

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 12 APRIL 2005

RESIDENTS' SURVEY

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to part fund a Community Planning Residents' Survey.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Planning Core Partners' Group at its meeting of 3 November 2004, agreed to jointly carry out future community consultation and engagement exercises, where possible. A paper setting out the requirements of the Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003, and detailing the steps being taken to ensure effective community consultation and engagement in the Community Planning process, was presented to and noted by the Policy and Resources Committee on 25 November 2004.

- 2.2 To avoid duplication of activity, Community Planning Partners have agreed to:

- commission a Community Planning Residents' Survey (four yearly), commencing 2005/06;
- establish a representative Residents' Panel and related geographic Focus Groups (utilised routinely, minimum twice per annum);
- establish an annual consultation plan, screening group and operating arrangements linked to Public Performance Reporting (PPRg) Arrangements; and
- establish a Citizens' Forum/question time event (convened every two years).

3. RESIDENTS' SURVEY

- 3.1 To drive forward the Residents' Survey and establish the annual consultation plan, screening group and operating arrangements, a short-term working group has been established.

- 3.2 The working group has prepared the tender brief for the Residents' Survey which has now been issued for consideration by potential contractors. The purpose of the Survey is to:

- gain increased information on the demographics of the East Ayrshire population;
- gain an increased understanding of local priorities and views of residents on public service provision/satisfaction;
- establish baseline data, which will inform the Community Plan's Thematic Action Plans and the Regeneration Outcome Agreement; and
- establish a Residents' Panel to gain an increased understanding of residents' views and increase community consultation in the planning and development of services.

3.3 Community Planning Partners' have secured the following financial allocations, and East Ayrshire Council is asked to finalise the funding package, if required.

| Planning Partner | Financial Allocation 2005/06 £ |
|------------------------------|---|
| Communities Scotland | 11,000 |
| NHS Ayrshire & Arran | 10,000 |
| Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire | 3,000 |
| Strathclyde Fire Brigade | 2,000 |
| Strathclyde Police | 5,000 |
| Community Regeneration Fund | 10,000 |
| Total To Date | 41,000 |

3.4 The cost of the Residents' Survey will only be known after the tender process is completed. The Council, as the main facilitator of Community Planning and a principal beneficiary of the information, may be asked to allocate the balance of funding required over and above our Community Planning Partner contributions of £41,000 as set out above.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council's contribution towards the Residents' Survey will be met from existing resources within the Department of Corporate Support. The actual contribution will be confirmed when the results of the procurement process are known.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003, sets out the requirement on Community Planning Partners to ensure effective consultation and engagement in the Community Planning process.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to:

- i) note the commitment by Community Planning Partners' to jointly carry out future community consultation and engagement exercises, where possible;
- ii) agree to finance the Survey as outlined at paragraph 3.4 of the report;
- iii) remit the Community Planning Partnership's Joint Officers' Group to approve the Surveys' final question sets; and
- iv) agree to receive and consider the results of the Survey once complete.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

6 April 2005

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003 Community Planning: Advice
Notes
East Ayrshire Community Planning Partners' Residents' Survey Tender Brief
February 2005

Members wishing further information on this report should contact John Clayton, head of Corporate Development and Communication on 01563 576165 or Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager, on 01563 554602.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: John Clayton, Head of Corporate
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