



NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Meeting – 9 March 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board of progress in respect of the implementation of the National Standards for Community Engagement (National Standards).

2. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2.1 The National Standards for Community Engagement were launched by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland in May 2005, and provide measurable performance statements, which can be used to improve the quality and process of community engagement.
- 2.2 The Board will recall that, as part of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement, Community Planning Partners agreed to ensure that the National Standards are achieved, as a minimum.
- 2.3 Copies of the National Standards for Community Engagement will be available at the Board meeting on 9 March 2006 and Partners are requested to ensure that their organisations are fully aware of the content of the National Standards.

Support Programme

- 2.4 Communities Scotland has been tasked by Scottish Ministers with providing a support programme to ensure an understanding of and commitment to the use of the National Standards.
- 2.5 Consequently, East Ayrshire was allocated, by Communities Scotland a package of consultancy support, to be provided by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC). Full uptake of the consultancy support is required by 31 March 2006.
- 2.6 A range of events and awareness raising sessions has been organised as part of the consultancy programme, as detailed below:
- An awareness raising session was delivered by SCDC on 1 February 2006 to twenty-seven Partner representatives, including Community Planning Lead Officers, the Council's Community Learning and Development service, and representatives from the Community and Voluntary Sectors.
 - Ten key staff, community members and groups subsequently attended the first of a two-day training session on 16 February 2006, with the second session scheduled for 23 March 2006. They will play a role in 'championing' the use of and be responsible for raising awareness of the

National Standards, and cascading the training throughout their organisations, departments, communities or groups.

- 2.7 In addition, SCDC delivered an awareness raising session presentation to the Coalfield Communities Federation on 16 February 2006.
- 2.8 A further one-day training session will be delivered to Community Learning and Development staff before 31 March 2006.

Consultation and Engagement Toolkit

- 2.9 To further build the capacity of the staff of the Partner organisations to engage with communities, a Consultation and Engagement Toolkit is currently being developed by staff in the Community Planning and Partnership Unit.

Promotional Information

- 2.10 At its last meeting, the Board requested that the Community Planning and Partnership Manager considered preparing a newsletter to reflect the views and activity of the Board, which can be distributed to assist Community Representatives reporting back to their respective organisations on decisions taken by the Board. This work is ongoing and a draft newsletter will be prepared following this Board meeting.
- 2.11 In addition, as part of the annual review process projects provided a series of Case Studies to highlight practical examples of how community regeneration activity in East Ayrshire has assisted local people to make real, positive changes to their lives and their communities. This information is currently being collated and a sample of Case Studies will be issued to Board members for information in due course.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members of the CPP Board are asked to:
- i) reconfirm their commitment to achieving the National Standards for Community Engagement, as a minimum;
 - ii) agree to ensure that their respective agencies/organisations are fully aware of the content of the National Standards;
 - iii) note the support programme in respect of the National Standards for Community Engagement ;
 - iv) note that a Consultation and Engagement Toolkit is currently being developed, which will assist to further build the capacity of staff from Partner organisations to engage with communities;
 - v) note that a sample of project Case Studies will be issued to Members in due course; and
 - vi) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
24 February 2006