



COMMUNITY REGENERATION FUND PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Board Meeting – 15 December 2005

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Board members of progress made by projects in meeting their agreed targets for 2005/06.

2. PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEMS

- 2.1 Projects are required to prepare quarterly monitoring reports and these have been submitted for the period 1 April to 30 September 2005, covering 6 months of the financial year.
- 2.2 In addition, between 31 October and 14 November 2005, all projects were required to participate in the formal annual review process, which was undertaken by Project Review Groups, typically comprising a Community Plan Action Plan Lead Officer and/or a member of the Joint Officers' Group, a member of the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB), one or more community representatives, and staff members of the Community Planning and Partnership Unit.
- 2.3 Each project, including those funded via the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF), was requested to demonstrate through delivery of a presentation and written report, its progress over 2005/06 to date and its proposed future project activity, linked to local and national priorities. In addition, projects were invited to provide case studies and examples of good practice, providing an opportunity for them to showcase key project achievements since April 2005.
- 2.4 Following the review process, the Project Review Groups applied a scoring system to each project, calculating an overall project rating based on three key criteria: project performance to date; strategic fit with local and national priorities; and value for money (financial leverage). The Review Groups also made future funding recommendations based on the information provided by the projects.
- 2.5 Five projects achieved the maximum score of 21 points, namely Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects, Carer and Young Carer Support, Healthy Living Initiative, Recreation Partnership Project and East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY). Each of these projects demonstrated a clear understanding of the review process, exemplary project performance to date and clear project development plans, which fit closely with identified community planning priorities in East Ayrshire and clearly target the priority communities highlighted within the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA). In addition, a range of projects, including Coalfield Community Transport, yipworld.com, CONDUIT, Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC) and East Ayrshire JobRotation, demonstrated excellence in their performance to date, with noteworthy scores of 20 points.

- 2.6 New projects, or those not in receipt of CRF funding in the 2005/06 financial year, could not receive a 'continuous assessment' score and were subsequently unable to achieve maximum points. For example, New Sporting Futures earned the maximum score available to the project of 18 points.
- 2.7 The majority of Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) funded projects and initiatives demonstrated considerable progress over the current year and provided a satisfactory presentation in respect of requirements of the review process. However, the Project Review Groups were disappointed by the relatively poor performance of a small number of projects during the review process, in particular, Creative Skills, Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union and Bellsbank Women's Project (Men's Health Initiative). Issues resulting from the reviews have been discussed with the appropriate organisations and additional information has been requested.
- 2.8 In addition to the formal annual review sessions, a project showcase event was held at the Carers Cottage in Kilmarnock on 16 November 2005. The event provided members of the CPPB with an opportunity to hear about the excellent services provided by some of the most successful CRF funded initiatives from project staff, including Carer and Young Carer Support, the Healthy Living Initiative, New Sporting Futures and the Recreation Partnership Project.

Project Sustainability

- 2.9 As part of the annual review process, all projects were required to provide an update in relation to future project sustainability, which was discussed in some depth during each review meeting. In addition, Project Monitoring Officers and the External Funding and Sustainability Worker continue to provide ongoing support to projects in relation to future funding and sustainability. Community Planning and Partnership Unit staff are also available to provide additional support, as required.
- 2.10 Two former SIP funded projects, Bellsbank Women's Project (Men's Health Initiative) and the Children's Holiday Project, were awarded one-year CRF funding for 2005/06. In view of the planned exit from CRF resources at 31 March 2006, the projects agreed to ensure that future sustainability would continue to be a priority issue during 2005/06. To support this process, the Partnership and Regeneration Team Leader and External Funding and Sustainability Worker met with each project in June 2005 to consider a range of options regarding sustainability, and provide information relating to potential alternative funding sources. The projects were also encouraged to directly access the ongoing support of the External Funding and Sustainability Worker.
- 2.11 Bellsbank Women's Project (Men's Health Initiative) is currently investigating links to the broader men's health agenda in East Ayrshire as a route to future sustainability, while the Children's Holiday Project has recently been advised of its success in securing part funding for 2006/07 from the Moffat Charitable Trust. Further external funding applications have been prepared with anticipated outcomes early in 2006.

3. PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREED TARGETS 2005/06

- 3.1 East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) currently supports over 50 projects from the CRF budget.
- 3.2 Members will recall that the programme of CRF projects, with related performance targets, was agreed and set down within the ROA, which was 'signed off' by Scottish Ministers in July 2005.
- 3.3 Performance information is grouped under the ROA's five strategic regeneration objectives:
- ? Active Communities;
 - ? Skilled Communities;
 - ? Safe Communities;
 - ? Healthy Communities; and
 - ? Attractive Communities.
- 3.4 A summary of performance highlights is included within this report. Further, more detailed information on project performance in respect of the ROA performance targets is available from the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and will be issued at the Board meeting.

Active Communities

- 3.5 The highest proportion of funding, almost 32% of the CRF budget, totalling £1,113,000, is allocated to projects under the 'Active Communities' objective. Many of these projects seek to build the capacity of individuals, groups and young people, in particular, to participate in decision-making and actively influence the Community Planning agenda. In addition, projects funded under the 'Active Communities' objective specifically seek to tackle disadvantage in rural communities, where individuals are often cut off from services, job opportunities and activities that people in other areas take for granted.

The projects currently funded under Active Communities are:

- ? Bellsbank Women's Project (Men's Health Initiative);
- ? Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF)*;
- ? CCF Development Worker*;
- ? Coalfield Community Transport;
- ? Children's Holiday Project;
- ? Creative Skills;
- ? Credit Union Development;
- ? Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union;
- ? Dialogue Youth Active Citizenship;
- ? Dalmellington Youth Centre (The Zone);
- ? Dalrymple Youth Provision;
- ? Ethnic Minority Inclusion;
- ? Glaisnock Trust;
- ? Investment in Arts;
- ? Logan Development;

- ? North Federation*;
- ? Quality Bus Infrastructure Improvements;
- ? Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire; and
- ? yipworld.com.

(* Denotes initiative funded via Community Voices Programme)

- 3.6 To date, this year, over 11,500 Coalfield residents have utilised opportunities provided by Coalfield Community Transport (CCT), which continues to grow and develop new services in direct response to community need. A total of 144 local community and voluntary groups are affiliated as registered service users and the innovative 'Wheels2Work' initiative continues to provide a valuable gateway into work for local young people. A total of 12 individuals have benefited from this service since April 2005. In addition, a new 'Awayhopper' service has been launched, which builds on the existing 'Dayhopper' service and involves an overnight stay. Demand for this service has been high since the success of the inaugural trip to Dingwall and an additional 3 'Awayhoppers' have been provided, to date, with a fifth trip planned for March 2006.
- 3.7 In recognition of its ongoing achievements, CCT has once again been short listed for the Scottish Executive Rural Transport Awards and is also being considered by the Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum for a 'Best Practice/People' award. The outcome of both of these nominations is anticipated in December 2005.
- 3.8 Capital works on Dalmellington Youth Centre (The Zone) are almost completed and the building will open its doors to local young people in December 2005. The Centre will provide a dedicated youth facility in the Doon Valley area, and young people will be actively involved in service delivery and planning through a Youth Management Committee. There will be a recreation 'drop in' element to the Centre, which will also seek to deliver lifestyle, health and other issue based programmes in conjunction with local partner agencies and related projects. In addition, the Centre will provide training and employment opportunities for local residents, offering Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) in Playwork Level II and III and a range of additional learning opportunities. It is anticipated that the official opening of the Centre will take place Spring 2006.
- 3.9 The North Federation has been formally constituted since June 2005 and is already following the example of the Coalfield Communities Federation in the south of the authority, by providing a valuable forum for joint community interests and identifying and addressing local issues through the Community Planning process. The North Federation's inaugural meeting was convened in August 2005 and membership currently comprises 10 Community Councils, 3 Community Groups and the Kilmarnock Retailers' Association. A series of workshops to inform the future direction of North Federation activity has been initiated, and a Business Plan and Action Plan are currently in development.

Skilled Communities

- 3.10 The projects funded under the 'Skilled Communities' objective seek to ensure that the people living in the most disadvantaged communities in East Ayrshire have the skills and confidence to take advantage of job opportunities as they arise. These projects will assist individuals, particularly vulnerable young people, into

employment and training, promote work related skills and increase participation in community based learning. Almost 17% of the CRF budget has been allocated to these projects in 2005/06, which totals £591,000.

The projects currently funded under 'Skilled Communities' are:

- ? Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC);
- ? CONDUIT;
- ? East Ayrshire JobRotation;
- ? East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY);
- ? East Ayrshire Woodlands;
- ? East Ayrshire Works;
- ? Individual Employment Fund; and
- ? Prince's Trust Volunteers.

- 3.11 EASY has assisted 45 vulnerable local young people in the period since 1 April 2005 and 24 of these individuals have already progressed into employment or further education. The project has expanded its activity in recent months, offering an outreach service in Onthank and Shortlees in Kilmarnock, and in Drongan, as well providing training opportunities from the established centre in Cumnock. In addition, two trainees attended a Grundtvig 2 Learning Partnership in Romania in May 2005, where they shared learning experiences with young people from Italy, England, Spain, Czech Republic and Romania.

This period also saw the culmination of the 'Get into Enterprise' collaboration with Investment in Drama, Artloud and Glasgow School of Art, which involved trainees from Kilmarnock, Dalmellington, Patna and Drongan. The trainees designed and produced their own T-shirts, which ultimately formed the centre piece of a window display at Urban Outfitters in Glasgow and have been available for sale at the retail outlet. The collaboration with Urban Outfitters and official launch of the window display gained national press coverage, and the young people involved gained new skills and confidence, and a potential gateway into a future career in textile design or retail.

- 3.12 East Ayrshire Woodlands Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) project continues to work with those individuals furthest removed from the jobs market, assisting them to achieve work related qualifications, confidence and general employability skills. Twenty-five individuals have participated in the programme since April 2005 from areas such as New Cumnock, Catrine, Patna, Dalmellington, Muirkirk and Auchinleck. To date, these individuals have achieved 41 accredited qualifications in practical work related skills, such as chainsaw proficiency, and 4 individuals have already secured full-time permanent employment through participation in the project.

Safe Communities

- 3.13 Almost a quarter of the CRF budget for 2005/06, £880,700, is allocated to projects which seek to reduce the fear of crime in our communities, reduce the level of crime and disorder and increase detection rates. In addition, projects funded under this objective will work to reduce road accidents and deaths by addressing road safety issues in our most disadvantaged communities.

The projects currently funded under 'Safe Communities' are:

- ? Additional Police Resources;
- ? CCTV;
- ? Road Safety Improvements;
- ? Road Safety Officer; and
- ? Street Lighting.

3.14 The impact of the capital works being progressed by these projects on crime and safety statistics will only be measured over time. At this stage, the design, tender and installation works in respect of Road Safety Improvements, Street Lighting and CCTV are progressing well, and are on target for completion within the agreed timescales. During the project review sessions, these projects, together with Strathclyde Police, highlighted the positive impact of joint working across a range of CRF funded 'Safety' initiatives and their ongoing plans for future joint working in the targeted ROA data zones. It is anticipated that this will maximise the impact of CRF funding in our most disadvantaged communities.

3.15 The Additional Police Resources project has delivered an additional 1,250 police hours in 2005/06, to date, and the impact of this activity is already being demonstrated in the crime statistics in our most disadvantaged communities. A total of 81 CRF funded action plans have been initiated in the target areas since May 2005, which have contributed to a 30% reduction in serious crime, a 29% reduction in recorded housebreakings, a 26% reduction in vehicle related crime and a 6% reduction in vandalism. (Figures are based on Strathclyde Police statistics covering April to September 2005, compared with April to September 2004.)

Healthy Communities

3.16 The CPPB has committed £391,250, which is 11% of the CRF budget for 2005/06, to projects which will improve the health of individuals in our most disadvantaged communities. These projects will improve awareness of healthy lifestyle factors, encourage children and young people to participate in physical activity and health awareness programmes, promote positive alternatives to alcohol and drugs misuse, and support carers and young carers.

The projects currently funded under 'Healthy Communities' are:

- ? Breakfast Clubs;
- ? Carer and Young Carer Support;
- ? Healthy Living Initiative;
- ? Leisure United; and
- ? Recreation Partnership Project.

3.17 The Breakfast Clubs project provides primary school children in our most disadvantaged communities with the opportunity to access a healthy breakfast in a supported learning environment either free (children in receipt of free school meals do not pay for the service) or at minimal cost. The CRF funded service operates in 18 schools within the targeted ROA data zones, offering 615 Breakfast Club places. In addition to providing a healthy start to the learning day in a safe environment, this project seeks to promote citizenship at an early age. In

a pilot exercise, some Breakfast Clubs are recruiting and supporting children to work as Breakfast Club Assistants, who will participate in the planning and organisation of Club activities.

- 3.18 The Recreation Partnership and Leisure United projects continue to work jointly to attract primary school aged children across East Ayrshire to participate in a range of innovative sports and health related activity programmes. The excellence of this activity has recently received independent external recognition through a Glasgow Caledonian University academic evaluation of the Activity Motivation Initiative (AMI). The Recreation Partnership project delivers the health element of this initiative, which is led by East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Development Services, and Leisure United focuses on working with children and young people with additional support needs.
- 3.19 The results of the evaluation highlight the impact of this initiative on the health and physical activity levels of East Ayrshire's children and young people. Indeed, the research has demonstrated that, with participation rates of 14.7 hours per week, East Ayrshire's children and young people are twice as active as the national recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer. In addition, the unique and dynamic approach adopted by the AMI has been highlighted through this evaluation as an exemplary partnership initiative, which is responding directly to national priorities.
- 3.20 The Recreation Partnership Project and Leisure United have developed a meaningful strategic and operational partnership, which is making a real difference to the lives of local children and directly addresses the equalities agenda. Proposals to integrate Leisure United with the Recreation Partnership Project will contribute to the delivery of equitable access to healthy recreation activities for all children and young people with a disability.

Attractive Communities

- 3.21 Almost 11% of the CRF budget for 2005/06, £382,300, is allocated to projects which will improve the environment in our most disadvantaged communities, tackling issues such as dereliction, void housing and vandalism. The two projects currently funded under this strategic regeneration objective are Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects, and Environmental Hit Squad.
- 3.22 The Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects initiative continues to work closely with local residents to identify environmental improvements and 4 draft Action Plans have been produced for North West Kilmarnock, Shortlees, Riccarton and Galston. In addition, 11 environmental improvement projects have been progressed since April 2005, including Auchinleck Community Garden Initiative, Barony 'A' Frame Restoration and Catrine Environmental Heritage Project. In addition to the CRF funding allocation, a further £700,000 has been awarded by a range of other funders to progress this activity.

4. NEW PROJECTS

4.1 In addition to the above projects, a range of innovative new initiatives has been developed over recent months for implementation between October 2005 and March 2006.

These projects are:

- ? Addiction Prevention Programme;
- ? Atrium Homes and Cunninghame Housing Association – East Ayrshire Partnership ILM;
- ? Community Health Partnership (CHP) Domestic Abuse Initiative;
- ? ICT in the Community;
- ? Transport for Netherthird Nursery and Family Centre;
- ? Swimming Pool Development Programme; and
- ? Safer Shire.

4.2 Of these initiatives, the Addiction Prevention Programme and the CHP Domestic Abuse Initiative fall under the 'Healthy Communities' objective and offer particularly innovative solutions to key social issues facing the communities within the ROA targeted data zones.

4.3 The Addiction Prevention Programme will engage with young people from disadvantaged communities at an early stage, in order to divert them from becoming problem drug users. The project will engage with young people through local schools, youth facilities and community police within the target areas. Drop-in sessions will also be available in local schools, where young people can informally seek advice on drug related issues, and specific group work will be undertaken with accommodated children to raise their confidence, skills and self development. Project activity will be delivered in association with the National Children's Home (NCH) Scotland, which has recently seconded a Project Worker to lead on this initiative.

4.4 The CHP Domestic Abuse Initiative will seek to establish sustainable links between mental health professionals and Women's Aid by employing a dedicated Charge Nurse to develop and deliver an innovative programme of inter-agency awareness raising and training. A referral system will be established and early intervention in domestic abuse cases will be promoted. This is the first initiative of its kind in Scotland and it is anticipated that it will make a real difference to the lives of the most vulnerable women and children in our disadvantaged communities. The Project Worker was recruited September 2005.

4.5 Initial performance information in respect of these initiatives will be available in January 2006.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i) notes the findings of the CRF project review process;
- ii) notes the progress made by the projects against their agreed set targets for 2005/06; and
- iii) otherwise, notes the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
29 November 2005