

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE : 31 MAY 2005**

### **RURAL SERVICE PRIORITY AREAS**

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

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

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the establishment of Rural Service Priority Areas (RSPAs) by the Scottish Executive and the implications for East Ayrshire.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive in a letter to the Chief Executive dated 25 January 2005, advised the Council of its intentions to establish a number of Rural Service Priority Areas nationally in order to further address the Rural Closing the Opportunity Gap (CtOG) target:

“By 2008, improve service delivery in rural areas so that agreed improvements in accessibility and quality are achieved for key services in remote and rural communities”.

- 2.2 Within East Ayrshire, two data zones are targeted as Rural Service Priority Areas, namely:

- SO1001269 – ‘Dalmellington, New Cumnock’
- SO1001276 – New Cumnock.

- 2.3 The Executive advised of two caveats to the above, as follows:

- there would be scope for agreement with Community Planning Partners (CPPs) as to the exact areas over which action will be taken; and
- the Executive’s Advisory Group acknowledged that the approach adopted may appear to give rise to some anomalies, especially in respect of small islands , therefore in response to any such issues flagged up by CPPs the Executive would consider, over the summer, to add up to 5 additional RSPAs, across Scotland.

### **3. EAST AYRSHIRE CONTEXT**

- 3.1 An Officers' meeting to discuss the impact of designation and clarify the geographical boundary for the East Ayrshire RSPAs was held with Scottish Executive representatives on 27 April 2005.
- 3.2 As a result of that meeting, the Executive advised that it would be possible to extend the targeting to contiguous and intermediary boundaries. A full copy of the data zones targeted is attached at appendix 1 and a map detailing these is available for inspection in the Members' Information Point.
- 3.3 In order to make a case for additional RSPAs, a detailed report requires to be submitted by Community Planning Partners to the Executive by 31 May 2005. With the expansion of the original two data zones to the wider intermediary boundaries (a significant proportion of the rural areas of East Ayrshire), it would appear that there is not a case to be made from an East Ayrshire perspective for further RSPAs, however, the Head of Planning and Building Standards has been asked to consider the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (SIMD04) and prepare a submission to the Executive, if appropriate.
- 3.4 To identify an action plan to tackle the Rural CtOG target, the Executive has commissioned research which will be carried out over the summer months in each of the Community Planning Partnership areas with designated RSPAs. Further details on the research brief are awaited; however, it is anticipated that a final report will be prepared by end 2005.
- 3.5 This report will then be considered by both the Scottish Executive and local Community Planning Partners to develop an Action Plan, against which Executive funds can be considered, either as a whole or part. As yet, the Executive has not confirmed the overall budget available for this national programme but it is anticipated to be around £2million.

### **4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The action plan developed as a result of the commissioned research detailed at 3.4 will link to the priorities contained within the Community Plan

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i) note the establishment of the Rural Services Priority Areas and the designated areas within East Ayrshire;
- ii) note that an analysis is currently being carried out of the SIMD 2004 to ascertain whether there is an opportunity to bid for further Rural Service Priority Area designation and remit Officers to prepare this bid on behalf of Community Planning Partners and submit it to the Executive, if appropriate;
- iii) receive further detail on the commissioned research and the development of Rural Service Priority Areas; and
- iv) otherwise, note the content of the report.

**Elizabeth Morton**

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

**13 May 2005**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Letters from the Scottish Executive dated 25 January 2005 and 8 April 2005.  
Copies available from Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership  
Manager (Tel: 01563 554602).

Scottish Executive Website : <http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Data Zones Map. Available in the Members' Information Point.

Any person wishing further information should contact John Clayton, Head of  
Corporate Development and Communication (Tel: 01563 576165) or Gwen  
Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager (Tel: 01563 554602)

### **IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER**

John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication

## EAST AYSHIRE – RURAL SERVICE PRIORITY AREAS

## DATA ZONE ANALYSIS

| <b>Wards covered by Data Zone</b>   | <b>Data Zone</b> | <b>Targeted/<br/>Contiguous/Intermediary</b> |
|---|------------------|--|
| Dalmellington/New Cumnock   | SO1001269        | Targeted                                     |
| New Cumnock   | SO1001276        | Targeted                                     |
| Patna/Dalrymple   | SO1001278        | Contiguous                                   |
| Dalmellington   | SO1001270        | Contiguous                                   |
| Drongan, Stair and Rankinston   | SO1001285        | Contiguous                                   |
| Muirkirk, Lugar, Logan, Ochiltree, Skares, Netherthird & Craigens, Cumnock West | SO1001300        | Contiguous                                   |
| Dalmellington   | SO1001271        | Intermediary                                 |
| Dalmellington   | SO1001272        | Intermediary                                 |
| Dalmellington   | SO1001273        | Intermediary                                 |
| Muirkirk, Lugar, Logan  | SO1001301        | Intermediary                                 |
| Muirkirk, Lugar, Logan  | SO1001306        | Intermediary                                 |
| Muirkirk, Lugar, Logan  | SO1001316        | Intermediary                                 |
| Muirkirk, Lugar, Logan  | SO1001319        | Intermediary                                 |
| Catrine, Sorn, Mauchline East, Lugar, Logan                                     | SO1001322        | Intermediary                                 |