

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2006**

#### **COMMUNITY PLANNING IN EAST AYRSHIRE: FOUR-YEARLY REVIEW**

##### **Report by the Chief Executive**

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

- 1.1 To advise Members of progress in respect of the Community Planning Four-Yearly Review.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 East Ayrshire's Community Plan was endorsed by Policy and Resources Committee on 28 November 2002 and by all Community Planning Core Partners by April 2003. In addition, the Community Plan was endorsed as the sovereign planning document for East Ayrshire Council by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 10 April 2003. The six associated Action Plans were also endorsed by Policy and Resources Committee on 10 April 2003, and again received the formal endorsement of the Core Community Planning Partners.
- 2.2 Over the last three years, Community Plan Annual Performance Reports have been presented to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and endorsement.
- 2.3 Community Planning Partners have given a commitment to carrying out a review of the Community Plan and related thematic Action Plans on a four-yearly basis. The review requires to be carried out over 2006/07 to ensure that an updated Community Plan and revised set of Action Plans are ready for full implementation by 1 April 2007.
- 2.4 Members were advised of the Planning Partners' intention to carry out a review of the Community Plan, associated thematic Action Plans and the existing Community Planning structures, at Policy and Resources Committee on 8 February 2006.
- 2.5 In addition, at Policy and Resources Committee on 28 March 2006, Members were advised that Community Planning Partners had agreed to implement a three stage review process, over 2006/07 and of the mechanisms in place to ensure a robust review of the Aims and Aspirations of the Community at Stage 1 of the process.

### **3. FOUR-YEARLY REVIEW PROCESS**

- 3.1 A short term, multi-agency officers working group, chaired by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support and receiving administrative support from the Community Planning and Partnership Unit, has been established to oversee the Review Process.

## **Review of Aims and Aspirations**

- 3.2 Stage 1 of the review process, the review of Aims and Aspirations, has now been completed, with endorsement from the wide range of stakeholders for the continuation of the existing Aims and Aspirations, and only minor adjustments required in respect of the wording.
- 3.3 As part of this consultation, a copy of the existing Community Plan Aims and Aspirations was circulated to all Elected Members for consideration and comment.
- 3.4 Lead Officers, with their thematic Action Plan Working Groups, are currently considering the Aims to ensure that each is delivered through the appropriate Action Plan and that duplication is avoided.
- 3.5 In addition, Lead Officers and their thematic Action Plan Working Groups are in the process of developing the actions related to each of the respective aims. It is anticipated that this work will be concluded by 15 September 2006 and presented to a future Committee meeting for consideration and endorsement.

## **Review of Community Planning Structures**

- 3.6 To ensure that Community Planning structures continue to be 'fit for purpose', Partners have agreed that a review of the operating structures for Community Planning should also take place. The Core Partners' Group of 4 May 2006 agreed to review the roles and responsibilities of both the Core Partners' Group and the Community Planning Partnership Board, and discuss at a future meeting.
- 3.7 The outcome of the Review of Community Planning Structures will be reported to Policy and Resources Committee at a future date.

## **Review of Legislative Requirements**

- 3.8 The review of the legislative requirements in respect of Community Planning has also been implemented and the initial findings are detailed below for comment.
- 3.9 East Ayrshire continues to comply with the statutory guidance and the related Community Planning Advice Notes. However, expectations posed within the guidance and related advice notes set out a continuing development agenda for Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire, including:

**Community Engagement – ensuring communities are at the heart of community planning.** Significant progress has been made in ensuring effective consultation with, and the ongoing engagement of, representative organisations in the Community Planning process. The development agenda for Community Planning Partners will be to embrace the new National Standards for Community Engagement across all community engagement activity.

**Mainstreaming Community Planning within the Organisation.** Significant progress has been made in engaging all staff in the Community Planning process and in ensuring that Community Planning activity is part of the core business of Planning Partners. This issue will continue to be high on our respective agendas.

**Local or Neighbourhood Community Planning.** The guidance notes that council-wide processes alone will not capture sufficiently, the range of interests and concerns of communities and Partner agencies at a local or neighbourhood level. As the Council and its Community Planning Partners have adopted a thematic approach to action plans, further consideration is required in relation to local or neighbourhood community planning.

**Role of Elected Members.** The Leader of the Council and the Chair of Social Inclusion are integral to ensuring effective Elected Member involvement in Community Planning. In addition, regular and routine reports are presented to Policy and Resources Committee on Community Planning activity. Consideration requires to be given to whether additional mechanisms are required.

- 3.10 The developmental issues detailed above will continue to be addressed through the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group workplan and within individual partner agencies.

#### **4. UPDATED COMMUNITY PLAN AND REVISED THEMATIC ACTION PLANS**

##### **Review of Community Plan**

- 4.1 The Community Plan is recognised by all Partners as the sovereign strategic planning document for the delivery of public services in East Ayrshire over the 12 years from 2003 to 2015 and sets out the overall vision for the local area.
- 4.2 While, therefore, it is not envisaged that significant change will be required, it is necessary to review and update the Community Plan to ensure that it reflects emerging local and national priorities and continues to be 'fit for purpose' not only from the wider Community Planning perspective but also in its role as the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 4.3 The text of the Community Plan is currently being considered by the Council and Community Planning Partners, in order to afford the opportunity to highlight where alterations/additions may be required.
- 4.4 The draft revised Community Plan will be considered at a future Policy and Resources Committee.

##### **Review of Action Plans**

- 4.5 Stage 2 of the review process involves Lead Officers and their thematic Action Plan Working Groups preparing revised Action Plans between June and October 2006.
- 4.6 To assist Lead Officers with this process, dedicated consultancy support has been commissioned, comprising a number of elements, including:
- a desktop review of current Community Planning documentation to identify issues to be addressed and potential improvements;
  - 2 days support to each thematic Action Plan Working Group; and
  - a joint facilitated meeting to address issues, such as cross-cutting priorities and the alignment and integration of Action Plans, with related strategic service planning frameworks and those of individual Partners.

## **Content of Action Plans**

4.7 To ensure consistency across the six Action Plans, it is essential that there is a clear understanding of what type of activity should be included within the new thematic Action Plans. The following criteria for inclusion have been agreed.

- new initiatives/projects with the involvement of two or more Community Planning Partners;
- work related to national priorities;
- innovative work which Partners would want to 'showcase'; and
- activity which is of particular interest to the general public, for example, reduction in victim crime and diversionary activity for young people.

4.8 It is anticipated that routine core business of one or more Community Planning Partners should not be included within the thematic Action Plans. From a Council perspective, such activity will of course link to the overall Community Plan and be included in Departmental Service Plans and related budgetary provision.

## **Revised Actions**

4.9 Assisted by our consultancy support, Lead Officers and the thematic Action Plan Working Groups will identify the proposed actions to address the identified Aims of the Community Plan for endorsement by committee during October 2006.

## **5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None arising from this report.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Community Plan acts as the sovereign strategic planning document for the East Ayrshire area. All issues contained in this report have been discussed and approved by the Council's Corporate Management Team.

6.2 The Council's Corporate Management Team has considered and approved the contents of this paper.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to:

- i) agree the continuation of the existing Aims and Aspirations, with minor adjustments in respect of the wording;
- ii) agree to consider the outcome of the Review of Community Planning Structures at a future Policy and Resources Committee;
- iii) note the findings of the initial review of the legislative requirements in respect of Community Planning;
- iv) note the steps being taken to review and update the text of the Community Plan and agree to consider the draft revised Community Plan at a future Policy and Resources Committee. ;
- v) note the process to review and revise the thematic Action Plans and agree to consider the proposed actions to address the Community Plan Aims at Council in October 2006; and

vi) otherwise, note the content of the report.

**Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, 8 August 2006**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003 – Community Planning Guidance  
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/localgov/cpsg-00.asp>)

The Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003 – Community Planning Advice Notes  
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/localgov/cpan-00.asp>)

**Annual Performance Report 2003/04 (P&R Committee 10 June 2004)**

**Annual Performance Report 2004/05 (P&R Committee 31 May 2005)**

**Mid-Term Review Documents 2003-05 (P&R Committee 31 May 2005)**

**Annual Performance Report 2005/06 (P&R Committee 30 May 2006)**

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)

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