



COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT INFORMATION REPORT

Board Meeting – 15 June 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPP) on developments in relation to a range of Community Planning Programmes.

2. RELATED PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 A number of programmes are progressed under the banner of community planning, including:

- Better Neighbourhood Services Fund;
- Community Based Youth Justice;
- Anti-social Behaviour/Community Wardens;
- Community Regeneration Fund;
- 'Choose Life' National Suicide Prevention Strategy;
- Rural Service Priority Areas;
- Financial Inclusion Fund; and the
- New Futures Fund.

- 2.2 This report provides an update position in respect of each of these programmes, with the exception of the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF), the first annual report for which forms the basis of agenda item 8.

3. BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND

- 3.1 The Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) programme, which operated in the BNSF pathfinder area of North West Kilmarnock, and Shortlees and Riccarton, concluded at 31 March 2006.

- 3.2 The final Community Consultation Questionnaire was delivered to all households in the pathfinder area in February 2006, the results of which will inform the final BNSF Annual Report, which requires to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 30 June 2006.

- 3.3 The Questionnaire provided an invitation for local residents to attend the Community Consultation Open Evenings, which took place on 27 and 29 March 2006 in Onthank and Shortlees Community Centres respectively.

- 3.4 The Community Consultation sessions comprised:

- the delivery of a short presentation regarding the achievement of the BNSF programme, which also highlighted future regeneration activity in the local area funded via the CRF;

- an opportunity for residents to confidentially express their views in respect of BNSF activity through PPVote technology; and
- an informal networking session between local residents and Partner agencies, including representatives from East Ayrshire Council's Community Planning and Partnership Unit, Community Learning and Development service, the Anti-social Behaviour Team and Strathclyde Police.

3.5 To date, between the questionnaires and the consultation events, 700+ returns have been received. A full analysis is ongoing and will be included in the final annual report being prepared for the Scottish Executive.

4. COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH JUSTICE

4.1 The Scottish Executive funded Community Based Youth Justice (CBYJ) pilot, which has operated in the BNSF pathfinder area since 2003/04, also concluded at 31 March 2006.

4.2 As part of the Executive's requirements, consultants from EKOS Limited were commissioned by Community Planning Partners to carry out an independent evaluation of the CBYJ pilot programme in January 2006.

4.3 The research has been concluded and the draft evaluation report was submitted to the Scottish Executive at the end of March 2006 and retrospectively endorsed by the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group on 11 April 2006.

4.4 In addition to the final evaluation report, an Executive Summary, Case Studies and Good Practice guide was commissioned from the consultants.

5. COMMUNITY WARDENS AND THE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INVESTIGATION SERVICE

5.1 The Community Warden Service began operating in East Ayrshire on 1 August 2004 in the communities of:

- New Farm Loch;
- North West Kilmarnock;
- Shortlees; and
- Barshare (Cumnock) and Auchinleck.

5.2 The Wardens operate from 1.30 pm until 11.30 pm, seven days per week acting as the 'eyes and ears' of the community and providing a link to statutory agencies in order to 'Build Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities' for the people of East Ayrshire.

5.3 Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, the Wardens attended 1,588 incidents involving elements of antisocial behaviour, ranging from abandoned vehicles to incidents of youth disorder. Approximately 79% of these incidents arose in the Kilmarnock communities and 21% in Auchinleck/Barshare. Of the 1,588 Warden incidents involving elements of antisocial behaviour recorded in the last year of operation, 808 were recorded during the first six months of operations and 780 in

the second six months of operations. This reduction in the number of reported incidents continues to demonstrate that the Community Warden Service is having a positive impact within the communities identified at paragraph 5.1. This impact is particularly evident in relation to the levels of Youth Disorder reported or discovered by the Wardens. For example, between 1 August 2004 and 31 March 2005, 929 incidents were recorded, whereas in the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, 430 incidents were recorded.

- 5.4 The Community Wardens continue to be well received within the local communities. In April 2005, as part of the Service's Early Intervention Strategies, 'Letters of Concern' were introduced, aimed at informing parents of young people involved in antisocial behaviour of concerns about their children's behaviour. These letters invite parents to make contact with the Service to discuss the situation and explore a range of means to assist. Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, 69 Letters of Concern were issued and have proved successful in 65 cases.
- 5.5 The role of the Antisocial Behaviour Investigators is to:
- investigate all complaints of antisocial behaviour arising in East Ayrshire, irrespective of tenure;
 - meet the time targets set against each category of complaint in respect of making contact with the complainant and completing the initial stages of the investigation;
 - provide a 'Professional Witness' service when required;
 - provide reports and recommendations on the results of antisocial behaviour investigations to Senior Managers in Neighbourhood Services, the Legal Services Section, Registered Social Landlords (RSL) Management and Private Sector Landlords, as appropriate;
 - establish effective working relationships with the Council's Social Work Service, Tenancy Support Team and other relevant partners, including Community Wardens in their areas of responsibility;
 - oversee the issue of 'Letters of Concern' to the parents of young people who show signs of becoming involved in antisocial behaviour;
 - implement and oversee Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) and Unacceptable Behaviour Notices (UBN) in partnership with Strathclyde Police;
 - ensure that appropriate support mechanisms are put in place for victims, complainants and witnesses; and
 - share appropriate information with Strathclyde Police, Social Services, the Children's Reporter and other relevant stakeholders.
- 5.6 During the year to 31 March 2006, the Antisocial Behaviour Investigation Service carried out 338 enquiries into complaints of antisocial behaviour from all tenures. This compares with 206 enquiries into antisocial behaviour for the year to 31 March 2005 when the Service was, until July 2005, restricted mainly to undertaking complaints that were associated with Council Housing. This increase in antisocial behaviour complaints may also reflect a growing confidence among members of the public that the Council is willing to tackle antisocial behaviour.

6. ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 6.1 The Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a statutory duty on East Ayrshire Council and the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police to prepare a strategy to address antisocial behaviour in the authority's area in consultation with Community Planning Partners.
- 6.2 The Antisocial Behaviour Strategy was presented to and endorsed by the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group on 22 March 2005.
- 6.3 The East Ayrshire Antisocial Behaviour Outcome Agreement, together with the Strategy, was submitted to the Scottish Executive on 30 June 2005 in order to secure Ministerial approval for continued funding to tackle antisocial behaviour for the financial year 2006/07.
- 6.4 On 19 August 2005, the Scottish Executive provided the Council with written feedback regarding the submission of its Outcome Agreement. Independent assessors acting on behalf of the Scottish Executive scored East Ayrshire's submission as 'Robust' (the highest score in their assessment criteria). The independent assessors recommended that slight adjustments be made to a small number of outputs within the submission, in order to capture more data than originally proposed.
- 6.5 The necessary revisions were made to the document and Ministerial approval for continued funding to tackle antisocial behaviour for the financial year 2006/07 was received in December 2005.

7. 'CHOOSE LIFE' – NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY

- 7.1 The national guidance for the second phase of the 'Choose Life' strategy recommends closer links between health and social care in respect of suicide prevention work, and a greater emphasis on substance misuse as a key suicide risk. Led by the Council's Executive Head of Social Work, these areas are being addressed in East Ayrshire through the involvement of key representatives in the local steering group. Detailed below are examples of some of the current activities being taken forward through 'Choose Life'.
- 7.2 In December 2005, all of the initiatives in receipt of 'Choose Life' funding in East Ayrshire met together to share examples of best practice and learning. This was a good opportunity for a wide range of statutory and voluntary representatives and community members to hear about the work of 'Choose Life' in East Ayrshire. Future events are planned to improve the awareness, ownership and co-ordination of suicide prevention work across partner agencies.
- 7.3 Young people are a priority group within the 'Choose Life' Strategy. 'Choose Life' supports a full-time professional counselling post to provide a service to the student body within Kilmarnock College. This has proved successful in engaging with students and providing advice and consultation for staff. In recognition of the positive evaluation of this initiative, the College contributes half of the funding to enable the work to continue for a further year.
- 7.4 'Break the Silence' is a support service for adults who experienced childhood sexual abuse. 'Choose Life' has provided start-up funding for this initiative, focusing on

providing appropriate training and resources and assistance to access more sustainable funding options to develop this service in East Ayrshire.

8. RURAL SERVICE PRIORITY AREAS

8.1 Over the last year, Community Planning Partners have been working to secure funding from the Scottish Executive's new Rural Service Priority Area (RSPA) initiative.

8.2 Designed by the Executive to 'improve access to high quality services for the most disadvantaged groups and individuals in rural communities, with a view to improving their quality of life and enhancing their access to opportunity', twenty RSPA areas were designated across Scotland, with three in East Ayrshire, namely the rural areas around:

- Catrine;
- New Cumnock; and
- Dalmellington

8.3 After significant consultation and sign off by the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group, East Ayrshire's submissions in respect of the three RSPA areas were submitted to the Scottish Executive and are awaiting sign off. Funding of £100,000 is anticipated for each area, £300,000 in total.

8.4 The funding package will provide the following, in 2006/07:

- diversionary activity for young people, in particular, innovative methods of delivery in rural areas such as mobile units/multi use games areas;
- community transport, particularly in relation to access to services such as hospitals; and
- the development of health facilities in New Cumnock.

9. FINANCIAL INCLUSION FUND

9.1 East Ayrshire has been allocated £350,000 in Financial Inclusion Fund resources in each of financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08. The funding is intended to address three key priority areas identified by the Scottish Executive:

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

9.2 East Ayrshire's draft Financial Inclusion fund proposals were submitted to the Scottish Executive in February 2006. Subsequently, the Scottish Executive sought some clarifications, which were provided, and the proposals were approved.

9.3 Further to the allocation of interim funding, 'Insight Collective' has been appointed, following a tendering exercise, to undertake a baseline analysis of the extent and location of financial exclusion in East Ayrshire, map current service provision and develop a draft Financial Inclusion Action Plan for East Ayrshire, which will inform detailed funding allocations.

9.4 Jackie Donnelly, the Council's Executive Head of Social Work and Lead Officer for the Eliminating Poverty Action Plan, has assumed responsibility for progressing the Financial Inclusion Fund on behalf of Community Planning Partners.

10. NEW FUTURES FUND

10.1 The New Futures Fund provides £30,000 of 'successor funding' to 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.

10.2 As the New Futures Fund initiative involves the continuation, or otherwise, of an existing project (Unity Enterprise) the Lead officer for Improving Opportunities was remitted on behalf of Community Planning Partners to assess the project and make all necessary arrangements to secure the £30,000 successor funding.

10.3 Interim arrangements have been put in place to secure the continuation of Unity Enterprises for an additional six months. This will allow the project to be fully considered as part of the Community Planning Review.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 It is recommended that the Board notes:

- i) the range of progress being made across Community Planning;
- ii) the ongoing work to secure funding to the area in respect of RSPA as detailed at section 8 and New Futures Funding as detailed at section 10 of the report;
- iii) progress made to ensure Community Planning Partners meet their ongoing annual reporting requirements; and
- iv) otherwise, notes the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
25 May 2006