



## COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

Board Meeting: 13 September 2007

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board with an update in respect of Community Planning.

### 2. COMMUNITY PLANNING FOUR-YEARLY REVIEW

- 2.1 The CPP Board will be aware that the Community Planning Four-yearly Review has been concluded, with the exception of the Structures Review, which was deferred by the agreement of Community Planning Partners to allow proposals to be informed by the Council's review of its overall decision making arrangements and committee structure.
- 2.2 At the Community Planning Core Partners' Group meeting of 22 August 2007, Partners agreed that the CPP Board should act as the strategic body that assumes overall responsibility for Community Planning and that the future make-up of the Board should comprise representation from the current Core Partners' Group.
- 2.3 In addition, Planning Partners noted the Council's commitment, in principle, to establish three Local Community Planning Forums; agreed to participate in these Forums, where appropriate, and to receive a further report on the final arrangements for Local Community Planning at a future meeting.
- 2.4 An update report outlining proposals for future decision making and Local Community Planning arrangements will therefore be presented to the CPP Board in December 2007.
- 2.5 This timescale allows for the overall consultation on Local Community Planning Forums to be concluded at the end of November 2007 and for the Council and Core Planning Partners to have considered and agreed a way forward.

### 3. RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 At the Joint Officers' Group (JOG) meeting of 22 March 2007, in respect of the Risk Management Framework, it was agreed that for future meetings the Community Planning and Partnership Unit would highlight where there are issues which require to be addressed. Currently highlighted as a high risk is the timescale for the Spending Review and the potential impact on funding for Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) funded projects, particularly 'flagship' projects, after 31 March 2008.
- 3.2 This issue has been identified as 'high risk' within the Risk Register and Partner agencies are currently exploring opportunities to mainstream 'flagship' projects beyond the CRF funding period.

## **4. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **Residents' Panel**

- 4.1 At the Core Partners' Group meeting of 13 February 2007, members endorsed the proposal to finance the first Residents' Panel refreshment exercise in 2007 and to undertake a panel refreshment/recruitment every 18 months thereafter.
- 4.2 In order to increase the panel membership to nearer 1,000 and to continue to ensure a representative cross-section of the wider general public, the Core Partners' Group agreed that an external research company be commissioned to undertake the Panel refreshment exercise during summer 2007. Since there were no procurement issues and to ensure continuity with the original recruitment exercise, Lowland Market Research was approached in this regard.
- 4.3 At its meeting of 22 May 2007, JOG members approved the allocation of £5,000 in respect of the Residents' Panel refreshment exercise, to include the design and print of recruitment questionnaires, administration of a postal survey, face-to-face recruitment and database construction.
- 4.4 The brief for the Residents' Panel refreshment was prepared and Lowland Market Research has been appointed to undertake the exercise. It is anticipated that the Panel refreshment exercise will be completed by late September 2007.
- 4.5 The Child Protection consultation with the Residents' Panel has been completed with a return rate of 49%. The results are currently being analysed and will be presented to the JOG meeting of 11 September 2007 for sign off, following which they will be made available on the Consultation and Engagement pages of the Community Planning website. The consultation will be augmented by a small-scale survey with young people in autumn 2007.
- 4.6 The Library Services consultation is currently underway and, to date, there has been a good rate of return.

### **Consultation Database**

- 4.7 The consultation database, including activity highlighted in the joint Annual Community Engagement Plan and past and routine/ongoing consultation and engagement activity, is now available in the Consultation and Engagement section of the East Ayrshire Community Planning website at [www.eastayrshirecommunityplan.org](http://www.eastayrshirecommunityplan.org).

## **5. COMMUNITY PLANNING SUPPORT GRANT**

- 5.1 An allocation of £10,000 has again been made available by Communities Scotland as a Community Planning Support Grant for 2007/08. Following consideration by the JOG, the following proposal was submitted to Communities Scotland South West Area Office and an offer of funding of £10,000 was received on 27 June 2007.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Towards the cost of updating and refreshing the Community Planning Residents' Panel	£5,000
To assist with a training and development budget to support the effective implementation of Local Community Planning within East Ayrshire	£3,000
To assist the CPP further engage with hard to reach groups, particularly young people	£2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,000</b>

5.2 In addition, there is a possibility of additional funding of £3,000 being made available. In this regard, Communities Scotland was advised that, should these resources become available, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) would utilise the funds to carry out a range of work to further address the issues identified within this year's Partnership Assessment Scorecard exercise, namely:

- Raise awareness of local people
- Raise awareness of operational staff.

5.3 The request for the additional of funding of £3,000 will be considered by Communities Scotland when all other requests have been submitted.

## **6. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 In relation to the requirement on public bodies to assess all policies and strategies in respect of their impact on equalities, the JOG, at its meeting of 20 December 2005, established a multi-agency working group to consider the feasibility of developing an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) tool.

6.2 IIA is an approach that assesses the possible impact of strategies, policies, programmes, projects, plans or other developments on a range of issues, such as the economy, the environment, sustainability, equal opportunities, health, well-being and quality of life, which previously may have been assessed separately.

6.3 Its primary output is a set of evidence-based recommendations geared to informing the decision making process associated with a plan. These recommendations aim to highlight practical ways to enhance its positive aspects and to remove or minimise any negative impacts on, for example, health, quality of life or particular groups.

6.4 The tool was positively received by JOG members at its meeting of 17 July 2007 and was endorsed in principle for use across all Partner organisations, subject to further rigorous testing on a range of key areas of work, namely:

- Retrospective area of work – Community Plan
- Action Plan – Improving Health section of the Community Plan
- New area of work (project/funding bid focused) – Employability European Strategy Funding bid
- Policy – Cultural Strategy.

6.5 Following consideration of these pilots and JOG endorsement of the IIA as the preferred tool for East Ayrshire in January 2008, it will be launched and appropriate, multi-agency training developed and rolled out.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The CPP Board is requested to:

- i) note the progress in terms of the Review of Community Planning and agree to receive an update report regarding future decision making arrangements at the December meeting of the Board;
- ii) note that short-term funding is highlighted as a high risk for the Partnership and that Partners have been requested to give further consideration to this important issue;
- iii) note that the Residents' Panel refreshment exercise will take place during August/September 2007;
- iv) note the award of the Community Planning Support Grant for 2007/08;
- v) note the progress in respect of the Integrated Impact Assessment; and
- vi) otherwise, note the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**30 August 2007**