

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB COMMITTEE 6 SEPTEMBER 2006

THE COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

Report by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Sub-Committee of the Coalfield's Communities Campaign Annual Conference to be held in Doncaster, South Yorkshire between 19th and 21st September, 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This conference is organised by the Coalfield Communities Campaign and will be held in Doncaster. This is a 3 day conference that will run from the morning of Tuesday 19th September through to lunchtime on Thursday 21st September, 2006.
- 2.2 Details of the conference are currently being finalised. The key note debate will be on the future of European funding and will be between Graham Meadows, Director-General at DG Regio in the European Commission and John Neve, Director for Regional European Funds at the Department for Trade and Industry.

Other confirmed speakers include:-

Ed Milliband MP – Under Secretary of State with responsibility for the Voluntary Sector.

Neville Chamberlain – Chairman – The Northern Way

Caroline Flint MP – Minister of State at the Department of Health and Education.

Dermot Finch of the IPPR (Institute for Public Policy Research) Centre for Cities will also take part in a debate about the city region approach.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 East Ayrshire Council has strongly supported the Coalfield Community Campaign both at Regional and National Levels.
- 3.2 East Ayrshire Council has regularly been represented at the annual conference and this has consistently proven to be of interest and relevance to the wide range of issues faced within the Coalfield area of East Ayrshire.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of the Annual Conference is £365 per delegate for CCC member authorities.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report

7. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The regeneration challenges faced by the coalfield area in East Ayrshire are a particular focus of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

- (i) Consider attendance at the Annual Conference of the Coalfield Community Campaign.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
JL/DH/
3 August 2006

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Notification of the CCC Annual conference 2006.

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.