



SIP EVALUATION 2003 –

WAY FORWARD

Board Meeting – 11 March 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the appropriateness of the recommendations identified in the SIP Evaluation Report provided by DTZ Pieda Consulting, with a view to the Board providing a range of proposals to take forward the future regeneration of the Coalfield Area.

2. EVALUATION REPORT

- 2.1 The 'Evaluation of East Ayrshire SIP' has been concluded and the final report submitted to Communities Scotland for consideration as part of the national evaluation process.
- 2.2 The SIP Board received a presentation by DTZ Pieda Consulting in respect of the main findings of the evaluation at its meeting on 21 January 2004 and noted the positive evaluation of SIP activity, particularly in respect of the degree of community involvement and engagement, and its impact in the Coalfield Area.

3. WAY FORWARD

- 3.1 Although the Evaluation Report reflects that the economic situation in the Coalfield Area has improved over the lifetime of the SIP programme, the key remaining problems, which have been identified under the five priority themes, include:
- **People into Work:** improving access to employment locations and, where possible, creating new employment locally;
 - **Living in a Quality Environment:** drabness and dereliction, particularly in and around the town centres where there has been a collapse of market demand for property;
 - **Community Learning Opportunities:** continuing to address the training needs of those who have not been able to obtain employment, including a more residualised and hard to reach group than in the past;
 - **Community Participation:** supporting people living in remote communities on low incomes to access the same range of opportunities open to others; and
 - **Positive Health Opportunities:** continuing to promote health initiatives, particularly addressed at young people, which have the potential to improve the health of future generations.
- 3.2 The report identifies a range of recommendations which the Board may wish to give further consideration, including:
- attempting to attract more employment to the Coalfield Area;

- shifting the policy emphasis more towards combating the barriers to employment and, in particular, barriers to personal mobility;
- focusing on physical regeneration in the Coalfield settlements;
- focusing on smaller sub-areas within the Coalfield Area;
- maintaining social care services for a range of age and client groups; and
- retaining the best of the highly effective partnership working and community engagement structures.

3.3 A process of consultation and review, prior to finalising the Regeneration Outcome Agreement, will provide an opportunity to consider whether future attention should be given to the recommendations identified at Item 3.2. This proposal is the subject of a separate report, which will highlight an action plan for the SIP's integration with the Community Planning process in East Ayrshire.

4. SIP IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

4.1 Community engagement and participation was highlighted as a particular strength within the SIP evaluation, the only concern raised by community representatives was that they were not represented on the SIP Implementation Group.

4.2 To remedy this, it is now proposed that two community representatives are nominated as representatives of the SIP Implementation Group with immediate effect.

4.3 Subject to Board approval, the Community Planning and Partnership Manager will require to ensure that an appropriate amendment is made to the SIP Board constitution.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Board is asked to:

- i) note the submission of the final Evaluation Report to Communities Scotland;
- ii) consider 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 Community Planning Action Plans;
- iii) consider the key findings and recommendations identified at 3.1 and 3.2;
- iv) provide proposals to take forward the future regeneration of the Coalfield Area;
- v) agree to nominate two community representatives to sit on the SIP Implementation Group and ensure the constitution is appropriately updated; and
- vi) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
2 March 2004