

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2004

THE COALFIELD COMMUNITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004

Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To inform the Sub-Committee of the Coalfield Communities Campaign Annual Conference to be held between 8 and 10 November 2004.

2 CONFERENCE DETAILS

- 2.1** The conference is organised by the Coalfield Communities Campaign with the support of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and is to be held at the County Hall, Matlock.

This is a 3 day Conference which will focus on issues of particular reference to coalfield communities. For the first time the CCC is joining forces with the Government and the Coalfield Regeneration Trust in an event that will take a comprehensive look at progress in the renewal of the coalfield communities.

The key note speaker will be a senior cabinet minister and other speakers will be from local government, development agencies, trade unions, think tanks and outstanding local projects from around the country.

The issues to be discussed and debated include:-

- How well are the special initiatives in the coalfields working, and what others are needed?
- Brussels has always been a friend of coalfield communities, but is this about to change? This relates to issues such as European Regional Aid and State Aids post 2006.
- Are coalfield communities beginning to get their fair share of funding?
- What role should local authorities have in coalfield regeneration?
- Has the British coal industry got any friends left?

The Conference will also include study tours to regeneration projects within the East Midlands.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1** East Ayrshire Council has strongly supported the Coalfield Communities Campaign, both at Regional and National levels. This year the Council has

been particularly active including participating in the Lobby of the European Institutions in Brussels and in liaison meetings with MSPs in Edinburgh.

East Ayrshire Council has regularly been represented at the Annual Conference that has consistently proven to be of interest and relevance to the wide range of issues faced within the Coalfield Area within East Ayrshire.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The cost of the Annual Conference is £365 per delegate for CCC member authorities. This delegate fee covers all conference documentation, lunches, the conference dinner and two other evening events, transport between designated hotels and the conference venue, and study tours.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There are no immediate legal implications from the recommendations contained in this report.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Sub-Committee consider attendance of one member to the Annual Conference of the Coalfield Communities Campaign.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and
Property Services

17th August 2004
JL/DAH/MB

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1** Advance Booking Form for the Annual Conference 2004.

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper listed above, or discuss this report, should contact David Hewet on 01563 554608.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: David Hewet