



## PROGRESS REPORT ON AYRSHIRE KEY FUND

Board Meeting –11 March 2004

### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise members of the current position in respect of the Ayrshire Key Fund.

### 2. INCREASED FUNDING

2.1 In October 2003, Strathclyde European Partnership (SEP) approved the increased bid by East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and Girvan Social Inclusion Partnership. This decision resulted in a total of £57,281 of further resources being available to support projects within the Coalfield SIP area.

2.2 At the Ayrshire Key Fund Board meeting of the 23 June 2003, the decision to approve two applications submitted in the third round of funding, namely those from yipworld.com and Muirkirk Enterprise Group, subject to awards being deferred until the increased funds were available, had been ratified. These applications, totalling £37,950, were formally approved at the Ayrshire Key Fund Board Meeting held on 28 October 2003. This left £19,331 available for a fourth round of grants.

### 3. LOCAL AYRSHIRE KEY FUND APPLICATIONS

3.1 By the closing date of 31 December 2003, 4 applications to the fourth round of the Ayrshire Key Fund had been received. Adjustments in the fund meant that a total of £21,279 was available for new grants.

3.2 Applications were received from:

Organisation	Project	Grant Amount Requested
CVO (East Ayrshire)	Community Researcher	£17,989
Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire	Marketing Strategy	£14,400
Muirkirk Primary & Nursery School Parents & Friends Group	Physical Education Equipment Purchase	£ 2,000
Four Connections	Development/Sessional Worker	£24,592

3.3 These applications totalled £58,981, an over subscription of £37,702 on the available fund of £21,279.

#### 4. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

4.1 The assessment panel for East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership considered the applications at a meeting on 14 January 2004 and made the following recommendations.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Comments</b>
CVO (East Ayrshire)	Approved	Project must be completed by June 2004. Panel requested that the budget be revised to fit timescale and relevant costs. Maximum grant recommended £10,500.
Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire	Rejected	The Panel felt that the project did not represent value for money and that the project should be an integral part of the work of the centre.
Muirkirk Primary & Nursery School Parents & Friends Group	Rejected	Deemed to be ineligible as it did not meet any of the required criteria. Not scored – advice given re more appropriate sources of funding.
Four Connections	Rejected	Although the application scored reasonably well, there were issues over the timescales involved and the organisations capacity to carry out the project. As such it is was agreed that they should be supported at a local level to allow them to develop in a more structured manner.

4.2 The supported application total of £10,500 was ratified by the Ayrshire Key Fund Board on 4 February 2004.

4.3 A total of £10,779 remains available for new grants within the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP. All projects must be completed by June 2004.

4.4 Project proposals for the remaining balance are currently being considered and will be the subject of a future report to the Board.

## **5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE AYRSHIRE KEY FUND**

- 5.1 The administration of the Ayrshire Key Fund has been carried out by Developing North Ayrshire on behalf of the Ayrshire Key Fund Board. This includes all monitoring, verification and services to the Board.
- 5.2 On 31 October 2003 Developing North Ayrshire went into receivership. As a result of this they were no longer in a position to administer the Ayrshire Key Fund and the Board decided that the most satisfactory solution in the short term was to hire a consultant to carry out the necessary work.
- 5.3 Tenders for the work were invited and MB Associates have been appointed by the Ayrshire Key Fund Board.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Partnership Board is asked to:
- i) note the approval of the application to Strathclyde European Partnership for additional funding;
  - ii) endorse the decisions of the assessment panel detailed at 4.1 above;
  - iii) note the appointment of MB Associates to manage the Ayrshire Key Fund on behalf of the Ayrshire Key Fund Board; and
  - iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**4 March 2004**