

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2006

REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT - ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and endorsement, the first Regeneration Outcome Agreement Annual Report, for the year 2005/06.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Community Planning Partners required to submit, by 30 June 2006, an Annual Report to Communities Scotland, as part of the National Performance Management Framework for the Community Regeneration Fund and Community Voices Programme. Evidencing progress towards meeting the overall outcomes as set out in the Regeneration Outcome Agreement is a requirement and guidance on the format of the report was provided by Communities Scotland.
- 2.2 The Council's Policy and Resources Committee approved the Regeneration Outcome Agreement on 8 February 2005, with Community Planning Partners' endorsement following thereafter.
- 2.3 The 2005/06 Annual Report - Executive Summary is set out in the Appendix to this report. A full copy of the Annual Report is available in the Members' Information Point.

3. ANNUAL REPORT: 2005/06

- 3.1 The 2005/06 Regeneration Outcome Agreement Annual Report was approved by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board at its meeting of 15 June 2006 and submitted to Communities Scotland thereafter.
- 3.2 The Annual Report summarises progress made over the year and sets out a range of forward looking main challenges for the year ahead.
- 3.3 In addition, a range of background information was also requested by Communities Scotland, including:
- Appendix 1 - Outcome Achievements 2005/06
 - Appendix 2 - Action Plan to Develop Priorities 2006/07
 - Appendix 3 - Community Engagement Assessment and Action Plan
 - Appendix 4 - Partnership Working Assessment and Action Plan
 - Appendix 5 - Financial Information

This information was also forwarded to Communities Scotland with the main annual report document and again is available for inspection in the Members' Information Point.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Ongoing Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) is subject to annual accounting and reporting to Communities Scotland. The Council acts as the grant recipient on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership and all accounting requirements in relation to the CRF have been met.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Regeneration Outcome Agreement underpins the vision of the Community Plan and is the strategic document for the Council and its Community Planning Partners to tackle deprivation across East Ayrshire.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- i) notes and endorses the progress made in the first year of implementing the Regeneration Outcome Agreement; and
- ii) otherwise, notes the content of the report.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

8 August 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

East Ayrshire's Regeneration Outcome Agreement
Communities Scotland's National Performance Management Framework

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



**COMMUNITY REGENERATION
IN EAST AYRSHIRE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Regeneration Outcome Agreement
ANNUAL REPORT
2005 / 2006**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board was established in June 2005, following agreement by Partners to dissolve the Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Board and the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board. The CPP is an 'unincorporated body' with decision-making responsibility for the Scottish Executive's Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) and Community Voices Programme (CVP) resources allocated to East Ayrshire.

Membership of the CPP Board comprises thirteen Partner agencies, including all core Community Planning Partners, and twelve Community Representatives.

As well as making a commitment to delivering the Community Planning priorities, the CPP Board aims to deliver the five identified Strategic Regeneration Objectives within the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), underpinned by CRF/CVP resources, each of which are further underpinned by effective community consultation and engagement, and are as follows:

- **Active Communities**, where people are actively participating in their communities and influencing the democratic process;
- **Skilled Communities**, where people have the skills, capacity and opportunities to access employment, training and community-based learning;
- **Safe Communities**, where crime and the fear of crime are reduced;
- **Healthy Communities**, where everyone can enjoy and have equal access to a healthy life; and
- **Attractive Communities**, where people are proud and happy to live.

The ROA received approval and 'sign-off' by Scottish Ministers in July 2005; this effectively released the Scottish Executive's CRF/CVP funding and provided dedicated resources for the regeneration of the most disadvantaged communities in East Ayrshire.

Significant progress has been made throughout 2005/06, building on the achievements of the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) programmes.

The following initiatives provide examples of the quality, innovation and range of regeneration activity in East Ayrshire's disadvantaged communities via the CRF programme in 2005/06.

EXAMPLES OF REGENERATION ACTIVITY – 2005/06

- **Recreation Partnership Project**

The 'flagship' Recreation Partnership Project continues to make a significant contribution to tackling health inequalities in East Ayrshire, by providing a range of innovative health related activity programmes in schools and in the community.

The excellence of the 'Activity Motivation Initiative', which is delivered by the project, has received recognition through an independent academic evaluation of the initiative by Glasgow Caledonian University.

The results of the evaluation demonstrated that children and young people in East Ayrshire are twice as active as the national recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer. In addition, the project was highlighted as an exemplary partnership initiative, which is responding directly to national priorities.

- **Coalfield Community Transport**

Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) provides accessible and affordable transport for a range of local non-profit groups and individuals. In addition, the project operates the 'Wheels2Work' scooter loan scheme for unemployed people.

CCT is acknowledged as a model of good practice for other voluntary transport schemes in Scotland and was shortlisted in 2005/06 for the prestigious Scottish Transport - Rural Transport Award.

Over the last year, over 24,500 passengers have travelled with this successful transport initiative and over 14,300 volunteer driver hours were recorded.

- **EASY – 'Get Into Enterprise'**

An exciting business initiative for East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY) reached a high profile conclusion with the sale of their original T-shirts at the prestigious, Urban Outfitters in Glasgow's Buchanan Street shopping complex.

Ten young people aged between 16 and 18 years participated in the 'Get into Enterprise' project, which provided EASY trainees with a unique opportunity to transform their visual artwork into commercially viable T-shirts.

The project was made possible through a successful collaboration between a range of partners, including East Ayrshire Council, Artloud, Glasgow School of Art, the Scottish Wider Access Programme, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and Investment in Arts, which is also funded via CRF resources.

EASY provides training opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged young people in East Ayrshire and encourages them to develop their interests and talents, assisting them to move forward with their lives.

- **Community Environmental Improvements**

The Community Environmental Improvement Action Plans and Projects (CEIAPP) initiative has demonstrated particular success in progressing the Barony 'A' Frame project. The key outcomes of the project include the restoration of a nationally important heritage structure, increased participation in heritage issues and environmental improvement of a currently vacant and derelict site. The project is a good example of partnership working and over £900,000 of funding has been secured for the Barony 'A' Frame in 2005/06.

A recent independent evaluation of CEIAPP commended the project on its ability to attract investment and good practice in engaging local communities. Ranked scoring against the National Standards for Community Engagement averaged 4 out of a possible 5, which evidences high quality engagement.

The evaluation noted that the CEIAPP project demonstrated many aspects of innovation and good practice, which collectively were 'worthy of expansion and replication'.

- **The Zone**

A welcome addition to the Doon Valley is Dalmellington Youth Centre (The Zone), which provides a multi-functional teen care/child training and youth centre located in Dalmellington town centre. The project has been well received by young people in the local community and surrounding areas, with young people attending the Centre from Patna and Rankinston, and attendances of up to 70 young people have been recorded each night.

The project has already made a positive impact in the local area and a recent Doon Valley Beat Report by Strathclyde Police noted that, with the opening of The Zone in Dalmellington, there had been a marked reduction in the incidents of youth disorder being reported.

- **Carers' Centre Bus**

HRH, The Princess Royal, who is President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, celebrated the tenth anniversary of East Ayrshire Carers' Centre by boarding the new Carers' Bus in Kilmarnock.

The Carers' Bus is a former Stagecoach bus, donated by the Souter Foundation, has been converted into a cinema, café and information centre for carers. This mobile resource will travel around East Ayrshire, visiting schools and communities to raise awareness of carers' issues. The CRF contributed to the overall refurbishment costs of the bus.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Community Planning Core Partners' Group has given a commitment to jointly carry out community consultation and engagement, where possible. Consequently, Lowland Market Research was commissioned to undertake the first joint Community Planning Residents' Survey.

Between August and October 2005, a face-to-face survey of a cross-section of 2,000 East Ayrshire residents was carried out to gain an increased understanding of local priorities and views on public service provision/satisfaction, and establish baseline data to inform the ROA and the Community Plan's Thematic Action Plans.

To avoid duplication of consultation activities, Community Planning Partners agreed to:

- commission a Community Planning Residents' Survey (four yearly), commencing 2005/06;
- establish a representative Residents' Panel and geographic Focus Groups (utilised routinely; minimum twice per year); and
- establish a joint annual consultation plan, screening group and operating arrangements linked to Public Performance Reporting arrangements.

Further information on the Residents' Survey Results 2005 is available on the Community Planning pages hosted on East Ayrshire Council's website at www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk and in local offices and libraries.

In addition, a bespoke Partnership Assessment Scorecard (PAS) was developed and implemented in March 2006, providing an opportunity to measure progress in respect of partnership working and community involvement across the CPP at a range of levels. The results of the PAS have been used to inform this Annual Report.

CONCLUSION

In its first year, the CPP Board has continued to build on the success of the former SIP and BNSF programmes by tackling deprivation and inequalities faced by the most disadvantaged individuals and communities in East Ayrshire.

Effective partnership working and community engagement, together with the achievement of a range of projects and initiatives in the CRF/CVP programme have made a significant contribution to the regeneration of our communities under the ROA framework.

We are determined to build on this success over the next two years, through the delivery of the outcomes identified in the ROA, to the benefit of our most deprived communities.

June 2006