



## REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2005 / 2006

Board Meeting – 15 June 2006

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the Board's endorsement of East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board's 2005/06 Annual Report, due to be submitted to Communities Scotland by 30 June 2006.

### 2. BACKGROUND

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

### 3. ANNUAL REPORT: 2005 / 2006

- 3.1 The first Annual Report of the CPP Board summarises progress made over the year, 2005/06, 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 2005/06
  - Appendix 2 - Action Plan to Develop Priorities 2006/07
  - Appendix 3 - Community Engagement Assessment and Action Plan
  - Appendix 4 - Partnership Working Assessment and Action Plan
  - Appendix 5 - 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 15 June 2006 (therefore not attached to this paper).

### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i) endorses the 2005/06 Annual Report, subject to minor textual amendments, for submission to Communities Scotland by 30 June 2006;
  - 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**  
**30 May 2006**



# **COMMUNITY REGENERATION IN EAST AYRSHIRE**

**Regeneration Outcome Agreement**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2005 / 2006**

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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



## FOREWORD

I am pleased to welcome you to the first Annual Report by East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board, which demonstrates significant progress and achievement made in 2005/06 to address identified priorities within our most disadvantaged communities.

The CPP Board was established in June 2005, following the amalgamation of the two Social Inclusion Boards, and drives forward the regeneration agenda across East Ayrshire through the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), underpinned by the Scottish Executive's new Community Regeneration Fund (CRF).

Partnership working and effective community engagement continue to be our key strengths, and we are committed to listening to local people and involving them in the decisions which affect their lives. We realise that to bring about lasting change, the people and communities of East Ayrshire must be engaged at the heart of the community planning process and fully involved in decision-making structures.

Twelve Community Representatives, including four representatives from the long established Coalfield Communities Federation and four representatives from the new North Federation actively participate in the CPP Board together with four representatives from the wider community.

In order to facilitate wider community consultation, the first Community Planning Residents' Survey was commissioned in 2005 to provide an increased understanding of local priorities and views on public services. In addition, a Residents' Panel of over 600 local people has been established to ensure community involvement in relation to the planning and development of services.

CRF and Community Voices Programme (CVP) funded projects and initiatives have delivered significant achievements over the year, with many exceeding the agreed output targets for 2005/06, ensuring that we are progressing towards the delivery of the outcomes in the three-year ROA by 2008.

The Executive Summary to this report provides a flavour of some of our most noteworthy successes in 2005/06, including the highly successful Recreation Partnership Project, Coalfield Community Transport, East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth, Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects, Dalmellington Youth Centre, and Carer and Young Carer Support.

We have faced a number of challenges throughout the year. However, what we consider to be a successful 2005/06 ensures that we look forward to the year ahead, confident that we will continue to co-ordinate our efforts to reduce inequalities between the most and least disadvantaged communities by closing the opportunity gap, and ensuring support to those who need it most.

**Councillor William Menzies, Chair  
East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board was established in June 2005, following agreement by Partners to dissolve the Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Board and the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board, and is an 'unincorporated body' with decision-making responsibility for the Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) and Community Voices Programme (CVP) resources allocated to East Ayrshire.

Membership of the CPP Board comprises thirteen Partner agencies, including all core Community Planning Partners, and twelve Community Representatives.

As well as making a commitment to delivering the Community Planning priorities, the CPP Board aims to deliver the five identified Strategic Regeneration Objectives within the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), underpinned by CRF/CVP resources, 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.

The ROA received approval and 'sign-off' by Scottish Ministers in July 2005, which effectively released the Scottish Executive's CRF/CVP funding and provided dedicated resources for the regeneration of the most disadvantaged communities in East Ayrshire.

Significant progress has been made throughout 2005/06, which builds on the achievements of the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and Better Neighbourhood Services (BNSF) programmes.

The following initiatives provide examples of the quality, innovation and range of regeneration activity in East Ayrshire's disadvantaged communities via the CRF programme in 2005/06.

- **Recreation Partnership Project**

The 'flagship' Recreation Partnership Project continues to make a significant contribution to tackling health inequalities in East Ayrshire, by providing a range of innovative health related activity programmes in schools and in the community.

The excellence of the 'Activity Motivation Initiative', which is delivered by the project, has received recognition through an independent academic evaluation of the initiative by Glasgow Caledonian University.

The results of the evaluation demonstrated that children and young people in East Ayrshire are twice as active as the national recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer. In addition, the project was highlighted as an exemplary partnership initiative, which is responding directly to national priorities.

- **Coalfield Community Transport**

Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) provides accessible and affordable transport for a range of local non-profit groups and individuals. In addition, the project operates the 'Wheels2Work' scooter loan scheme for unemployed people.

CCT is acknowledged as a model of good practice for other voluntary transport schemes in Scotland and was shortlisted in 2005/06 for the prestigious Scottish Transport - Rural Transport Award.

Over the last year, over 24,500 passengers have travelled with this successful transport initiative and over 14,300 volunteer driver hours were recorded.

- **EASY – 'Get Into Enterprise'**

An exciting business initiative for East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY) reached a high profile conclusion with the sale of their original T-shirts at Urban Outfitters in Glasgow.

Ten young people aged between 16 and 18 years participated in the 'Get into Enterprise' project, which provided EASY trainees with a unique opportunity to transform their visual artwork into commercially viable T-shirts.

The project was made possible through a successful collaboration between a range of partners including, East Ayrshire Council, Artloud, Glasgow School of Art, the Scottish Wider Access Programme, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and Investment in Arts, which is also funded via CRF resources.

EASY provides training opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged young people in East Ayrshire and encourages them to develop their interests and talents, assisting them to move forward with their lives.

- **Community Environmental Improvements**

The Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects (CEIAPP) initiative has demonstrated particular success in progressing the Barony 'A' Frame project. The key outcomes of the project include the restoration of a nationally

important heritage structure, increased participation in heritage issues and environmental improvement of a currently vacant and derelict site. The project is a good example of partnership working and over £900,000 of funding has been secured for the Barony 'A' Frame in 2005/06.

A recent independent evaluation of CEIAPP commended the project on its ability to attract investment and good practice in engaging local communities. Ranked scoring against the National Standards for Community Engagement averaged 4 out of a possible 5, which evidences high quality engagement.

The evaluation noted that the CEIAPP project demonstrated many aspects of innovation and good practice, which collectively were 'worthy of expansion and replication'.

- **The Zone**

A welcome addition to the Doon Valley is Dalmellington Youth Centre (The Zone), which provides a multi-functional teen care/child training and youth centre located in Dalmellington town centre. The project has been well received by young people in the local community and surrounding areas, with young people attending the Centre from Patna and Rankinston, and attendances of up to 70 young people have been recorded each night.

The project has already made a positive impact in the local area and a recent Doon Valley Beat Report by Strathclyde Police noted that, with the opening of The Zone in Dalmellington, there had been a marked reduction in the incidents of youth disorder being reported.

- **Carers' Centre Bus**

HRH, The Princess Royal, who is President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, celebrated the tenth anniversary of East Ayrshire Carers' Centre by boarding the new Carers' Bus in Kilmarnock.

The Carers' Bus is a former Stagecoach bus, donated by Brian Souter, which has been converted into a cinema, café and information centre for carers. This mobile resource will travel around East Ayrshire, visiting schools and communities to raise awareness of carers' issues. The CRF contributed to the overall refurbishment costs of the bus.

- **Community Consultation**

The Community Planning Core Partners' Group has given a commitment to jointly carry out community consultation and engagement, where possible. Consequently, Lowland Market Research was commissioned to undertake the first joint Community Planning Residents' Survey.

Between August and October 2005, a face-to-face survey of a cross-section of 2,000 East Ayrshire residents was carried out to gain an increased understanding of local priorities and views on public service provision/satisfaction, and establish baseline data to inform the ROA and the Community Plan's Thematic Action Plans.

To avoid duplication of consultation activities, Community Planning Partners agreed to:

- commission a Community Planning Residents' Survey (four yearly), commencing 2005/06;
- establish a representative Residents' Panel and geographic Focus Groups (utilised routinely; minimum twice per year); and
- establish a joint annual consultation plan, screening group and operating arrangements linked to Public Performance Reporting arrangements.

Further information on the Residents' Survey Results 2005 is available on the Community Planning pages hosted on East Ayrshire Council's website at [www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk) and in local offices and libraries.

In addition, a bespoke Partnership Assessment Scorecard (PAS) was developed and implemented in March 2006, which provided an opportunity to measure progress in respect of partnership working and community involvement across the CPP at a range of levels. The results of the PAS have been used to inform this Annual Report.

## **CONCLUSION**

In its first year, the CPP Board has continued to build on the success of the former SIP and BNSF programmes by tackling deprivation and inequalities faced by the most disadvantaged individuals and communities in East Ayrshire.

Effective partnership working and community engagement, and the achievement of a range of projects and initiatives in the CRF/CVP programme have made a significant contribution to the regeneration of our communities under the ROA framework.

We are determined to build on this success over the next two years, through the delivery of the outcomes identified in the ROA, to the benefit of our most deprived communities.



## COMMUNITY REGENERATION IN EAST AYRSHIRE

### ANNUAL REPORT 2005 / 2006

#### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first Annual Report prepared by East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board, which provides an opportunity for us to reflect our progress and achievements in 2005/06 in respect of the Strategic Regeneration Objectives set down in the three-year Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), underpinned by the Scottish Executive's new Community Regeneration Fund (CRF).

Following the successful integration of the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) programmes with Community Planning, we have built on the solid platform of regeneration activity provided by the Coalfield Area SIP and North Social Inclusion Initiative to ensure that we continue to make a real and positive difference to the lives of local people and our communities.

The ROA lays the foundation for continuing to tackle disadvantage locally, and addressing issues in respect of deprivation and inequalities to ensure that we close the opportunity gap between our most and least deprived communities.

Over the last twelve months, through a joint-working approach, we have set our priorities to meet the challenges of both the local and national agendas, underpinned by effective community involvement and engagement, and developed and implemented the ROA, following its approval and 'sign-off' by Scottish Ministers in July 2005.

This Annual Report demonstrates that, through the commitment of the Partners and the achievements of the projects and initiatives in the current CRF/CVP programme, we have continued to make a positive impact on people's lives and in our disadvantaged communities.

#### SECTION 1: REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

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. However, there is an ongoing commitment from Community Planning Partners to continuous review, which ensures that we continue to effectively address priorities based on community need.

The Community Plan remains the blueprint for how Community Planning Partners will improve the lives of people living in East Ayrshire between 2003 and 2015. The Community Plan has been agreed as the sovereign strategic planning document for East Ayrshire by all Community Planning Partners. It builds on the strengths of the

area, its people and the Partners to tackle the problems that communities are facing. Community Planning offers us the opportunity to build on the significant experience and achievement of the SIP and BNSF programmes, and this has been the challenge addressed by Community Planning Partners during 2005/06.

The Community Plan's six themes lay out how the Partners will improve the quality of life of the residents of East Ayrshire. These are:

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

Sitting under the overarching Community Plan, the ROA provides an effective mechanism for directing a range of regeneration activity at 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, each of which are underpinned by effective community consultation and engagement, are closely aligned to the themes of the Community Plan 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

As highlighted within the ROA, the closure of Stoddard International, Walker Footwear and the First Choice Travel Centre resulted in the loss of over 1,000 jobs in East Ayrshire during 2005, emphasising the need for Partners to continue to focus resources towards such key strategic issues as job creation, inward investment and education and training.

The ROA, which underpins the overarching Community Plan, continues to provide a framework for the regeneration of our most disadvantaged communities, 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.

Progress towards achievement of each of Strategic Regeneration Objectives set down in the ROA, as well as the national 'Closing The Opportunity Gap Objectives',

through the CRF/CVP programme in 2005/06, will be demonstrated throughout this report.

The launch of the Scottish Executive's new regeneration strategy, 'People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement' provides new challenges for the Partners as the Scottish Executive aims to transform communities so that they can reach their full economic potential. Community Planning Partners are working to maximise opportunities afforded via the Regeneration Statement for communities in East Ayrshire.

## **POPULATION IN DECLINE**

The latest population estimates by Council Area, from the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO), illustrate that East Ayrshire's population is falling again. According to the 2005 estimates, East Ayrshire has experienced a fall of -0.3% (-320) over the last year, in contrast to the change for Scotland, which has increased by 0.3%. In addition, in relation to the Ayrshire context, both South and North Ayrshire have experienced a fall of -0.1%.

It had been anticipated that the new M77 would encourage in-ward migration to East Ayrshire, particularly to the new housing developments being completed in the Kilmarnock area, a trend which was expected to continue due to the effect of strategic policies for Ayrshire contained within the Finalised Draft Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2006. Consequently, Partners have raised concerns regarding the population estimates as part of the GRO consultation on future population projections. The outcome of this enquiry is currently awaited.

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING REVIEW**

Each theme of the Community Plan has an associated four-year Action Plan, which details the joint activity aimed at tackling the issues facing our communities. 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.

The Community Plan Action Plan Mid Term Review was completed in Spring 2005, providing a revised set of documents to ensure continued effective action until March 2007. In addition, the Community Planning Four-Yearly Review was implemented in February 2006, which will ensure that a full set of new Action Plans is ready for implementation by 1 April 2007.

A multi-agency working group, comprising representatives from each thematic Working Group and representatives from Core Partner agencies, including a representative of each of the Federations of Community Groups, was established in February 2006 to co-ordinate activity.

The CPP Board will be involved in the consultation process and has agreed that future 2007/08 CRF financial allocations will be linked to the Community Planning Review process.

In addition, the CPP Board has agreed that as part of the four-yearly review process, a review of Community Planning structures will be carried out to ensure that they continue to be 'fit for purpose'.

## **SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ON ACHIEVING OUTCOMES**

Through the implementation of the ROA, underpinned by CRF/CVP resources, the CPP Board has delivered an innovative, wide ranging and effective programme of regeneration initiatives, which build directly on the good practice of the SIP and BNSF programmes in tackling disadvantage in the most deprived communities in East Ayrshire. Significantly, due to continued development of a range of 'flagship' initiatives, in particular, we are already on course to exceed many of the agreed ROA final targets.

Performance in many areas has also exceeded expectations as a result of unanticipated 'secondary' outcomes, which have been delivered through projects contributing to the achievement of more than one national priority or ROA Strategic Regeneration Objective. In addition, revised project monitoring procedures have enabled the full extent of each project contribution to be reported more effectively than ever before.

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**

A key objective for Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire has been the improvement of access to high quality service provision for individuals residing within the ROA targeted data zones, particularly people living in outlying rural communities. In particular, Coalfield Community Transport services have attracted over 24,500 passengers in the last year. In terms of broader community participation, our project databases show that over 44,000 individuals have participated in or directly benefited from CRF programme activity in 2005/06. Over 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.

Additional Police Resources has delivered high visibility policing within targeted ROA data zones, with a particular focus on identified local 'hotspots', and progress has been demonstrated in the reduction of crimes, increased detections, and tackling the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour within these communities.

A range of capital programmes has been implemented during 2005/06, which addresses community safety issues, including Street Lighting, CCTV and Road Safety Improvements. The physical implementation of these works has been delivered in 2005/06. However, the impact of these programmes in respect of building strong, safe and attractive communities will be more effectively realised during 2006 and beyond.

A range of large scale capital projects, which impacts on the attractiveness of our local communities, tackles environmental inequalities, which have significant impact on residents of the most disadvantaged areas, and brings much needed services to rural areas has been progressed during 2005/06. Much of this activity will continue to be developed in 2006 and beyond through an ongoing programme of Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects, and again the true impact of this activity will be more accurately reflected in future reporting.

However, during the last year, 4 Community Environmental Action Plans have been produced and implemented, in North West Kilmarnock, Shortlees, Riccarton and Galston. In addition, a total of 8 individual projects to enhance sites within the targeted data zones have been progressed, most notably Auchinleck Community Garden Initiative, The Barony 'A' Frame Development and Catrine Environmental Heritage Project.

The combined progress of these initiatives during 2005/06 demonstrates an excellent start to the CRF programme and significant achievement at an early stage of ROA activity towards achievement of universally strong, safe and attractive communities across East Ayrshire.

## **GETTING PEOPLE BACK INTO WORK**

In 2005/06, 193 individuals were assisted into employment through CRF employability support initiatives and a further 119 individuals were assisted into work by other CRF initiatives. Consequently, we anticipate that we are likely to exceed the final target set in the ROA early in 2006/07. In addition, over 1,200 people have improved their work related skills through involvement in the overall CRF programme over the last year.

Although progress towards the final target under this priority, which is 70% of project participants accessing training/skills development moving into employment, would seem low, currently at 47%, this is in line with planned progress. Many of the individuals recruited to the programme in 2005/06 continue to participate in a range of training initiatives and it is anticipated that they will go on to record positive employment outcomes in 2006/07, which will be reflected in future reporting under this priority.

Examples of programme activity, which have contributed to progress against 'Getting People Back into Work' in 2005/06 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 47 local residents during 2005/06. Of the 26 individuals who have completed the programme, 22 progressed directly into employment, representing an 85% success rate.

- **East Ayrshire JobRotation**

East Ayrshire JobRotation specifically tackles two issues, namely developing local businesses and unemployment. By assisting business development through staff training opportunities for existing employees, who are released for training, a 26-week employment opportunity for an unemployed East Ayrshire resident is provided. During 2005/06, the project recruited 40 unemployed local people, 24 of whom completed the placement and gained employment, including 22 individuals who were retained by the work placement provider. In addition, 9 individuals secured employment prior to completing the training course, demonstrating a success rate of 83% of people going back into work via this successful initiative.

## **IMPROVING HEALTH**

Significant progress can be reported against moving towards improving health in our most disadvantaged communities during 2005/06, through the delivery of a diverse range of health awareness initiatives, which attracted in excess of 38,000 project attendances during the year, exceeding all expectations. This included a range of programmes variously targeted at older residents, men, individuals with mental health problems, primary school aged children and children with special needs, as well as the broader community within the ROA targeted data zones. Carers of all ages have also benefited from this programme over the last year.

The Carer and Young Carer Support initiative has delivered support, respite and training opportunities to approximately 4,000 carers during 2005/06, exceeding many of the agreed targets. Demand for support for young carers has grown over the last year and the project currently supports over 300 young people. Premises are being sought for a dedicated young carers' facility in the Cumnock area to accommodate the increased numbers of young carers accessing services. In addition, a new group for young adult carers, aged 18-25 years, has been piloted in response to demand.

The 'Improving Health' priority is also an area where the continuing success of well established former SIP initiatives, including the Healthy Living Initiative and Recreation Partnership Project, has been augmented by new projects, which explore ground breaking approaches to tackling identified health related issues.

CRF investment in 2005/06 included resources being directed towards the implementation of two pilot initiatives, which seek to explore innovative new approaches to health improvement in respect of early intervention, namely the Addiction Prevention Programme (DIVERT) and the CHP Domestic Abuse Initiative. These projects have been developed over the last year and it is anticipated that they will contribute significantly towards the delivery of the 'Improving Health' outcomes in 2006/07 and beyond.

A strong base for future progress has been achieved during 2005/06. However, it is anticipated that the full impact of the CRF programme of activity will be better realised in the years ahead.

## **RAISING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

Progress towards 'Raising Educational Attainment' is demonstrated through the achievements of the new ICT in the Community Initiative, which has attracted in excess of 1,000 local residents to participate in training programmes and opportunities during 2005/06. This project has also demonstrated particular success in attracting residents with disabilities to access ICT services, which has been an unanticipated added value benefit of project activity.

Programmes of activity delivered in outlying rural areas, including Muirkirk, Patna and Bellsbank, have been particularly well received. In Bellsbank, ranked one of the most disadvantaged 0-15% communities in East Ayrshire, activity has been progressed through outreach work and consultation with community groups has been undertaken to inform the planned development of a new learning centre within Bellsbank Community Wing in 2006/07.

Across the broader CRF programme, a total of 577 accredited qualifications have been achieved by CRF project beneficiaries since April 2005. Projects with a primary objective of 'Getting People Back into Work', including CONDUIT, the Business Technology Training Centre (BTTC) and East Ayrshire JobRotation, have all contributed significantly to these achievements as secondary outcomes from their project activity. Many of the training programmes are ongoing at 31 March 2006 and additional outcomes will be recorded during 2006/07 and beyond.

## **ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE**

Once again, significant progress in 2005/06 towards the agreed ROA outcomes can be reported. Over 76,500 attendances by young people were recorded at CRF funded projects/initiatives during 2005/06, exceeding performance targets for the year. As previously noted, the information provided may be attributed to revised project reporting systems, which enable more comprehensive data to be collated in respect of young people's participation in CRF funded initiatives. Consequently, the existing project targets are currently being reviewed. However, the success of individual initiatives in exceeding anticipated performance targets must also be recognised.

Innovative service development by yipworld.com attracted over 19,000 attendances during the year and the Recreation Partnership Project and Leisure United initiatives attracted in excess of 20,000 attendances. In addition, over 600 young people have participated in Dialogue Youth programmes.

The completion of the capital works at Dalmellington Youth Centre (The Zone) and the development of new initiatives such as Leisure United, which has attracted over 650 attendances at school based activity sessions in Special Schools and approximately 1,800 community based physical activity sessions with young people with learning disabilities, provide a platform for greater CPP achievements towards truly engaging with young people and involving them in community activity throughout 2006/07 and beyond.

- **yipworld.com**

yipworld.com was previously supported by the Coalfield Area SIP as an innovative Internet based model of youth provision, and celebrated its fifth birthday in April 2005. The project continues to grow and develop services in response to identified need, including increased provision of one-to-one care for children with behavioural/special needs in the after school/school holiday service. The project provides a range of opportunities, which attract participation by young people of all ages and educational/skills development opportunities for individuals aged 18-25 years have been enhanced with the project's success in securing 'Learndirect' branding in 2005. Consequently, a new partnership has been established with Jobcentre Plus, to provide young people with an opportunity to sign up for online learning through Learndirect. The project also secured the Bronze Award for Ayrshire Business in the Community and became the first social enterprise to achieve this award.

- **East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth**

Although East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY) sits within the 'Engaging Young People' priority, it is an excellent example of a highly effective cross cutting initiative, which contributes to a range of priorities. EASY works with the 16-18 year age group, providing a programme of intensive support and training to assist young people achieve their potential and secure work or further training.

A total of 77 vulnerable young people have participated in the programme during 2005/06, with 35 of these individuals progressing into further training or employment. In addition, 11 young people have gone on to further education and 1 individual has benefited from volunteering opportunities. The project continues to track progress of the remaining 30 individuals, who are currently seeking employment/training/further education opportunities.

The EASY project is based in Cumnock but has worked over the last year to develop additional outreach services in Onthank and Shortlees, both in Kilmarnock, and Drongan. An aftercare service provides support for up to a further six months.

This year saw the culmination of the project's 'Get into Enterprise' collaboration with Investment in Arts, 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 since been available for sale at the retail outlet. The collaboration with Urban Outfitters and official launch of the window display attracted national press coverage, and the young people involved found a potential gateway into a future career in textile design or retail.

## **PROJECT PERFORMANCE OUTPUT SUMMARY 2005/06**

Implementation of the ROA is in the early stages and the information provided above illustrates that we are progressing, in our first year, towards the delivery of positive outcomes by March 2008.

The following project performance output summary demonstrates the significant achievements of the projects and initiatives in the CRF/CVP programme 2005/06,

which will positively contribute towards the achievement of ROA outcomes at the conclusion of the three-year ROA.

Progress 2005/06	Achieved and exceeding target	Achieved	Part Achieved	Total
Building strong, safe and attractive communities	20 (44%)	12 (26%)	14 (30%)	46 (100%)
Getting people back into work	14 (82%)	0 (0%)	3 (18%)	17 (100%)
Improving health	16 (76%)	1 (5%)	4 (19%)	21 (100%)
Raising educational attainment	2 (67%)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	3 (100%)
Engaging young people	17 (56%)	5 (17%)	8 (27%)	30 (100%)
Supporting community engagement	6 (50%)	5 (42%)	1 (8%)	12 (100%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>75 (58%)</b>	<b>23 (18%)</b>	<b>31 (24%)</b>	<b>129 (100%)</b>

### **SECTION 3: MAIN CHALLENGES FOR THE COMING YEAR AND PLANS FOR MEETING THESE**

East Ayrshire CPP has made significant progress during 2005/06 in delivering the agreed CRF/CVP programme of initiatives, building on the achievements of former SIP and BNSF activity to deliver effective services and facilities within the most deprived communities across East Ayrshire. However, we recognise that the programme is still in the early stages and much is left to be done over the following two years to ensure the delivery of the three-year ROA, which provides the framework to regenerate disadvantaged communities and improve the quality of life for those individuals who live and work in them.

A summary of the main priorities for the CPP Board in the year ahead includes:

- continuing to respond to community needs;
- continuing to implement the ROA and ensuring that strategic links are maintained with the local Community Planning process and the national priorities for regeneration;
- using the ROA as the foundation for effective joint working in respect of community regeneration by Community Planning Partners;
- finalising the 2007/08 CRF/CVP programme of activity, linked to the Community Planning Four-Yearly Review process;
- considering the implications of the Scottish Executive's new regeneration strategy, 'People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement' for East Ayrshire;
- supporting, where appropriate, the sustainability of initiatives funded through short-term funding streams;
- reviewing structures to ensure that they continue to be 'fit for purpose' within the local Community Planning process;
- 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;
- developing stronger links to the wider community;

- developing a local compact/partnership agreement for each of the Federations of Community Groups for 2007/08 and beyond;
- ensuring the ongoing review and development of the Consultation and Engagement Toolkit, in particular, to assist in the development of links to the wider community;
- ensuring that key staff are resourced to engage with the community in the Community Planning process;
- further enhancing joint systems for data collection and management; the co-ordination and dissemination of key statistics, and the commissioning of research via the Research and Information Group;
- reviewing and revisiting appropriate monitoring and evaluation procedures for Community Planning processes, including the roll out of one-touch monitoring systems to appropriate joint-funded initiatives; and
- raising awareness of regeneration activity and sharing good practice, particularly in respect of effective community engagement, partnership working and project activity, at local and national level.

The priorities for 2006/07 will be driven forward through the co-ordinated activity of all the Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire.

#### **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.

#### **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION ON EAST AYRSHIRE CPP BOARD**

The Community continues to sit at the heart of strategic decision-making within the CPP through formal representation on the CPP Board by twelve community representatives, as follows:

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • Coalfield Communities Federation     | 4 representatives |
| • North Communities Federation         | 4 representatives |
| • Individual Community Representatives | 4 representatives |

To provide continuity, nominated representatives are invited to participate on the CPP Board for a period of two years before standing for re-election. Individual Community Representatives from the wider community are recruited through advertisements in the local press.

The Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF) is already well established in the south of the authority, which is the former SIP area, and establishment of the North Federation in the north of the authority in June 2005 replicates this existing good practice.

Collectively, representation within both Federations includes residents from each of the most disadvantaged 0-15% communities in East Ayrshire as well as communities of interest such as representatives of disability groups and local businesses.

To further enhance community engagement and involvement in the Community Planning policy direction, one representative from each of the two Federations sits on the Community Planning Core Partners' Group, which is the key strategic planning structure within the Community Planning process.

Both Federations' involvement in the CPP structures ensures effective community engagement in the overall decision-making process. In addition, continued involvement by nominated representatives in the Community Planning Review process ensures real and effective involvement by local people in service development and delivery. The current Community Planning Review, which will shape future service provision in 2007/08 and beyond, has been widely advertised in the local press, inviting participation from across the community.

In addition, a review of the format of CPP Board meetings was initiated in December 2005, to evaluate whether the existing arrangements continued to provide a framework for more effective participation by its members and the recommendations of the Working Group, including Community Representatives, resulted in a revised meeting format, which is currently being trialled by the Board.

## **SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CPP BOARD**

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

Two dedicated Consultation and Engagement staff within the Community Planning and Partnership Unit work closely with Community Representatives, providing support and guidance, including identifying and addressing training needs.

A programme of training, including Information Communication Technology (ICT) training, Aspirational Learning, Development Days and 'Working Together Learning Together' sessions, has been implemented to enable Community Representatives to engage fully in the CPP Board and its activity.

Key to the effective empowerment of Community Representatives and ensuring maximum involvement in the CPP has been the ongoing provision of ICT equipment and services in their homes, including e-mail and Internet services, which have facilitated easy access to information, the Partners and the support team. In addition, the CPP Board provides a budget for Community Representatives' expenses, encompassing travel, loss of earnings, subsistence and childcare. These funds remove potential barriers to participation in CP structures and processes.

Our experience and feedback from the Community Representatives have emphasised that this service provision is critical to ensuring that they have the capacity to fully engage in the decision making process. We are committed to ensuring that this level of support continues and to accessing the necessary resources to realise this.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

To ensure effective and routine engagement of the community in the development and ongoing review of the ROA, and in the overall community planning process, a range of existing representative structures and systems continue to be utilised by all Partners, including local committees; equality forums; partnership groups; community councils; community associations; and community and voluntary groups.

Community Planning Partners have made a commitment to carry out, where possible, joint community consultation and the following activities are being taken forward jointly by the Partners to ensure a structured approach to community consultation, which seeks to reach all sections of the community:

- Community Planning Residents' Survey – to increase understanding of local priorities and views on public service provision/satisfaction.
- The establishment of a representative Residents' Panel and geographic focus groups - to increase understanding of residents' views and the involvement of communities in the planning and development of services.
- The establishment of a joint annual consultation plan, a screening group and operating arrangements linked to Public Performance Reporting arrangements - to ensure effective co-ordination of community consultation across agencies and the attainment of Best Value.

The first Community Planning Residents' Survey was completed in December 2005 and will be repeated on a four-yearly basis. Other methods used to engage communities in East Ayrshire in 2005/06 include workshop sessions, focus groups and consultation events, and information is shared through a range of mechanisms, including newsletters and questionnaires and the Community Planning web pages on East Ayrshire Council's website.

### • **Engaging with Hard to Reach Groups**

The CPP recognises the difficulties in engaging black/minority/ethnic (BME) groups and young people in community consultation activity, and has taken steps to address these issues in 2005/06. Discussions are currently ongoing with the Dialogue Youth initiative, as the main means of involving and consulting young people in East Ayrshire, and the Ethnic Minority Inclusion project, in respect of how we can best encourage these groups to engage further in the community planning process.

Community Planning publications are routinely available to all members of the community on audio cassette, CD ROM and in large print format. The Community Plan itself has been translated into Chinese, Punjabi, Urdu and Gaelic, and is available on the East Ayrshire Council website.

In addition, all public consultation events are arranged in easily accessible venues, with integrated loop systems, to enable those with physical disabilities to fully participate.

## **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community Planning Partners recognise that the National Standards for Community Engagement (National Standards) highlight best practice in community consultation and engagement and have formally undertaken, as part of the ROA, to ensure that these standards are achieved as a minimum. This commitment has underpinned all of our activity to engage with local communities throughout 2005/06.

Communities Scotland provided a package of support to ensure an understanding of and commitment to the use of the National Standards across the CPP. A range of events and awareness raising sessions were delivered in February and March 2006, supported by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), including:

- an awareness raising session for Partner representatives; and
- further sessions for the Coalfield Communities Federation and East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning and Development staff.

In addition, a two-day training session was delivered to key staff, community members and groups on 16 February and 23 March 2006. It is anticipated that these individuals will play a key role in 'championing' the use of and be responsible for raising awareness of the National Standards, and cascading the training throughout their own organisations, communities or groups.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE**

Community Planning Partners, through the Community Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, commissioned Rocket Science Consulting 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 first annual PAS exercise, which included a specific question set on community consultation and engagement and will provide a baseline for future work, was completed in March 2006. Community representatives from the two Federations participated fully in this exercise, together with staff from all levels across the CPP agencies.

Community Awareness of Community Planning; Engaging with Communities on Strategies and Plans; and Community Influence on CPP decisions were all identified in the initial PAS results as potential areas for improvement, suggesting that further work is required to raise awareness of the existing opportunities for community involvement. These results have been formally presented to each Partner agency through the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group (JOG) and have been used to inform this Annual Report.

It is anticipated that the PAS exercise will be repeated annually in March each year, and will continue to measure and evaluate the actual impact of community involvement on local public service delivery in East Ayrshire.

## **SECTION 5: PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

The ROA, underpinned by the CRF, provided a new strategic focus for Community Planning Partners to regenerate the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, focusing particularly on the most deprived 0-15% data zones. East Ayrshire's ROA received formal endorsement from all core community planning partners and the final document was approved at a joint meeting of the North Social Inclusion Initiative and Coalfield Area SIP Boards in May 2005.

To ensure governance of the CRF, Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire embraced the opportunity to review existing Community Planning Structures, including the separate North and Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnerships.

As a result of this review, existing decision-making structures were streamlined by the establishment of a new autonomous Community Planning Partnership Board, which was constituted in June 2005.

### **CPP OPERATING STRUCTURES**

Membership of the CPP Board includes twelve Community Representatives, who are each invited to participate for two years at a time before standing for re-election, and thirteen Partner agencies.

The CPP Board meets on a quarterly basis and has decision making responsibility for joint funding allocated to Community Planning Partners, including CRF and CVP funds.

In October 2005, the Core Partners' Group, which is the key strategic decision-making body of the CPP, responsible for the overall policy direction, made a commitment to review existing Community Planning structures, namely:

- Community Planning Core Partners' Group;
- CPP Board;
- Community Planning Joint Officers' Group; and
- Lead Officers' Group.

As a result of this commitment, an early action agreed was that every second Joint Officers' Group (JOG) meeting should be a joint meeting with Lead Officers, the intended outcome of which being to further strengthen the working relationships between the Community Planning JOG and Lead Officers.

As part of the four-yearly community planning review process, the roles and responsibilities of the Core Partners' Group, which sets the policy direction for Community Planning in East Ayrshire, and the CPP Board will be reviewed to ensure clarity of purpose. It will further consider:

- whether there is a discrete role for both groups;
- the potential to amalgamate the groups; and, if this is agreed,
- how Partners may work to this position over time.

In this regard, the PAS was viewed as a useful tool for establishing which structures were perceived to be working effectively.

In order to promote partnership working at all levels within the CPP, a series of 'Working Together Learning Together' (WTLT) sessions were convened for CPP Board members during the summer and autumn of 2005. The focus of these sessions was to provide Board members with a greater understanding of the issues to be considered by the CPP and to foster good working relationships.

Four WTLT sessions were organised under the following themes:

- Community Planning in East Ayrshire;
- ROA and CRF;
- Anti Social Behaviour; and
- 'Choose Life' Suicide Prevention Strategy.

In addition, a series of Project Showcase events was organised to provide Board members with an overview of the range of projects and initiatives supported by the CRF/CVP.

Following ROA approval by Scottish Ministers, four Project Information Sessions were organised in August and September 2005 to ensure that all CRF/CVP Project Contact Officers and Monitoring Officers were aware of and understood the Standard Terms and Conditions of Grant, and their roles and responsibilities in respect of reporting on performance and financial monitoring of the CRF/CVP.

The events were attended by staff of the Community Planning and Partnership Unit and afforded the opportunity to establish links with Contact and Monitoring Officers, and ensure effective working relationships and priorities.

A further two Project Information Sessions were convened in early March 2006 to present and discuss with project representatives the review of the financial and performance monitoring and evaluation operating procedures reported on at Section Seven of the report.

The PAS exercise, undertaken in March 2005, demonstrated the success of much of this work to date through the high scoring 'Awareness of Strategic Staff' across all partner agencies. However 'Awareness of Operational Staff' received comparatively lower scores, indicating that additional work is required in this area. The PAS results have since been considered by the Community Planning JOG and action to further increase understanding of all aspects of Community Planning will be progressed during 2006/07.

In order to further enhance community engagement and involvement in the Community Planning policy direction, it was agreed at the joint Social Inclusion Board of 18 May 2005 that one representative from each of the two Federations would be nominated to sit on the Community Planning Core Partners' Group. The Chair of the CPP Board also sits on the Core Partners' Group.

In addition, there is an ongoing programme of structured community consultation and engagement, previously detailed at Section Four of this report, which is formally

reported to the CPP Board, Core Partners' Group and the JOG to inform operational CPP decision making.

Community Planning activity is facilitated and supported by the central Community Planning Partnership Unit.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

The ROA sits within the broader context of Community Planning in East Ayrshire and was developed through consultation with all Community Planning partner agencies and local communities. The regeneration programme set out in the ROA, endorsed by all community planning partners and subsequently approved by Communities Scotland and Scottish Ministers, focuses on the regeneration of the most deprived 0-15% data zones, but also on contiguous data zones and identified 'communities in decline'. In addition, activity is also delivered on a thematic basis, where appropriate, enabling employment and training initiatives, for example, to be delivered across the 0-30% data zones. These decisions were taken as a direct result of partner experience in local communities.

This also links to the findings of the independent evaluation of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund, 2005. This report recommended that future funding or initiatives should recognise the issues associated with targeting narrowly defined areas. Future interventions, it was suggested, should address these on a much wider area or thematic basis.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

When preparing the ROA, Community Planning Partners agreed to develop a two-year, rather than a three-year, funding package in order to align the CRF allocation for 2007/08 with the four-yearly review of the Community Plan Action Plans. Initially, the two year funding package applied to all projects and initiatives supported via the CRF, with the exception of:

- flagship projects;
- community capacity building projects; and
- core operating costs.

The future funding and sustainability of all CRF/CVP funded projects and initiatives were subsequently considered as part of the Annual Project Review process carried out in October/November 2005. To ensure that those projects and initiatives, which continue to be funded beyond 31 March 2007, will address the priorities articulated in the Community Plan and contribute to meeting the outcomes of the thematic action plans, Community Planning Lead Officers were invited to attend the reviews relevant to the action plan for which they are lead officer.

In addition to highlighting overall project performance and activity, the annual review process afforded Lead Officers the opportunity to take a view on:

- which projects link effectively to the Community Plan Action Plans and should continue to be funded;
- which projects should no longer receive funding after 2006/07; and

- which projects should continue but should be either mainstreamed to ensure sustainability or access alternative funding.

Where it was recommended that a project should cease because it no longer addresses the priorities of the Community Plan, Lead Officers were requested to identify appropriate assistance to support the exit process.

The CPP Board met in March 2006 to consider the outcome of the annual review process and the Lead Officers' recommendations. The Board endorsed a proposal to allocate 2007/08 funds to those projects which secured maximum points during the review process, namely Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects, Carer and Young Carer Support, East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth and New Sporting Futures. Each of these projects demonstrated exemplary performance 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 ROA.

The wider four-yearly Community Plan review process is currently being progressed and it is anticipated that an updated Community Plan and revised set of action plans will be ready for full implementation by 1 April 2007. The future funding and sustainability of all CRF initiatives continue to be considered as part of this process. Where successful initiatives are delivering essential, high quality services which directly link in to Community Planning priorities, the desire exists to mainstream these services, where possible, beyond 2007/08. However, this desire is counterbalanced by the reality of declining budgets across all Community Planning Partner agencies and the continuing challenges presented by short-term funding allocations.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATING PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

As already outlined under Section Four of this report, a Partnership Assessment Scorecard (PAS) has been developed to allow the effectiveness of partnership working in East Ayrshire to be measured. The first annual PAS exercise, which will provide a baseline for future activity, was completed in March 2006. A range of groups was invited to participate in the PAS exercise as follows:

- Strategic Partnership Staff – including members of the key CPP decision making bodies, including 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, which will inform the preparation of future work plans and annual performance reports for Community Planning in East Ayrshire, including the ROA, have been formally presented to members of the JOG. These are currently being considered with a view to identifying issues to be addressed through the CPP priorities, which will be taken forward in 2006/07, including:

- further engagement of communities in planning strategies and plans, and decision making; and
- continuing to raise awareness of Community Planning with key stakeholders and developing more effective ways in which to report back to communities in respect of progress and achievement.

In addition, 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, which will again be progressed during 2006/07.

As previously reported, it is anticipated that the PAS exercise will be repeated annually in March each year to enable our ongoing progress in partnership working to be effectively monitored and evaluated over the years ahead.

## **SECTION 6: IMPROVEMENT AGENDA - PROGRESS**

The National Performance Management Framework (PMF), issued by Communities Scotland in September 2005, outlined a requirement for Communities Scotland to arrange a meeting with CPPs to review progress since the ROA was approved and agree how aspects of the ROA highlighted for further improvement have been progressed.

The Mid-year Stock Take was convened on 22 November 2005, attended by representatives of East Ayrshire Council's Community Planning and Partnership Unit and representatives of Communities Scotland's Area Team and Central Regeneration Unit. Improvement issues primarily focused on:

- finalising baseline information and targets for all ROA outcomes; and
- equalities and improvement issues.

## **FINALISING THE ROA**

East Ayrshire Community Planning Residents' Survey data became available in December 2005, and the ROA has been updated accordingly. Data is available at an East Ayrshire wide level and has been disaggregated to 0-15% and 16-25% data zone level. Targets have been set in respect of closing the gap between the ROA targeted data zones and the broader community across East Ayrshire. Further analysis of the Residents' Survey data is ongoing to provide additional levels of disaggregated data.

## **REVIEW OF PROJECTS**

The conclusion of the first year of CRF/CVP funded project activity has provided an opportunity to review and, where appropriate, revise the final project targets, taking account of project performance to date. Many of the projects and initiatives funded in the 2005/06 programme have already exceeded the agreed set targets. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that the targets set within the ROA continue to be realistic as well as challenging, and reflect accurately the achievements of the projects and initiatives, which contribute to the delivery of the regeneration outcomes.

## **EQUALITIES ISSUES**

Equalities considerations are central to Community Planning in East Ayrshire and continue to be progressed through the mainstream Community Planning agenda.

However, in view of ongoing discussions with Communities Scotland, CRF project monitoring procedures have been reviewed and all CRF/CVP funded projects and initiatives have been requested to provide disaggregated information in respect of age, gender, ethnicity and disability, where this information is available.

In addition, projects are requested, as part of the ongoing reporting arrangements, to highlight examples of existing good practice in respect of equalities issues. Many of the examples provided have been highlighted throughout this report.

## **INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

A multi-agency Working Group has been established to consider the feasibility of developing an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) tool for East Ayrshire. The IAA tool will provide 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.

## **SECTION 7: FINANCIAL COMMENTARY**

The CRF/CVP financial allocation to East Ayrshire CPP for 2005/06 was £4,093,000 (including £60,000 CVP resources).

As part of the conditions of grant, the CPP required to submit to Communities Scotland, by 1 September 2005, details of planned spend against the overall CRF and CVP budgets for 2005/06. Included, as part of the return was an opportunity for the CPP to 'carry forward' part of its 2005/06 allocation into 2006/07.

CRF/CVP funded projects were requested to consider their financial projections and identify any underspend up to 31 March 2006. At its meeting on 22 September 2005, the CPP Board agreed to 'carry forward' £534,750 of its 2005/06 allocation to 2006/07, leaving a balance of £3,559,250.

Projects and initiatives funded via CRF/CVP resources have secured significant financial contributions from a range of funders in 2005/06, including Community Planning Partner mainstream resources and other external funding sources.

Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire have invested heavily in CRF targeted data zones and provided approximately £1.6 million of financial support to a range of projects and initiatives in the current CRF/CVP programme. In addition, over £3.6 million has been secured from other external funding sources, bringing over £5.2 million of financial support, in addition to the CRF/CVP resources, to East Ayrshire's disadvantaged communities.

In terms of in-kind support, we conservatively estimate that resources to the value of over £520,000 have been secured by CRF/CVP funded projects, 86% of which has been provided by CPP agencies.

Detailed at Appendix 5 is the full financial breakdown of all Partner contributions to the CRF/CVP programme of projects and initiatives in 2005/06.

## **NEW FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

Robust and effective systems continue to be implemented to ensure regular financial reporting to the CPP Board by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and East Ayrshire Council's Executive Head of Finance. CPPs agreed that East Ayrshire Council should be the grant recipient for CRF/CVP resources.

To ensure that the financial procedures relating to the overall CRF and CVP 'grant payment claim process' continued to be 'fit for purpose', the Community Planning and Partnership Unit carried out a review of the existing financial systems. A new financial grant claim procedure was approved by the CPP Board ready for implementation on 1 April 2006.

The main revisions relate to procedures for claiming and processing CRF/CVP grants for both internal (East Ayrshire Council managed) and external (Partner agency or Voluntary Organisation managed) projects, and are detailed as follows:

- Projects will be requested (in January/February each year) to detail their projected financial spend for the year on a quarterly basis.
- The quarterly grant claim process will remain in place for externally managed projects, with a revised, more streamlined grant form utilised.
- Internal projects will move to a grant claim process of three-quarters allocation at 1 April, with the final quarter released, subject to performance over the year. A quarterly return will be required from internal projects, confirming exact spend against each quarter, which will allow accurate grant claims to be submitted to Communities Scotland.

It is anticipated that the revised financial procedures, which were met positively by local projects and initiatives, will offer a more streamlined approach to claiming and processing CRF/CVP grants as well as meeting the requirements in respect of following the 'Public 'Pound'.

In addition, more streamlined monitoring and evaluation procedures will be implemented in 2006/07, making reporting on performance, particularly for those projects with multiple funders, more effective.

All new procedures will be monitored in 2006/07 to ensure that they are meeting the requirements of all stakeholders.

## **SECTION 8: EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE**

The Community Regeneration Fund and Community Voices Programme include a diverse range of projects and services, which have been recognised both locally and nationally as examples of good practice, particularly in addressing inequalities issues

impacting on the most disadvantaged communities across East Ayrshire. The projects and initiatives highlighted below have made a particularly strong contribution to the equalities/social inclusion agenda, which lies at the heart of all Community Planning and regeneration activity in East Ayrshire. Community consultation and engagement is also key to the success of these projects, each of which responds directly to identified community need.

- **Coalfield Community Transport**

Given the rural nature of the south of East Ayrshire and the more dispersed nature of deprivation, the access issues faced by rural communities is a particular challenge being addressed by Community Planning Partners. The CRF funded Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) offers a unique and innovative solution to access issues and has been recognised by the Scottish Executive as an example of good practice.

In 2005/06, over 24,500 passengers utilised CCT services and a total of approximately 160 local community and voluntary groups are affiliated as registered service users. In addition to providing core transport services, the project has continually developed new and groundbreaking initiatives to address identified community need.

The innovative 'Wheels2Work' initiative provides a valuable gateway into work for unemployed people through provision of loaned scooters. This affordable transport solution seeks to enable project beneficiaries to access otherwise inaccessible employment opportunities. A total of 15 individuals have benefited from this service since April 2005.

CCT also took delivery of a new CRF funded minibus in February 2006, which represented the culmination of a new partnership with East Ayrshire Council's Early Years Service, and the new Transport for Netherthird Nursery and Family Centre was launched on 6 March 2006. A total of 17 of the most vulnerable young children, referred from East Ayrshire Council's Social Work Services and NHS Ayrshire and Arran are transported to the Centre from some of the most disadvantaged rural areas in East Ayrshire, including Auchinleck, Catrine, Logan, Muirkirk and New Cumnock. The project employs a dedicated driver and escort, both of whom participated in appropriate training provided via CCT.

CCT is currently developing plans to deliver a hospital visiting service in 2006/07.

- **Healthy Living Initiative**

Health inequalities have a significant impact on disadvantaged communities and a number of CRF funded initiatives seek to utilise early intervention methods to address these issues, most notably one of our 'flagship' projects, the Healthy Living Initiative. The Initiative's 'CHIP Van' celebrated its fifth birthday in January 2006 and this milestone was used to promote and raise awareness of the project's activities and services. The CHIP Van makes fortnightly community visits to raise awareness of health related issues in 28 targeted areas across East Ayrshire and almost 4,000 people benefited from this service in 2005/06.

The Healthy Living Initiative continues to exceed set targets, achieving over 13,000 project attendances over the last year. To ensure that all local residents have the

opportunity to benefit from the services provided, special events and activities continue to target a range of groups within the community, including programmes specifically tailored to meet the needs of older people, men who are traditionally less likely to access community health provision, and individuals with mild/moderate mental health needs. In addition, over 1,000 of project service users recorded in 2005/06 were under 16 years of age, demonstrating the project's ongoing commitment to early intervention in tackling health issues across East Ayrshire.

- **Recreation Partnership Project and Leisure United**

By targeting the youngest members of our communities and educating them in respect of the benefits of a healthy active lifestyle at an early age, the Recreation Partnership Project has made a strong contribution to tackling health inequalities in East Ayrshire. This achievement is in addition to this project's already outstanding success in engaging young people in community activity, which is demonstrated by over 20,000 recorded project attendances during 2005/06.

Over the last year, the Recreation Partnership Project and Leisure United projects have worked 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 and Leisure United focuses on working with children and young people with additional support needs.

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. 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 the independent evaluation as an exemplary partnership initiative, which is responding directly to national priorities.

- **Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects**

The new Scottish Executive regeneration strategy, 'People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement', published by the Executive in February 2006, highlights the importance of environmental improvement activity in regeneration areas, particularly in former Coalfield communities. The CRF funded Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects (CEIAPP) prepares and implements a range of environmental improvement and regeneration projects in close consultation with local communities.

An independent evaluation of CEIAPP was commissioned in January 2006 and the findings, published in April 2006, highlighted the project as an example of good practice, in particular, as a model for community engagement and consultation, and value for money.

The project was commended on its ability to attract external investment and it was highlighted that the CRF allocation of £284,500 in 2005/06 had attracted £2.1 million from other funding sources.

However, it is the project's success in engaging with local communities, which is particularly highlighted in the evaluation, most notably:

- 'the quality of the initial consultation and the empowerment of communities in identifying and prioritising projects';
- 'the innovative way in which the projects are implemented with the lead role taken on by a community organisation/community partnership'; and
- 'the level of community stewardship and involvement in sustainability of projects'.

Ranked scoring against the National Standards for Community Engagement averaged 4 out of a possible 5, which evidences high quality engagement. In addition, the evaluation noted that the project demonstrated many aspects of innovation and good practice, which collectively were 'worthy of expansion and replication'.

## **SECTION 9: CONSTRAINTS**

Key constraints experienced over the last year include the following:

### **SHORT-TERM FUNDING**

The short-term nature and annuality of available funding continues to present challenges at a strategic planning level and operationally for individuals on the ground seeking to deliver effective and innovative regeneration initiatives.

For capital or large scale strategic initiatives, the challenges are particularly notable. For example, the regeneration of Kilmarnock town centre will require significant investment. Difficulties in respect of securing available funds include:

- the time taken for funding decisions to be made due to funders' meeting cycles;
- available funding subjected to time constraints for spend and a range of criteria; and
- difficulties in evidencing available revenue funding against capital projects.

This situation can, in particular, necessitate the phasing of capital projects over several years, delaying the achievement of desired outcomes for local communities. Flexibility to 'carry forward' resources, providing an additional one or two additional years within which to spend allocated funds, would assist to alleviate some of these difficulties.

In addition, operational difficulties which accompany short-term funding include staff recruitment and retention. It is difficult to attract quality, experienced staff to short-term temporary posts and where existing staff are in place, the approaching conclusion of a funding period with no future financial security often prompts existing staff to seek employment elsewhere. Additional implications for projects with short-term funding include loss of experience and training investment, as well as additional recruitment costs if and when further funding is secured.

East Ayrshire Council has directly experienced such difficulties in respect of the staffing of the central Community Planning and Partnership Unit, where high levels of staff turnover have resulted in previous years. To address this situation, the strategic decision to move key posts within the Unit from temporary to substantive posts was implemented during 2005/06. Although this decision has long-term budgetary implications, it highlights the Council's long-term commitment to Community Planning and to the sustained regeneration of our most disadvantaged communities.

## **GEOGRAPHIC CONSTRAINTS**

Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire share a desire to focus resources on those communities where the need is greatest and have demonstrated this by committing additional resources to the targeted data zones identified within the ROA. However, greater flexibility is required to enable the CPP to tackle regeneration outwith the 0-15% data zones, for example, in town centres and area hubs, where large scale services are naturally provided to ensure maximum impact, or in areas in decline where resources are required to address localised issues.

In addition, the experience of Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire indicates that a 'thematic approach' to targeting regeneration activity, in some instances, can be more beneficial than a rigorous geographic approach. Communities Scotland agreed to the request of the Community Planning Partners that, due to the job losses experienced in East Ayrshire in early 2005, programmes to support people back into work would continue to be targeted in the priority communities, however, extended coverage would be provided to the worst 16-30% data zones.

## **SECTION 10: UNPLANNED IMPACT OF PROJECTS / SERVICES**

Unplanned impacts of projects and services beyond the specific purpose include:

### **DISABLED ACCESS**

The ICT in the Community initiative and the Business Technology Training Centre (BTTTC) are both supported by CRF resources to increase access to Information Communication Technology with a view to contributing to the national priorities of 'Raising Educational Attainment' and 'Getting People Back into Work'. These projects also seek to contribute to broader community engagement through provision of access to computer facilities within local communities and the provision of entry level computer courses such as 'Computing for the Terrified'. A positive unplanned impact of these projects has been the uptake of services by individuals who consider themselves to have a disability and the success of these service users in acquiring new skills through access to these projects.

Over 70 of ICT in the Community service users consider themselves to have a disability. To ensure that the project is able to meet the needs of these individuals, Disability Awareness Training for ICT tutors and project staff is being built into on-going staff training and induction for new staff. Although individual learning plans have not been suitable for all learners, individual needs assessments are undertaken

for all new service users and appropriate personal development plans prepared. Signposting of clear progression routes for learners is undertaken by project staff, tutors and guidance workers.

The services offered by BTTC in Dalmellington have proved particularly useful to individuals with disabilities and the centre offers specially adapted computer equipment such as chunky keyboards and trackball mouse kit to enable full access to a range of IT training opportunities. Over 50 of the current project service users consider themselves to have a disability and all learners are individually needs assessed to ensure that they are able to participate fully in the services offered by the Centre.

## **MAINSTREAMING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

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. Both projects seek to involve primary school aged children in physical activity and health awareness sessions from an early age, with Leisure United focusing on children with additional support.

During the last quarter of 2005/06, Leisure United successfully integrated two children with additional support needs into the Recreation Partnership Project's Saturday Kids Club at Catrine Games Hall. Initially both children attended the club for an hour. However, through the provision of one-to-one support, the children were able to attend for the duration of the session and participated in a range of activities provided. Following this success, it is anticipated that other children with additional support needs will be integrated into mainstream activities in a similar way in the future.

This development is being progressed through the integration of Leisure United with the Recreation Partnership Project from 1 April 2006. The planned outcome of this merger will be the delivery of equitable access to healthy recreation activities for all children and young people in East Ayrshire.

## **DISPLACEMENT ISSUES**

Strathclyde Police has reported the early success of the CRF funded Additional Police Resources initiative in tackling youth disorder and anti-social behaviour issues. Activity has been progressed through provision of additional patrols, allowing greater police visibility in the targeted data zones, particularly in identified local 'hotspots'. However, the unanticipated negative impact of this activity has been the displacement of some of these disorder issues into areas outwith the targeted data zones.

This outcome supports the findings of the independent BNSF evaluation, which noted that an increased Police presence in the BNSF pathfinder areas resulted in the displacement of some disorder and criminality to outlying areas. It was recommended in this report that future interventions, particularly those targeting community safety, should recognise the issues associated with tackling disorder and criminal activity on a narrowly defined area basis, and seek to address these on a much wider or thematic basis.

## CONCLUSION

The regeneration of East Ayrshire's disadvantaged communities and neighbourhoods involves:

- ensuring that people have access to lifelong community based learning opportunities;
- reducing unemployment and attracting inward investment;
- reducing crime and improving safety in neighbourhoods and homes;
- tackling poverty;
- improving health and well-being of local residents;
- protecting and improving the natural environment; and
- providing cultural, recreational and leisure opportunities.

We have demonstrated that, through the use of targeted CRF/CVP resources, we have made significant progress in 2005/06 towards delivering the outcomes identified in the ROA, which will contribute to the regeneration of our most deprived communities via the ROA framework and the local Community Planning process.

However, we realise that the regeneration issues remain and our work will continue into the future, with partnership working and effective community engagement at the heart of the planning and delivery of services.

The Community Planning Four-Yearly Review, which will be undertaken during 2006/07 to ensure that an updated Community Plan and revised set of Action Plans are ready for implementation on 1 April 2007, will be a significant challenge for the Partners. In particular, the CPP Board will require to ensure that the programme of CRF/CVP funded projects and initiatives for 2007/08, linked to the Community Planning Review, will be able to effectively contribute to the delivery of the outcomes identified in the ROA.

In addition, Community Planning Partners are currently considering the implications for East Ayrshire of the Scottish Executive's new regeneration strategy for Scotland, 'People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement', issued at the end of February 2006, and the challenges which the Scottish Executive has set for the regeneration of Scotland's most disadvantaged communities in the future.

We look forward to meeting these challenges, which lie ahead.

