



## REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT UPDATE

Board Meeting – 15 December 2005

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB) on the Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The requirement on Community Planning Partners to prepare a three-year ROA is contained within the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland's Guidance, issued in August 2003, on the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) transition to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).
- 2.2 East Ayrshire's ROA received Ministerial approval and 'sign off' on 29 July 2005. The formal announcement was made by the Minister on 3 August 2005, which received national and local press coverage.
- 2.3 As a result of this, four project information sessions were convened with Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) funded projects and initiatives to ensure ongoing and effective implementation of the programme, which were well received by project representatives.
- 2.4 The ROA is focused on all of the worst 0-15% data zones identified within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (SIMD04) and identified data zones within the 16-25% ranking. In addition, a thematic approach for 'skilled' activity has provided an opportunity for Community Planning Partners to operate in all of the worst 0-30% data zones.
- 2.5 In a letter dated 18 August 2005, the Minister for Communities confirmed approval of the ROA for 2005-08 and related CRF expenditure of £10.82 million over the same period to the Chair of the Community Planning Core Partners' Group.
- 2.6 A summary of the ROA has been printed and circulated to all interested parties.

### 3. NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 A briefing paper setting out the principles of the National Performance Management Framework (PMF) and providing an overview of its operation was issued by Communities Scotland on 18 July 2005. Further, more detailed draft guidance was received on 11 August 2005 in respect of the financial and performance monitoring requirements for the ROA and CRF.
- 3.2 Members will recall that Communities Scotland requested comment on the draft PMF Guidance and a response highlighting a range of issues of particular interest to Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire, was prepared and submitted. Following consideration of stakeholder views, Communities Scotland has made

revisions to the initial proposals and issued finalised detailed guidance, which sets out the PMF for the current financial year. A copy of the detailed PMF will be available at the Board meeting.

- 3.3 Communities Scotland is currently reflecting on how the PMF will operate in subsequent years, particularly in response to comments on the need for it to be proportionate in relation to the CPP's funding.

#### **4. 2005 MID-YEAR STOCK TAKE**

- 4.1 The PMF outlines a requirement for Communities Scotland to arrange a focused discussion with CPPs to review progress since the ROA was approved and agree how aspects of the ROA highlighted for further improvement have been progressed.

- 4.2 The Mid-year Stock Take was convened on 22 November 2005 and attended by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager, Community Partnership and Regeneration Officer, Community Planning Officer, and Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator. Communities Scotland was represented by Madeleine Sullivan, Social Justice Manager, Katie Chan and Christine Robertson from the Area Team and Ian Sirrell from the Central Regeneration Unit.

- 4.3 The comprehensive agenda, provided by Communities Scotland, focused on:

- ? roles and responsibilities;
- ? local monitoring and evaluation arrangements;
- ? short term improvement issues and timescales for the completion of the ROA;
- ? developmental issues, including the 'Equalities' agenda; and
- ? the mid-year financial position.

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

- 4.4 Communities Scotland advised that there is a developing role for its Area Team in respect of CRF/ROA arrangements and has agreed to map out its organisational structure. It is anticipated that this will clarify, for the CPP, the operational and support role as well as the appraisal role of Communities Scotland.

#### **Local monitoring and evaluation arrangements**

- 4.5 A comprehensive information pack, providing a range of relevant documentation in respect of East Ayrshire's CRF/Community Voices Programme (CVP) financial and performance monitoring and evaluation processes was provided for Communities Scotland representatives, which was well received. In addition, Communities Scotland was advised that a review of the existing monitoring and evaluation arrangements is currently being progressed to ensure that future procedures meet the requirements of the PMF, issued by Communities Scotland, as well as local Community Planning processes.

#### **Short term improvement issues and completion of ROA**

- 4.6 Discussion included activity to progress and complete the aspects of the ROA, which were not available when the ROA received approval, including finalising baseline information and targets for all outcomes. Communities Scotland representatives were advised that the annual review meetings with CRF funded

projects have facilitated the necessary information gathering process and it is anticipated that the Residents' Survey data will be available in January 2006. It is anticipated that the ROA will be completed by March 2006, following the outcome of the Board's decision regarding future CRF resource allocations.

### **Equalities**

- 4.7 Communities Scotland has commissioned an independent equalities assessment of each ROA and advised that specific results of the evaluation will be circulated to each CPP on 13 December 2005. The assessment will provide baseline information for CPPs to develop an equalities improvement plan as part of the overall continuous improvement plans, which will be agreed with CPPs.
- 4.8 Members will recall that Community Planning Partners have previously highlighted that 'equalities' should not be considered as a separate issue and concerns were again raised by CPP representatives regarding this matter.
- 4.9 The consultant commissioned to carry out the evaluation will be available to meet with representatives from the CPP on Wednesday 18 January 2006 to consider the detailed information within the evaluation report and it is proposed that the Community Partnership and Regeneration Officer, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator attend this meeting. A report on the outcome of the discussion will be presented for consideration to a future meeting of the Board.

### **Mid-year financial position**

- 4.10 Communities Scotland was advised that the CPP is firmly on track to spend all CRF/CVP resources allocated for 2005/06 by the Scottish Executive by 31 March 2006, apart from the recently declared underspend of £30,000 in respect of the East Ayrshire Works project, which has previously been reported to the Board at Agenda Item 4.
- 4.11 Communities Scotland representatives advised that proposals to spend the declared resources should be forwarded, in writing, to Roger Popplewell, Area Director, Communities Scotland, and a letter was subsequently sent regarding this matter by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager, on behalf of the CPPB, on 24 November 2005. As previously reported at Agenda Item 4, Communities Scotland has approved the re-allocation of the declared underspend.
- 4.12 It was highlighted that the detailed Financial Guidance in respect of CRF/CVP resources has still not been issued by Communities Scotland and representatives from the Area Team agreed to reflect the concerns regarding this matter back to their Head Office. In the meantime, it was agreed that Communities Scotland would meet with the CPP Financial Monitoring Team to clarify a range of financial issues.
- 4.13 The Mid-year Stock Take provided an opportunity for CPP representatives to highlight potential opportunities within East Ayrshire to exceed spend profile and that the CPPB would be pleased to utilise any additional resources, which may become available in the future, particularly in 2006/07, which potentially could accelerate existing programme achievement.

4.14 A further meeting with Communities Scotland is scheduled to take place on 15 February 2006 to consider the future allocation of CRF resources, particularly in respect of the 2007/08 allocations, which will be linked to the review of the Community Plan Action Plans.

4.15 Communities Scotland has agreed to provide feedback and a summary of key actions arising from the Mid-year Stock Take meeting in December 2005.

## **5. COMMUNITY PROFILES**

5.1 The Board will recall that there are three data zones in the worst 16-20% identified in the ROA as 'communities in decline', namely Hurlford, Newmilns, and Rankinston and Sinclairston.

5.2 Existing statistical evidence, via the SIMD04, demonstrates that there are education, skills and training concerns in Hurlford; health related concerns in Newmilns; and geographical access issues in Rankinston and Sinclairston.

5.3 Further analysis of available Census data at data zone level supports the issues of concern highlighted. In addition, through further contact and discussion with Partners, the following issues also require to be addressed:

- ? supporting young people/youth diversion;
- ? accessing skills and training;
- ? health related issues; and
- ? access to services.

5.4 Subject to Board approval, practical proposals to address the identified issues within these data zones require to be progressed.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Members of the CPPB are asked to:

- i) note that detailed Guidance in respect of the National Performance Management Framework has been issued by Communities Scotland for the current financial year;
- ii) note the Mid-year Stock Take meeting convened by Communities Scotland and the actions arising from the discussion at section 4;
- iii) note that Communities Scotland has commissioned an independent equalities assessment of each ROA and that the results will be circulated to each CPP on 13 December 2005; and agree to receive a report on the outcome of the discussion with the consultant regarding the equalities agenda;
- iv) note that a meeting has been arranged with representatives of Communities Scotland to consider future CRF allocations, in particular, in respect of resources available in 2007/08;
- v) endorse the additional issues identified at 5.3 for the 'communities in decline'; and
- vi) otherwise, note the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**30 November 2005**