



SIP TRANSITION / INTEGRATION UPDATE

Board Meeting – 23 September 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update in respect of the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) transition/integration with Community Planning.

2. ACTION PLAN UPDATE

- 2.1 The guidance in relation to integrating Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs) with Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) was issued at the end of August 2003, considered by the Board at its meeting on 18 September 2003 and at a half-day planning session in December 2003. The guidance sets out the key principles and an outline of the process of integrating SIPs within the CPP framework. In broad terms, there will be a three stage integration process as follows:

- an assessment of readiness of CPPs to integrate SIPs into the community planning framework; with the production of a Statement of Readiness (considered and endorsed by the SIP Board on 23 June 2004);
- resource allocation, based on the new 2004 Index of Deprivation (published in June 2004), and
- the development of a Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA), to provide a strategic framework that links national and local priorities for tackling disadvantage with spend and activities; draft by September 2004 (revised by Communities Scotland to 31 October 2004), with final ROA required by 20 December 2004.

- 2.2 The overall integration process must be completed by 31 March 2005.

- 2.3 To ensure the smooth integration of the Coalfield Area SIP with the local Community Planning process, the SIP Board, at its meeting of March 2004, approved a Transition Action Plan. An update on progress against the agreed actions is presented at Appendix 1.

3. STATEMENT OF READINESS

- 3.1 The Statement of Readiness required Community Planning Partners to demonstrate that real and tangible progress has been confirmed against the following criteria:

- focus on disadvantage;
- partnership working;
- community engagement; and
- financial, performance and outcome monitoring.

3.2 The Statement of Readiness, which clearly demonstrates that local Community Planning Partners are ready to integrate SIP structures and resources into the community planning framework, was endorsed by the Board at its last meeting and subsequently submitted to Communities Scotland for assessment.

4. REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT (ROA)

4.1 Community Regeneration Fund: final Guidance on Regeneration Outcome Agreements was received from Communities Scotland in August 2004 and copies were distributed at the Working Together Learning Together (WTLT) session on 24 August 2004. The guidance advises that the draft ROA requires to be submitted to Communities Scotland by the end of October 2004. To meet this deadline, it will be submitted to the Community Planning Joint Officer's Group for endorsement at its meeting of 12 October 2004, to the Community Planning Core Partners' Group at its meeting of 25 October 2004 and to a proposed special meeting of the SIP Board on 28 October 2004.

4.2 The final 3-year ROA requires to be submitted for the approval of Scottish Ministers by 20 December 2004.

4.3 There is a commitment to ongoing consultation between the end of October and the beginning of December 2004 to further inform the development of the final ROA.

4.4 The Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) replaces the previous SIP and BNSF funding packages. The indicative allocation for 2005/06 has been received and the total financial award to support community regeneration in East Ayrshire is £4,033,000. The composition of the CRF allocation and the spend criteria, however, are unclear from the Executive's letter and further clarification is currently being sought by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager. Indicative funding for 2006/07 and 2007/08 is anticipated soon after the Scottish Executive completes its 2004 Spending Review.

4.5 A series of participative workshops to identify the future priorities of the Coalfield Area was undertaken during the summer months, involving the community, projects, partner agencies and the private sector. The information collated from these events, which included 'Option Finder' and workshop sessions, is currently being analysed and will inform the development of the ROA.

4.6 In addition, a WTLT session was held on 24 August 2004 to consider the findings of the consultation exercise and the CRF guidance.

4.7 The process for the review of SIP and BNSF projects, as outlined below, was agreed at the WTLT session as being both a strategic and thorough process through which to consider their compatibility with identified outcomes for the ROA. The process will be as follows.

- Each project will be grouped under the Community Planning theme with which it most closely fits.
- Each grouping will be allocated a Project Review Group that will review the projects, comprising a Community Plan Action Plan Lead Officer or member of the JOG, a member of the SIP Board, a community representative and a member of the Community Planning and Partnership Unit.
- Each project will be expected to demonstrate, through written material and a presentation to the Project Review Group, how it will fit in future with the national and local priorities, how its performance will make an impact and assist in achieving the identified outcomes, and how and why it should be funded.
- Following the reviews, the Project Review Groups will assign projects a priority rating and make recommendations in respect of future funding, mainstream finance and monitoring and evaluation timescales; at this stage, any recommendations will be subject to further endorsement.

4.8 The project reviews will be undertaken during the last week in October and the first week in November 2004.

4.9 It is proposed that there should be a second half-day WTLT session during the third week in November 2004 where final decisions will be made about which projects should be included in the final ROA.

5. PARTNERSHIP ASSESSMENT SCORECARD

5.1 Following considerable delay, Communities Scotland provided a 'web enabled' Partnership Assessment Scorecard to assist with the integration process, in August 2004. As per the decision of the Board of 11 March 2004, the Partnership Assessment Scorecard will be utilised to inform future partnership working and development. The Board will, however, recognise the need to concentrate staff effort on the development of the ROA, therefore it is proposed that the Partnership Assessment Scorecard be rolled-out in the New Year.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Board is asked to:

- i) note the progress in respect of the SIP transition/integration, as detailed at Appendix 1;
- ii) note the timescales in respect of the development of the ROA;
- iii) note the indicative allocation of funding from the Community Regeneration Fund;

- iv) endorse the revised review process for SIP funded projects and initiatives;
- v) nominate partner agency and/or community representatives to participate on each of the Project Review Groups;
- vi) note the revised timescale for the distribution and completion of the Partnership Assessment Scorecard; and
- viii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
13 September 2004

East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Transition Action Plan

Action	Task	Timescale	Comment
SIP Transition 'Awareness Raising'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a half-day seminar to discuss the implications of the guidance issued by Communities Scotland and the Scottish Executive. 	4 December 2003	Seminar convened – full SIP Board participation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a dedicated briefing session for the Coalfield Communities Federation. 	12 February 2004	Briefing session convened – full participation of CCF.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a seminar for Elected Members on the SIP transition to Community Planning. 	1 April 2004	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a 'Quick Word About' the SIP Transition. 	1 April 2004	Copies to be issued at SIP Board.
SIP Transition 'Awareness Raising'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare briefing papers on the SIP Transition for the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group. 	6 October 2003	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare briefing papers on the SIP Transition for the SIP Board. 	18 September 2003 11 March 2004	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare briefing paper on the SIP Transition for the Community Planning Core Partners' Group. 	26 April 2004	
SIP Transition Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Action Plan for consideration/endorsement by the SIP Board. 	11 March 2004	Action plan developed – SIP Board endorsement gained 11 March 2004.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare paper on staff realignment to ensure appropriate staff structure for integration. 	11 March 2004	Paper presented to SIP Board 11 March 2004. Recommendations currently being implemented.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Action Plan is a standing item on SIP Board and Community Planning Joint Officers' Group meetings. 	Ongoing	Agreement reached with JOG and SIP to keep Action Plan as standing item at meetings.

Action	Task	Timescale	Comment
Statement of Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the 'Partnership Self Assessment' and if appropriate implement. 	March/April 2004	Implementation 2005.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Draft the 'Statement of Readiness' for consideration – sign off.</i> 	<i>April/May 2004</i>	<i>Draft statement signed off by all Community Planning Core Partners. Presented to SIP Board 23 June 2004 for endorsement.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Submit 'Statement of Readiness' to Communities Scotland.</i> 	<i>Late Spring 2004</i>	<i>Target date for submission end June 2004.</i>
Community, Project, Partner Agency and Private Sector Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Organise a series of participative workshops to identify future priorities.</i> 	<i>Summer 2004</i>	<i>29 July 2004– Full day: 2 sessions Railway Hotel, Auchinleck. 4 August 2004 – Evening Cumnock Town Hall.</i>
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Carry out a comparative analysis of the new deprivation index.</i> 	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Issued by the Scottish Executive 14 June 2004.</i>
SIP Transition Working Together/Learning Together Planning Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a two-day 'Working Together/Learning Together' session to consider the findings of the transition consultation exercise. 	<i>August 2004/ November 2004</i>	<i>One- day session completed on 24 August 2004. All SIP Board members and Joint Officers' Group. Half-day session planned for late November 2004.</i>
Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare draft ROA for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Planning Joint Officers' Group. ➤ Community Planning Core Partners' Group ➤ SIP Board ➤ Submit draft ROA to Communities Scotland. 	12 October 2004 25 October 2004 28 October 2004 31 October 2004	Revised date for submission of draft ROA to Communities Scotland: 31 October 2004.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit ROA to Communities Scotland for sign off. 	20 December 2004	
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare implementation plan linked to ROA for consideration/sign off. 	Jan/Feb 2005	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure effective implementation. 	March 2005	

Italics – represent actions completed.