

**EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP
BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2004 AT 1400 HOURS
IN AUCHINLECK INDOOR BOWLING CLUB, WELL ROAD, AUCHINLECK**

PRESENT: Councillors William Menzies, Willie Coffey and William Crawford, East Ayrshire Council; Sheila White (Co-opted Member); Inspector Jim Thomson, Strathclyde Police; Dave Wilcock, Community Development Manager, Kilmarnock College; Bob Gardiner, Director of Lifelong Learning, Ayr College; Katie Chan, Communities Scotland; Jim Burns, Business Development Manager, Job Centre Plus; Mike Lopez, Council of Voluntary Organisations (East Ayrshire); Coalfield Community Federation: Jean Smith, Ian Smith, Ronnie Hamilton and John Weir; and Community Representatives: Jack Campbell, Edward Torrance and Alex Torrance.

ATTENDING: Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager; Ann Robertson, Community Partnership and Regeneration Officer; Kirstin Nichols, Accountant; and Lynn Chapman, Trainee Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Cathy Roarty, Lead Public Health Practitioner, East Ayrshire LHCC; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, East Ayrshire Council; April Bryson, Assistant Director Health Improvement, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; Chief Inspector Robert Brown, Strathclyde Police.

CHAIR: Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. There was submitted (circulated) and agreed as a correct record, Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January 2004.

MATTERS ARISING

2.1 SIP Evaluation 2003

The Community Planning and Partnership Manager advised that the Best Value Practice Guide would be widely circulated throughout the Coalfield Area once received.

2.2 Social Economy Proposal by Cunninghame Housing Association

The Community Planning and Partnership Manager advised that this issue was still ongoing, and it was hoped that a report would be available for the next meeting.

2.3 State Aid to Credit Unions

The Community Planning and Partnership Manager reported that this issue was still ongoing and that every effort would be made by the SIP to resolve this matter.

2.4 Rail Network Study

The Community Planning and Partnership Manager advised that the Rail Network Study would take longer than had been originally expected, and that a report on the costs involved would be brought to the next meeting.

2.5 Partnership Representative Network

Ian Smith advised that the meeting of the Partnership Representative's Network scheduled for 10 February 2004 had been cancelled.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP FUND TO 7 MARCH 2004 (PERIOD 12)

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 1 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Finance, East Ayrshire Council which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the services within the remit of the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) for the period ended 7 March 2004 (Period 12).

FINANCE REPORT

4.1 Declaration of Interest

Ian Smith, Ronnie Hamilton, Sheila White and Dave Wilcock declared an indirect pecuniary interest in the following item.

4.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 4 March 2004 (circulated) by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager which reported on a range of financial issues pertinent to the projects supported by funding available to the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP).

The Community Planning and Partnership Manager advised that the application by the Children's Holiday Fund to the Project Community Fund had been unsuccessful and that as a consequence of this, the previous agreement by the SIP to underwrite the project in 2004/2005 would now require to be progressed.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the decisions by the Implementation Group in respect of Dalmellington Youth Centre and the CHIP Van, as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report;
- (ii) to note the allocation of resources from the Project Development Fund, as detailed in Section 3.1 of the report;
- (iii) to note the additional resources allocated from Communities Scotland for 2004/2005 for tackling drugs misuse and to support the range of projects, as detailed in Appendix I of the report;
- (iv) to approve the financial allocations contained within Appendix I of the report, which relate to the 2004/2005 Community Empowerment budget;
- (v) to approve the financial allocations contained within Appendix I of the report, which relate to the 2004/2005 core budget;
- (vi) to expand the expenses procedure to include the private sector and self employed representatives, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report; and
- (vii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SIP EVALUATION 2003 - WAY FORWARD

5.1 There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2004 (circulated) by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager which considered the appropriateness of the recommendations identified in the SIP Evaluation Report provided by DTZ Pidea Consulting, with a view to the Board providing a range of proposals to take forward the future regeneration of the Coalfield area.

5.2 Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.

5.3 Reconvention of Meeting

The meeting reconvened at 1431 hours with the same Board Members and Officers present and in attendance.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the submission of the final Evaluation Report to Communities Scotland;
- (ii) to note the appropriateness of the SIP's current five priority themes in respect of future strategies and action planning and, in particular, how these fit into the overall Community Plan;
- (iii) to note the key findings and recommendations identified within paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 of the report;
- (iv) that individual members consider proposals to take forward the future regeneration of the Coalfield area and advise the Community Planning and Partnership Manager direct;
- (v) to nominate Community Representatives Ian Smith and Jean Smith to sit on the SIP Implementation Group and remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to ensure that the Constitution of the Implementation Group was updated accordingly;
- (vi) to remit to the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to consider the future of the Employment Working Group, and report back to a future meeting; and
- (vii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SIP TRANSITION ACTION PLAN

6. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2004 (circulated) by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager which presented for consideration an Action Plan related to the SIP Transition to Community Planning.

The Community Planning and Partnership Manager confirmed that a Seminar for Elected Members on the SIP Transition to Community Planning would take place on Thursday 1 April 2004.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the timescales related to the SIP Transition to Community Planning;
- (ii) to endorse the Action Plan as detailed within Appendix I of the report;
- (iii) that the Board receive regular updates;

- (iv) to remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to investigate the possibility of wider Community Representatives involvement in the Community Planning Process;
- (v) that the Community Planning and Partnership Manager prepare a report to the next meeting listing the core projects to be considered for inclusion in the SIP three year funding packages; and
- (vi) otherwise, note the contents of the report.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

7.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Crawford, Sheila White, Ian Smith and Ronnie Hamilton declared an indirect pecuniary interest in the following item.

7.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2004 (circulated) by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager which advised of the proposed response to the issues contained within the independent sustainability reports prepared for three identified projects, namely, Coalfield Community Transport, East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY) and Investment in Drama, and on the progress in respect of the independent evaluation and sustainability study of yipworld.com.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress of the three identified projects in response to the issues identified within the sustainability reports;
- (ii) to provide £5,000 to the Coalfield Community Transport Group to allow the commissioning of independent support to prepare an appropriate Business Plan;
- (iii) to note the commissioning of the evaluation and sustainability study of yipworld.com and agree a further £6,000 to complete the funding package;
- (iv) that further updates in respect of sustainability issues be reported to future meetings; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PROGRESS REPORT ON AYRSHIRE KEY FUND

8.1 Declaration of Interest

Mike Lopez declared an indirect pecuniary interest in the following item.

8.1 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 4 March 2004 (circulated) by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager which advised of the current position in respect of the Ayrshire Key Fund.

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the approval of the application to Strathclyde European Partnership for additional funding;

- (ii) to endorse the decisions of the assessment panel detailed at paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (iii) to note the appointment of MB Associates to manage the Ayrshire Key Fund on behalf of the Ayrshire Key Fund Board; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - STAFF REVIEW

9. There was submitted a report dated 4 March 2004(tabled) by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager.

Following discussion. it was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the staffing proposals contained within the report;
- (ii) to request East Ayrshire Council to underwrite the finance to allow the continuation of contracts until 2007, as detailed within the report, and as part of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10. The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 23 June 2004 at 1400 hours, in the former Council Chambers, Lugar.

The meeting terminated at 1535 hours.