

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 1 APRIL 2004**

#### **BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND (BNSF) ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ALLOCATION**

##### **Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present to Committee for consideration, proposals to utilise the additional BNSF financial allocation from the Scottish Executive for 2004/05.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council and its Community Planning partners received £6.75 million additional resources to cover the period 2001 to 2004 to tackle deprivation and disadvantage within the pathfinder area of North-west Kilmarnock and Shortlees/Riccarton.
- 2.2 Members were advised at the Emergency Powers Committee of 14 January 2004 that the Scottish Executive had confirmed a further financial allocation of £2.25 million for 2004/05, to allow East Ayrshire to “build on and consolidate BNSF services and achievements to date.”
- 2.3 The Emergency Powers Committee remitted Council officers, in consultation with the Council Leader and relevant Local Members, to prepare outline priority spending proposals for the additional 2004/05 allocation, and thereafter, submit the required ‘Year 4’ Local Outcome Agreement (LOA) to the relevant Council Committee and community planning partners for approval prior to submission to the Scottish Executive.

### **3. FINANCIAL PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 Discussions held with the Scottish Executive’s Team Leader at the Executive’s BNSF briefing session held on 28 January 2004 provided the opportunity for these additional resources to be utilised in 2004/05 and 2005/06, with a final end date for the overall BNSF programme confirmed as 31 March 2006.
- 3.2 Directors and community planning partners were therefore requested to submit their funding proposals for the continuation of existing projects into 2004/05 by the end of February 2004.
- 3.3 The financial proposals received from Departments and Planning Partners was approximately £350,000 over the available allocation, therefore a prioritisation exercise was put in place. Details of the proposals received and

the recommendations arising from the prioritisation exercise are presented for Committee's consideration as an Appendix to the report.

- 3.4 Subject to Committee approval of the proposed financial package, work will commence immediately on the preparation of the 'Year 4' Local Outcome Agreement.
- 3.5 To ensure the continuation of BNSF programmes beyond 31 March 2004, it is proposed that the 'Year 4' LOA be prepared and submitted to the Executive by early April 2004.
- 3.6 It is recommended therefore that Committee remit the development of the 'Year 4' LOA to Council officers in consultation with the Leader of the Council, relevant Local Members and Community Planning Partners. Details of the LOA will be reported retrospectively to Committee.

#### **4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EVENT**

- 4.1 To update residents on the additional BNSF finance and seek their opinion and views on progress to date, a community consultation evening is planned for Wednesday 24 March 2004.
- 4.2 Invitations have been extended to members of the public via the BNSF newsletter, and letters have also been forwarded to community groups and citizens panel/forum members.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The BNSF programme links to the overall priorities contained within the Community Plan.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 In line with existing guidance, the Council requires to keep and maintain adequate and proper financial records of accounts, recording all receipts and expenditure of monies paid to it by Scottish Ministers by way of the BNSF award. These records require to be kept for two years after payment of the final instalment of the BNSF award.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i) agree to the financial package presented in the Appendix to the report;
- ii) remit Council Officers to prepare the 'Year 4' Local Outcome Agreement, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Local Members, and relevant Community Planning Partners, and submit it to the Executive by early April 2004.

**Fiona Lees**

**Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

**19 March 2004**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) – Letter dated 18 December 2003 from the Scottish Executive with attached Guidelines and Conditions of Funding. Copies of this letter are available from Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager, Tel: 01563 554602.

Members wishing further information on this report should contact Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager, Tel: 01563 554602.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Gwen Barker**