones.

The Carer and Young Carer Support initiative delivered support, respite and training opportunities to almost 5,000 carers during 2006/07, exceeding many of the agreed output targets. Demand to support young carers has grown over the last year and the project currently supports over 400 young people, which is a 25% increase on last year. The initiative now provides outreach centres in Dalmellington and Muirkirk, which are well attended, and the service will be extended to Drongan in 2007.

The highly successful and award winning 'flagship' projects, namely Healthy Living Initiative and Recreation Partnership Project, which are firmly established in local communities, continued to provide a range of initiatives which tackle identified health related issues, and to explore and establish innovative new approaches to health improvement. Almost 30,000 attendances at community based health and recreation activities were recorded between these projects in 2006/07, making a significant contribution to the delivery of the associated ROA outcomes.

Breakfast Clubs recorded more than 27,300 attendances by over 770 children in 21 primary schools in the target areas and the Swimming Pool Development Programme provided opportunities for all P5, P6 and P7 pupils in the Cumnock Learning Partnership area to learn to swim at the national recommended age of 9 years.

CRF investment in 2006/07 included resources directed towards the implementation of a pilot initiative, the Play and Activity Motivator (Early Years), which provides a term time programme of active play sessions, using Fit Ayrshire Babies (FAB) and Fun4Hire resources, to 13 parent and toddler groups located in the most disadvantaged 0-15% data zones. An additional programme of activity is provided during the school holiday periods. The pilot project has been positively evaluated as part of the wider Activity Motivation Initiative, with more than 3,000 people using the service. The evaluation report highlighted increased participation levels of children and parents/carers and the innovative techniques used to engage the community.

The projects, which have contributed significantly towards the delivery of 'Improving Health' in our disadvantaged communities, continue to provide a range of high quality and innovative services and it is anticipated they will continue to make a significant contribution to improving health in our local communities in 2007/08.

RAISING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The ICT in the Community Initiative continued to demonstrate achievements towards 'Raising Educational Attainment', and attracted in excess of 2,700 local residents to participate in training programmes and learning opportunities during 2006/07, which is a significant increase on the previous year. This project has continued to demonstrate particular success in attracting residents with disabilities to access ICT services by providing specialist equipment to support them to use the facilities.

Individuals have been able to participate in ICT opportunities in Learning Centres across the most disadvantaged 0-15% communities, including outlying rural areas such as Bellsbank, Catrine, Drongan, Muirkirk, and Patna.

In addition, in order to provide opportunities for East Ayrshire's young people with additional support needs, a range of ICT equipment has been provided to support them during lunch time clubs and/or after school care clubs in settings throughout the area.

CRF project beneficiaries have achieved over 1,000 accredited qualifications since April 2005 through the overall CRF programme. Projects funded through other objectives such as, 'Getting People Back into Work', have also contributed significantly to these achievements as secondary outcomes from project activity. Many of the training programmes are currently ongoing and additional outcomes will be recorded during 2007/08.

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

During 2006/07, there has been significant progress towards the agreed ROA outcomes. Over 120,000 attendances of young people were recorded at CRF funded projects and initiatives during 2006/07, which is a 57% increase on 2005/06 and far exceeds the agreed targets.

New Sporting Future attracted over 27,400 attendances of young people during the year at health related physical activity sessions/diversionary activity and yipworld.com recorded almost 16,000 attendances of young people accessing services. In addition, the Recreation Partnership Project attracted in excess of 19,000 attendances of young people this year who continue to participate in a range of community based activity across East Ayrshire.

The Recreation Partnership Project continues to work with young people with additional support needs and over 1,000 attendances at school based activity sessions in Special Schools and approximately 1,800 community based physical activity sessions have been recorded, demonstrating a 13% increase on the activity of the previous year.

- **Dalmellington Youth Centre (The Zone)**

The Zone provides a dedicated training and youth facility at the heart of the Dalmellington community, offering a range of services, including youth information, ICT, health promotion and training opportunities to approximately 60 local young people each evening. The Centre is housed in a previously derelict building in the town centre and was opened officially on 7 April 2006 by Cathy Jamieson MSP, then the Minister for Justice.

Although the project sits within the 'Engaging Young People' priority, it is an excellent example of a highly effective crosscutting initiative, which contributes to a range of priorities. During 2006/07, The Zone became a LearnDirect provider and has been accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority to deliver the New Children's Care Learning and Development Level 2 and Level 3 courses. In addition, local crèche facilities are provided, without which many people would be unable to complete their training, improve employability and increase their finances.

- **Dialogue Youth Active Citizenship**

The Dialogue Youth Active Citizenship project develops a range of citizenship initiatives and in 2006/07 assumed a lead role in encouraging young people, and building their capacity, to be more involved in the Scottish Youth Parliament elections in East Ayrshire. A total of 11 young people stood as candidates to fill 3 seats in the Youth Parliament in 2006/07 and over 1,400 young people voted in the election, which is more than three times the number of votes received at the previous election. The three new MSYPs will represent East Ayrshire's young people for the next two years.

- **New Sporting Futures**

The New Sporting Futures initiative targets some of the East Ayrshire's most vulnerable young people via the delivery of specific programmes for Looked After and Accommodated Children. The programme is now well established with weekly visits to residential units, which has encouraged several young people to become involved in mainstream sport activities.

- **yipworld.com**

An innovative solution to ensuring that people can access high quality learning opportunities in their own communities is the TARDIS (Training and Recreation Delivered in Situ), yipworld.com's mobile community resource. It has three key functions:

- as a mobile LearnDirect branded training unit, it provides online learning opportunities in computing and personal development to all adults aged 18 and over living in the south of East Ayrshire area;
- it delivers a free drop-in service to young people living in rural communities who may have limited access to learning and recreational opportunities during the evenings and weekends; and
- it can be hired by organisations throughout East Ayrshire to allow them to work in communities with the most vulnerable groups.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE OUTPUT SUMMARY 2006/07

The information provided throughout this report illustrates that we continue to progress towards the delivery of positive outcomes by 31 March 2008.

The following project performance output summary demonstrates the significant achievements of the projects and initiatives in the CRF/CVP programme in 2006/07, which positively contribute towards the achievement of outcomes to be delivered at the conclusion of the three-year ROA.

National Priority	Achieved and exceeding target	Achieved	Partly Achieved	Total
Building strong, safe and attractive communities	19 (42%)	9 (20%)	17 (38%)	45 (100%)
Engaging young people	18 (47%)	4 (11%)	16 (42%)	38 (100%)
Getting people back into work	14 (74%)	1 (5%)	4 (21%)	19 (100%)
Improving health	14 (63%)	1 (5%)	7 (32%)	22 (100%)
Raising educational attainment	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Supporting community engagement	9 (69%)	1 (8%)	3 (23%)	13 (100%)
Total	76 (54%)	17 (12%)	47 (34%)	140 (100%)

All project outputs have been reviewed and agreed in respect of the 2007/08 programme to ensure they continue to be challenging as well as realistic.

EQUALITIES

Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire have agreed that 'equalities' issues will continue to be progressed through the wider Community Planning agenda and, therefore, integral to, rather than as a separate issue promoted through, the ROA.

However, in order to develop practice in respect of 'equalities' issues, members of the CPP Board and representatives of the Community Planning and Partnership Unit participated in a range of consultancy information sessions co-ordinated by Communities Scotland.

In addition, as part of ongoing reporting arrangements, CRF and CVP funded projects have been requested to highlight examples of good practice in respect of 'equalities' issues. Many of the examples of good practice have been highlighted throughout this report, including the following:

- **Ethnic Minority Inclusion**

This project provides a range of support to pupils and parents in their own language via Bilingual Assistants in schools, providing opportunities to enhance the relationship between ethnic minority families and the school, and enables the families to become more involved in the school community. During 2006/07, a total of 59 pupils and 59 families were supported via this initiative.

- **Community Health Partnership Domestic Abuse Initiative**

This project works directly with Women's Aid and women who suffer, or have suffered, domestic abuse, providing them with support to improve the quality of their lives. During 2006/07, the project directly supported 31 women and continues to indirectly affect domestic abuse victims through ongoing partnership working.

- **Healthy Living Initiative: ‘Young at Heart Initiative’**

This project encourages older people to get active by providing exercise classes aimed specifically at the older age group. During 2006/07, 20 sessions provided each week attracted 10,000 attendances by people aged 50+ years.

In addition, the Healthy Living Initiative promotes social justice and social inclusion through targeting men who are particularly vulnerable to poor health, such as the prison population and homeless men.

- **New Sporting Futures/Recreation Partnership Project**

Responding to a gap in service provision, New Sporting Futures, in partnership with the Recreation Partnership Project, provides adults with a disability an opportunity to participate in regular sport and physical activity sessions at disability sports clubs in Kilmarnock and Catrine, which are attracting over 30 participants per week.

All CRF/CVP funded projects and initiatives in the 2006/07 programme have been requested to provide disaggregated information in respect of age, gender, ethnicity and disability, where this information is available. The following table is based upon the data provided over the last year.

Project Beneficiaries	Percentage of Participants in 2006/07
Percentage of young people (under 25 years) that have used service	37%
Percentage of males that have used service	37%
Percentage of females that have used service	63%
Percentage of service users who come from an ethnic minority background	1%
Percentage of service users who consider themselves disabled	1%

INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

During 2006/07, a multi-agency Working Group has been developing and trialling an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) tool for East Ayrshire. The IIA tool provides a range of benefits, including the provision of a mechanism not only for addressing current agendas in relation to equalities, sustainability and rural-proofing but for demonstrating that we are doing so. The IIA tool is currently being piloted and refined. Subject to successful evaluation, it is anticipated that the IIA tool will be fully implemented during 2007/08 and utilised in the development and review of relevant policies and strategies in Partner organisations.

SECTION 3: REPORTING ON LINKED FUNDING STREAMS

Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire have responsibility for ensuring that activity in respect of the following initiatives is driven forward. Links to the ROA, a progress report for 2006/07 and plans for 2007/08 are summarised below.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION FUND

East Ayrshire has been allocated £350,000 in Financial Inclusion Fund resources in each of the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08. The Financial Inclusion Workplan, which has been agreed by the Scottish Executive, identifies three key priority areas for action:

- Financial Services;
- Money Advice and Support; and
- Financial Education.

Links to the ROA

Key outcomes and outputs in relation to Financial Services, and Money Advice and Support relate to the Strategic Regeneration Objective of 'Active' Communities identified within the ROA, and, in particular, Outcome 1d: 'Local access to affordable financial savings and loans improved', which will ensure that people from more disadvantaged communities have access to appropriate advice, support and assistance regarding their financial circumstances, including a range of financial services and information.

In addition, the Financial Inclusion outcomes and key outputs referred to within the summary of progress below, link directly with the Community Plan, through the Eliminating Poverty Action Plan.

Summary of Progress 2006/07

Progress in respect of the Financial Inclusion Action Plan includes:

- a Financial Inclusion Development Officer recruited to progress and monitor the implementation of East Ayrshire's Financial Inclusion Action Plan, which includes monitoring progress through service level agreements with partner providers, where appropriate;
- equitable and enhanced funding for both Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union, and Kilmarnock Credit Union achieved, and activity expanded and developed;
- Business Plans developed for both credit unions to facilitate enhanced lending capacity, a wider range of available financial services and the distribution of publicity material;
- a local mapping exercise regarding the availability of a range of financial services completed and associated data analysis in progress;
- activity to secure more appropriate premises for Kilmarnock Credit Union progressed;
- effective partnership working progressed with East Ayrshire Citizens' Advice Bureau to develop Money Advice and Support provision;
- arrangements to deliver services appropriate for people with mental health problems developed and implemented; and
- a provider of intensive money management/budgeting support for people who require this level of service in respect of debt problems identified and service delivery agreed.

Objectives for 2007/08

The following objectives have been identified as priorities for 2007/08:

- continued development of credit union service provision;
- continued development of money advice services;
- roll out of a comprehensive programme of financial education to all sectors, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable people.

Implementation of proposals for Financial Education has been identified as a priority for 2007/08. The most appropriate method of delivering Financial Education packages and services to promote financial literacy, with a particular emphasis on young people, is currently being considered.

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

In June 2006, the Scottish Executive launched 'More Choices, More Changes: A Strategy to Reduce the Proportion of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Scotland'. East Ayrshire is one of seven local authority areas where NEET is a particular challenge and Community Planning Partners received £400,000 for 2006/07 and 2007/08 from the Scottish Executive to reduce the risk of young people heading towards NEET. The allocation for 2006/07 was released by the Scottish Executive in November 2006.

The NEET group represents a wide range of individuals, from those with multiple barriers to employment to those simply on a gap year. Meeting the NEET challenge means not only providing the intensive support and opportunities required by the hardest to help young people but also providing appropriate support and opportunities for those who are disengaging from school.

The Scottish Executive has requested that local authorities work with an existing partnership in order to deliver a comprehensive and co-ordinated local response to NEET in the wider employability agenda.

Links to the ROA

Key outcomes and outputs in respect of NEET relate to the ROA Strategic Regeneration Objective of 'Skilled Communities' and, in particular, Outcome 2a: 'Residents assisted into employment increased; and Outcome 2b: 'Work related skills promoted'.

The NEET strategy is central to the aims of Community Planning, particularly within the Community Plan Improving Opportunities and Promoting Community Learning themes as well as some relevance to the Eliminating Poverty theme.

Summary of Progress 2006/07

A strategy group, chaired by East Ayrshire Council's Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and involving a range of partners, including East Ayrshire Council; Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire; Careers Scotland; Jobcentre Plus; Kilmarnock College; and Ayr College has been established. Progress in respect of the NEET Strategy Partnership Action Plan in 2006/07 includes:

- links with the voluntary sector established and some employer engagement progressed, including the Smith Group 'Challenge' which has agreed to find 110 NEET jobs in East Ayrshire;
- a mapping exercise of pre-16 and post 16 provision completed;
- work experience arrangements for school aged young people reviewed and ready for implementation from summer 2007 onwards;
- a 'learners passport' for young people with additional support needs developed and piloted, and transition guidelines developed, in particular, for high risk groups;
- a key worker system piloted for 'Christmas leavers' from school and tracking systems currently in development;
- links to Kilmarnock and Ayr Colleges substantially developed, and support structures to limit drop out in tertiary education provision improved;
- a range of working groups established, including one to progress improved aftercare provision;
- a multi-agency/secondary schools seminar organised to identify common themes and share good practice;
- links established with Jobcentre Plus and Careers Scotland in respect of data collection and tracking; and
- analysis in respect of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation completed.

Objectives for 2007/08

The following issues have been identified as priorities for 2007/08:

- the requirement to demonstrate impact in respect of the NEET strategy;
- review and rationalisation, if appropriate, of employability programmes; and
- sustainability beyond the current funding period and the availability of longer- term funding.

NEW FUTURES FUND (NFF) SUCCESSOR FUND

The New Futures Fund (NFF) provides £30,000 'successor funding' to East Ayrshire's Community Planning Partners in 2006/07. The funding is directed to assist in the achievement of the Closing the Opportunity Target B: Reduce the proportion of 16-19 year olds who are not in education training or employment by 2008.

Community Planning Partnerships were requested to review and evaluate existing projects and incorporate within the ROA and Employability Framework. In the case of East Ayrshire, this involved only the Unity Enterprise Employability Project, for which the Scottish Executive recommended continuity of funding.

Links to the ROA

Key outcomes and outputs in respect of the NFF relate to the ROA Strategic Regeneration Objective of 'Skilled Communities' and, in particular, Outcome 2a: 'Residents assisted into employment increased; and Outcome 2b: 'Work related skills promoted'.

In addition, the criteria for spend of NFF resources are integrated into the Community Plan Improving Opportunities Action Plan and linked to the Promoting Community Learning Action Plan.

Summary of Progress 2006/07

The Improving Opportunities Action Plan Working Group has progressed a review of the NFF on behalf of the CPP to facilitate more strategic co-ordination of services and allow service users better access to established training and employment projects. Progress, to date, is as follows:

- a mapping exercise in respect of initiatives, which provide an employability service to young people with additional support needs, has been progressed;
- an evaluation of the programme delivered by Unity Enterprise, which is aimed at young people with support needs and in full-time education at Park School, Kilmarnock, has been completed; and
- 12 young people with additional support needs in the Post Sixteen Class, who participated in the schools 'get ready for work initiative', will enrol on a Life Skills training programme at Kilmarnock College, following the summer holiday period.

Objectives for 2007/08

The results of the evaluation established that Unity no longer meets the criteria for future NFF, which the organisation has accepted. However, Unity Enterprise will be invited to join a working group, which will be established to explore future options in respect of employability delivery methods to ensure a co-ordinated approach in respect of future funding opportunities.

Consequently, East Ayrshire Council's Skills Training Unit is in the process of developing a certificated training programme, which will be delivered at Park School using NFF resources. Outline proposals are currently being finalised for full implementation from Summer 2007 onwards.

SECTION 4: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Effective community engagement lies at the heart of the Community Planning process in East Ayrshire and a wide range of community involvement exists locally in regeneration activity as is demonstrated below.

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of the ROA development process, Community Planning Partners agreed to ensure that the National Standards for Community Engagement (National Standards) are achieved as a minimum in all community engagement activity in East Ayrshire. In addition, Partners have recognised that the National Standards are an important resource to help CPPs measure their shared effectiveness in engagement activity.

The CPP Board re-affirmed its commitment to achieving the National Standards in 2006 and agreed to ensure that respective agencies/organisations are aware of this good practice.

A range of activity has subsequently been progressed across the partnership to build awareness of the National Standards and how they should be achieved and implemented through ongoing activity to engage communities across East Ayrshire in the Community Planning process.

Support Programme

East Ayrshire was allocated six consultancy days in 2005/06 to implement phase one of the support programme, and a range of awareness raising and training activity was progressed with key staff, community/voluntary groups and individuals who will 'champion' the use of the National Standards throughout their organisations, communities and groups.

Communities Scotland subsequently approved an extension to the National Standards Support Programme and a further four days were allocated as part of the second phase of the Support Programme, supported by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC). The following events were organised in 2006/07:

- an East Ayrshire seminar, which focused on providing Partners, communities and voluntary agencies with an overview of the National Standards; the opportunity to hear local stories; and participate in a series of workshops, and
- an in-depth training session, which focused on how the National Standards link to existing planning and evaluation tools such as 'Learning, Evaluating and Planning' (LEAP).

Consultation and Engagement Toolkit

A Consultation and Engagement Toolkit has been developed by the Community Planning and Partnership Unit to provide a practical resource for staff to support the planning and delivery of community engagement activities within East Ayrshire. The toolkit contains information on:

- Community Planning Partners' commitment to community consultation and engagement;
- the National Standards for Community Engagement; and
- a range of existing complementary structures and forums, which are currently used by partners to ensure that communities continue to influence service planning and decision-making in East Ayrshire.

IMPACT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON PUBLIC SERVICES

A few examples of how the National Standards have been implemented locally, and the impact of community engagement on public services within East Ayrshire, are outlined below:

- **Federations of Community Groups**

The Federations of Community Groups, one representing the north and one representing the south of the Authority, comprise representation from communities across East Ayrshire. Each Federation has four members on the CPP Board and representation on the Community Planning Core Partners' Group.

The Federations:

- ensure that engagement in the Community Planning process is informed by the views of communities across East Ayrshire;
- ensure community representation in decision making; and
- facilitate communication with the people who live in our communities.

- **Community Planning Four-yearly Review**

A wide ranging consultation in respect of the existing Aims and Aspirations of the Community Plan took place in 2006/07, which was widely advertised in the local press, inviting participation from across the community. The response from the community was that the Aims and Aspirations remained unchanged, which was subsequently reflected in the Community Planning Review Supplement 2006/07.

- **Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP)**

The CHIP Van is a mobile health facility and brings health advice, information and access to specialist health services to the doorstep. It responds to community need by establishing services such as exercise classes and stress management groups locally. Importantly, it facilitates greater community engagement, empowerment and participation through the establishment of local health forums, which assist in identifying and shaping services to fit the health priorities of individual local communities.

- **Kilmarnock Shopmobility Scheme**

Responding to identified local need, the North Communities Federation developed a partnership agreement with East Ayrshire Council to deliver a Shopmobility Scheme, which ensures that people with a mobility impairment have access to a full range of services, including shopping and leisure facilities, in Kilmarnock Town Centre. To date, over 200 people have registered as members of the scheme and approximately 900 bookings have been recorded in 2006/07.

The above examples demonstrate high quality consultation and engagement, which impacts on service delivery within the local Community Planning process.

COMMUNITY PLANNING RESIDENTS' PANEL

East Ayrshire Community Planning Residents' Panel currently comprises 600 individuals and is managed by a multi-agency Consultation Steering Group, which considers consultation topics/issues submitted by Partner agencies.

Five consultation exercises were progressed in 2006, including:

- the Community Planning Four-yearly Review Process;
- Smoking and Fire Safety Survey;
- Local Transport Strategy Survey;
- East Ayrshire Local Plan Alterations; and
- Strathclyde Police Public Consultation 2006.

The consultation results are made available to the public in a range of formats, as deemed appropriate, including the Community Planning website, Residents' Panel newsletter, Federations of Community Groups, newspapers and press releases.

As well as providing feedback in respect of consultation results, the Residents' Panel newsletter highlights how responses have informed service delivery, policy and strategy, and outlines future consultation topics.

It has been agreed by the Community Planning Core Partners' Group that a panel refreshment exercise will be commissioned during summer 2007 to ensure that panel membership remains representative.

In addition, in an attempt to rationalise consultation and engagement, and to inform the public and Community Planning partners of planned consultation, a joint Annual Community Engagement Plan is being prepared, which will be made available via the Community Planning website at www.eastayrshirecommunityplan.org and updated on a quarterly basis.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE

Community Planning Partners commissioned Rocket Science Consulting in 2005, to develop a Partnership Assessment Scorecard (PAS) to allow the effectiveness of partnership working in East Ayrshire, including community consultation and engagement, to be measured.

The second annual PAS exercise, which included the same specific question set, including community consultation and engagement, was completed in March 2007. Community representatives from the two Federations participated fully in this exercise, together with staff from all levels across the CPP agencies.

PAS Results

In terms of the community engagement 2007 results, of the 7 sub-topics, 1 score has increased, 4 have remained the same and 2 have decreased. All increases and decreases have been by either 0.1 or 0.2 points.

The results highlight that the partnership has improved in 'Reporting back to the communities'. This is particularly encouraging as during 2006/07 the CPP invested in the Community Planning website and a range of promotional material has been provided in the local press. In addition, a Residents' Panel newsletter has been prepared and circulated to its members, and the 'Partnership' information update, developed following a request from community representatives who directly feedback to their communities, provides a summary of the actions/recommendations arising from CPP Board meetings.

One of the decreases relates to 'Community influence: CPP decisions', which decreased by 0.1 and has been identified for further investigation. This perception in relation to community influence in Community Planning decision-making is considered particularly puzzling as it is an area where East Ayrshire, through the former Social Inclusion Partnership and the existing Community Planning Partnership, is recognised by external evaluations and Audits as doing particularly well.

'Understanding the needs of different groups' has also decreased by 0.1 point, which may be attributed to the number of new scorers in a relatively small 'Scorer Group'.

The Community Planning partners are currently considering the 2007 PAS results and agreed action will be included in relevant workplans for 2007/08, as appropriate.

The PAS exercise will be repeated in March 2008, the results of which will be used to measure and evaluate the actual impact of community involvement on local public service delivery in East Ayrshire.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION ON EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP (CPP) BOARD

The Community continues to sit at the heart of strategic decision-making within the CPP, with 12 community representatives sitting on the CPP Board, comprising 4 representatives from the Coalfield Communities Federation; 4 representing the North Communities Federation; and 4 representatives from the wider community, who are nominated for a two-year period from June 2005. It has been agreed that no new appointments will be made to the CPP Board until the structures review has been concluded.

The Federations continue to ensure effective community engagement in the overall decision-making process and are also represented on the Core Partners' Group, currently the key strategic planning structure within East Ayrshire.

SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CPP BOARD

CRF and, in particular, CVP resources continue to be utilised to support and build the capacity of community representatives on the CPP Board, in the Federations of Community Groups and within the wider community, to enable them to participate fully in the democratic process.

A comprehensive package of support continued to be made available and was positively received by community representatives in 2006/07, including:

- two dedicated Consultation and Engagement staff, who provide a range of support and guidance to community representatives on the CPP Board and the Federations;
- dedicated Federation support staff;
- ICT equipment and services in the homes of community representatives, including email and internet access;
- individual training programmes provided, as appropriate; and

- community representatives' expenses, encompassing travel, loss of earnings, subsistence and care allowances.

Community representatives continue to emphasise that this ongoing package of support ensures that opportunities for them to engage in the Community Planning decision-making process are maximised.

SECTION 5: PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Community Regeneration in East Ayrshire is being driven forward by Community Planning Partners through the ROA and the associated CRF resources, which provide targeted funding to augment mainstream funding and support regeneration at a more local level. The focus of the ROA is to address deprivation experienced in communities across East Ayrshire by closing the opportunity gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities.

CPP OPERATING STRUCTURES

The CPP Board ensures appropriate governance of CRF and CVP resources and comprises thirteen Partner agencies and twelve Community Representatives.

Community Planning Partners have made a commitment to review the existing structures, in particular, the CPP Board and the Core Partners' Group. As part of the Four-yearly Review of the Community Plan, it is anticipated that the structures review and future decision-making arrangements will be concluded over the summer 2007. In addition, the structures review will provide opportunities to explore and develop the local Community Planning agenda, which will be implemented in East Ayrshire in 2008 and beyond. In the meantime, it has been agreed that the status quo in respect of current operating procedures will remain in place.

However, as part of the review the Monitoring and Evaluation, and Research and Information working groups were merged to establish the new Research, Information and Performance Working Group in November 2006, which will provide an enhanced response to monitoring and evaluation, and research and information developments in relation to Community Planning and related programmes.

The Community Planning and Partnership Unit, which sits within East Ayrshire Council, continues to co-ordinate, facilitate and support Community Planning/Community Regeneration activity.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WORKSHOP

In order to promote effective partnership working within the CPP Board, a 'Roles and Responsibilities' Workshop was organised in August 2006, which focused on a number of issues agreed by the CPP Board for consideration, including:

- the role of CPP Board members; the extent to which they are representative of their organisations/communities; and the contribution that they can make to the Partnership;
- the benefits of Partnership Working;

- comments/feedback to the CPP Board and back to groups/organisations and communities; and
- the development of partnership skills, building trust and working as a team.

CPP Board members made a positive contribution to the workshop sessions, which also provided an opportunity for members to discuss and debate proposals regarding revised operating structures and decision-making arrangements.

The PAS exercise undertaken in 2007 continues to demonstrate the success of partnership working through the high scoring 'Awareness of Partners' Strategic' staff, 'Awareness of Decision Makers', and 'Improved Communication' under the topic of Structures and Processes.

SUSTAINABILITY

During the development of the ROA, the decision was taken by the CPP Board that, with the exception of 'flagship' projects, community planning related capacity building projects and core operating costs, which received a three-year funding package, all remaining projects would receive a two-year funding package to allow for overall review and alignment with the four-yearly review of Community Planning taking place in 2006/07 and due to be implemented in 2007/08.

In addition, at its meeting in March 2006, the CPP Board agreed that projects receiving maximum pointage in the annual review process would be added to the overall project list.

As part of the Community Planning review process, discussions have been held with a range of partners and projects in an attempt to secure the transition from CRF/CVP resources to a more appropriate funding source, provide longer-term sustainability, where appropriate, and meet the required £813,750 expenditure reduction from the 2006/07 budget to 2007/08. Consequently, at its meeting in September 2006, the CPP Board recommended the exit of 19 projects and initiatives from the CRF programme at 31 March 2007.

The CPP Board remains firm in its commitment to ensure that the projects which it funds are sustained, where appropriate, beyond the current funding period and a comprehensive support package was made available to the exiting projects during the exit process.

Each project received support from a nominated Council/Partner Agency Lead Officer and the Council's External Funding staff between the end of September 2006 and 31 March 2007 to ensure an effective and smooth exit from CRF resources.

In addition, a short-term Working Group, chaired by East Ayrshire Council's Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support and comprising CRF Lead Officers, External Funding staff, representatives of the Council's Personnel Section and officers from the Community Planning and Partnership Unit, was established to ensure maximum support and co-ordination in respect of the exit process.

Exiting Projects 2006/07

The following projects recommended for exit have had their practice/core activity mainstreamed within existing Council/Partner activity:

- East Ayrshire Works;
- Individual Employment Fund; and
- Void Housing Environmental Scheme.

Work is ongoing to further consider mainstreaming opportunities for two projects, namely, ICT in the Community and Road Safety. In addition, it is anticipated that, following successful evaluation, the practice of the CHP Domestic Abuse Initiative will be mainstreamed by East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership.

Due to the positive start made by the Play and Activity Motivator (Early Years), the Council's Neighbourhood Services agreed to resource the project until August 2007 to allow for an evaluation of project activity to take place and further consideration of longer-term funding.

In addition, the following projects have secured funding to sustain activity in 2007/08, namely Creative Skills via resources provided by Kilmarnock College; Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union through the Financial Inclusion Fund; Dalrymple Youth Provision through the support of a Development Worker; and one staff post within the Investment in Arts team has been mainstreamed and the outcome of a 5-year bid to the Big Lottery is currently awaited.

The following projects came to a planned conclusion at 31 March 2007, namely Atrium Homes and Cunninghame Housing Association-East Ayrshire Partnership ILM; East Ayrshire Works; Individual Employment Fund; and Logan Development, all having completed a planned programme of work and fulfilling their requirements in respect of the ROA reporting process.

The Prince's Trust Volunteers, Dialogue Youth Active Citizenship, Kickstart and the Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire are currently being supported to explore and access alternative funding sources.

The ICT in the Community project and Addiction Prevention Project (DIVERT) were allocated CRF short-term funding to allow these initiatives to continue into the summer of 2007, while decisions in respect of external funding bids to the Big Lottery Fund are awaited. In addition, due to the complexities involved in co-ordinating funding for large scale capital projects, CRF resources for Auchinleck One Stop Shop will continue into 2007/08.

Annual Review Process

As part of established financial and performance monitoring procedures, all CRF and CVP projects and initiatives are required to participate in the Annual Review process in October/November each year.

While continuing to maintain its effectiveness, a more streamlined approach to the Project Annual Review process was undertaken in 2006. The CPP Board recommended that there was no requirement for 'flagship' projects, community capacity building/monitoring and evaluation projects to attend review meetings in

2006 as CRF/CVP resources for 2007/08 had already been approved. However, projects were required to submit written Progress Reports/Work Plans, as appropriate.

In addition, there was no requirement for exiting projects to participate in the Annual Review process; however, monitoring staff from the Community Planning and Partnership Unit (CPPU) met with each of the exiting projects in January 2007 to ensure that project responsibilities in respect of CRF financial and performance monitoring were fulfilled.

Projects requiring further review would require to meet with relevant thematic Project Review Groups, comprising members of the CPP Board, including community representatives, the relevant Community Planning Lead Officer and staff from the CPPU. Community Planning Lead Officers, therefore, had an opportunity to take a further view on which projects should continue and how they should be funded.

A total of 21 projects and initiatives participated in the annual review process and were subject to the same scoring criteria used in the review process in 2005, as follows:

- Project performance to date;
- Strategic fit with local and national priorities; and
- Value for money (funding leverage).

Of the 21 projects reviewed, including three projects recommended for exit at 31 March 2007, 17 were recommended for continuation funding and one project, namely the Environmental Hit Squad, was recommended for 6 months' funding only in 2007/08 to allow East Ayrshire Council a further opportunity to consider sustainability.

Community Planning Partners continue to consider the future sustainability of CRF projects within the current programme. In particular, priority has been directed at mainstreaming opportunities for 'flagship' projects, which deliver what is considered to be essential, high quality services linked directly to Community Planning priorities. However, reductions in mainstream budgets and short-term funding continue to present a significant challenge in this regard.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING PARTNERSHIP WORKING

As previously reported at Section 4, the PAS has been developed to measure the effectiveness of partnership working through Community Planning in East Ayrshire.

The first annual PAS exercise, undertaken in March 2006, provided the baseline for future activity, and the second exercise was completed in March 2007, using the same question set and methodology.

In 2007, there were some changes to 'Scorer Groups', mainly due to staff turnover and the merging of the two operational working groups into the Research, Information and Performance Group; otherwise, the same scorers were invited to participate in the exercise, as follows:

- **Strategic Partnership Staff**, including members of the key CPP decision-making bodies and representatives from the Communities Federations;
- **Operational Partnership Staff**, including members of each of the six thematic Community Plan Action Plan Working Groups; and
- **Representative staff from all levels of CPP agencies**, including staff from East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and Strathclyde Police.

The results of the PAS are utilised to inform the preparation of workplans and annual performance reports for Community Planning and the ROA. In addition, the PAS affords Community Planning Partners the opportunity to monitor their progress in fulfilling their statutory duty under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to participate in the Community Planning process. Furthermore, through the facility to produce detailed action plans, it has the potential to support Partner organisations in identifying and addressing training needs in relation to working within a Community Planning framework.

Following the PAS exercise in March 2006, the following issues detailed below were identified and addressed through the JOG Workplan:

- 'Awareness of local people'; and
- 'Awareness of Partners' operational staff'.

'Awareness of local people' was addressed through a range of mechanisms, most notably, the Community Planning website; the Celebration of Community Planning, including the Showcase events; a newsletter to every household in East Ayrshire; and promotional material in the local press, with positive results in that the aggregated score has increased in 2007. 'Awareness of Local people' will continue to be addressed through the work of the CPP in 2007/08.

To increase the 'Awareness of Partners' operational staff', the Community Planning Workbook was devised and utilised within the team meeting setting across the Partner organisations. In addition, the Community Planning website provides a resource for staff in terms of awareness raising and provision of information. This positive activity has seen the aggregated score in relation to this issue increased in 2007. It has been agreed that the mainstreaming of Community Planning, for which a high level of awareness by staff is a necessity, is a priority issue and awareness raising has been included in CPP workplans for 2007/08.

Within the overall 2007 results, of the 28 sub-topics, 14 scores have increased, 10 have remained the same and 4 have decreased, demonstrating that there has been progress towards strengthening the partnership.

Individual partner agencies have the facility to utilise the PAS tool to further analyse the results for their own organisations. This will support them in identifying support and training needs in relation to working within a Community Planning Framework.

The PAS exercise will be repeated in March 2008 to enable our ongoing progress in partnership working to be effectively monitored and evaluated at the conclusion of the ROA three-year funding period.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Rigorous monitoring and evaluation processes continue to be implemented, which are routinely reviewed and revised, as appropriate, to ensure that they are 'fit for purpose'. The systems currently in operation are summarised below:

- Project set up meetings with all new projects are convened by dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation staff in the Community Planning and Partnership Unit, and Project Specification Forms prepared for each CRF/CVP funded project, providing a comprehensive package of performance and finance related information. Additional performance meetings are convened, and guidance and support provided, as required.
- Performance Monitoring Forms are completed and submitted to the Community Planning and Partnership Unit on a quarterly basis, which meet the requirements of both the project and the CPP. In addition, 'one touch' monitoring forms have been developed to streamline monitoring processes for multi-funded projects in receipt of financial allocations via core Community Planning Partners.
- Project Performance Reports are presented to the CPP Board on a bi-annual basis, in June and December each year.
- Annual Review meetings are convened in October/November each year, which provide thematic Review Panels with an overview of project progress and achievement as well as an opportunity to assess financial allocations and requirements. As standard practice, projects are requested to develop plans in respect of sustainability from the outset.
- Robust external project grant claim processes are implemented and financial returns require to be 'signed off' by the Council's CRF Lead Officers. In addition, internal project allocation returns require to be approved by appropriate Council Financial Services Managers as well as 'signed off' by Lead Officers.
- Strict financial accounting and auditing procedures are imposed by both the CPP and East Ayrshire Council, as grant recipient.

SECTION 6: FINANCIAL COMMENTARY

The CRF/CVP financial allocation to East Ayrshire CPP for 2006/07 was £4,166,750, including £99,000 CVP resources.

Communities Scotland subsequently provided an opportunity for the CPP to carry forward up to 20 percent of its 2006/07 CRF and CVP budgets into 2007/08. To allow the CPP Board to make an informed decision and submit a return to Communities Scotland, all CRF and CVP funded projects were requested to consider their financial projections and identify any underspend up to 31 March 2007. Projects declaring an underspend were provided with an opportunity to identify proposals to utilise these resources within the financial year. At the CPP Board meeting of 28 September 2006, it was agreed to carry forward a declared underspend of £20,000 into 2007/08 for re-allocation, leaving an overall final allocation of £4,146,750 in 2006/07.

In addition, an ongoing carry forward of £1,015,000, from the former Better Neighbourhood Services Fund programme linked to the development of the new Shortlees Primary School and community facility will continue into 2007/08, which has been endorsed by Communities Scotland and the Scottish Executive. It is anticipated that the new school and community facility will be finalised during autumn/winter 2007.

CRF/CVP resources have funded 49 projects and initiatives in 2006/07, which have further secured £5 million in financial contributions to East Ayrshire's disadvantaged communities from a range of other funders, including Community Planning Partners' mainstream resources and other external funding sources.

The Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire have invested more than £1.8 million in the CRF targeted data zones, which is a 14% increase on last year's total. In addition, approximately £3.2 million has been secured from other external funding sources.

We conservatively estimate that CRF/CVP funded projects have received approximately £550,000 of in-kind support in 2006/07, which is a 7% increase on 2005/06.

A full financial breakdown of all Partner contributions to the CRF/CVP programme of projects and initiatives in 2006/07 is included at Appendix 4.

NEW FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Revised financial procedures were implemented from 1 April 2006 onwards, which offered a more streamlined approach to the claiming and processing of grant claims.

The new procedures have been effective and positively received by both internal (East Ayrshire Council managed) and external (Partner agency/Voluntary organisation managed) projects and are summarised below:

- all projects were requested to provide details of projected quarterly expenditure in January/February 2006;
- the quarterly grant claim process remained in place; however, a revised, more streamlined grant claim form was prepared for externally managed projects;
- internal projects received three-quarters CRF/CVP allocation at 1 April 2006 and the final quarter was released subject to satisfactory performance during the year; and
- East Ayrshire Council's departmental Financial Services Managers confirmed exact spend against each quarter to inform grant claims submitted to Communities Scotland.

A further review of financial systems was undertaken in March 2007, following the release of Communities Scotland's financial guidance and National Performance Management Framework 2006-2008, to ensure that processes remain 'fit for purpose'.

Robust and effective systems remain in place for regular performance and financial reporting by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and East Ayrshire

Council's Executive Head of Finance (Partners agreed that East Ayrshire Council should be grant recipient of CRF resources) to the CPP Board.

CONCLUSION

The second ROA Annual Report demonstrates that we have made significant progress towards the final outcomes set down in the three-year ROA. We have met and, indeed, exceeded a number of identified outcomes over the last year, which demonstrates a real and shared commitment by all the Partners and those projects and initiatives, which deliver services in communities funded via CRF and CVP, to the benefit of local people.

We are encouraged by our results to date, as we continue to tackle poverty and disadvantage locally, and contribute to the regeneration of disadvantaged communities across East Ayrshire. However, we realise our work will require to continue into the future if we are to ensure enduring change, with partnership working and effective community engagement at the heart of the planning and delivery of services.

We remain confident that the ROA lays a robust framework for regeneration activity under the overarching Community Plan and will contribute to achieving the shared Community Plan vision for East Ayrshire.

However, 2007/08 will be a particularly challenging year for the CPP Board as the three-year ROA reaches its conclusion and with national decisions currently awaited in respect of the availability of resources to further progress the future regeneration of our communities beyond 2007/08.

Community Planning is making a difference in East Ayrshire, which has been highlighted in the audits of Community Planning progressed in 2006/07. We look forward to the emerging opportunities presented in the future, which will allow us to address local regeneration priorities and make a positive difference to people's lives and their communities.

