



FINANCE REPORT

Board Meeting – 23 June 2005

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Community Planning Partnership on a range of financial issues pertinent to the projects and initiatives supported by funding available from the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF).

2. COMMUNITY REGENERATION FUND 2005/06

- 2.1 On 12 July 2004, the Minister for Communities announced the establishment of the new CRF, effectively replacing existing Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) programmes.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive advised the Chair of the Community Planning Core Partners' Group, in writing on 5 August, that subject to meeting the requirements of the SIP integration process, the East Ayrshire Community Planning Partners had been set an indicative allocation of £4,033,000 from the CRF for 2005/06.
- 2.3 Communities Scotland confirmed, in writing, an 'interim offer' of grant for 2005/06 of £4,033,000. The Community Voices (CVP) allocation of £60,000 for 2005/06 was confirmed in a letter dated 1 November 2004.
- 2.4 Members will recall that East Ayrshire Council, at the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 February 2005, agreed to underwrite the CRF until the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) received Ministerial approval and former SIP/BNSF projects received one quarter of their 2005/06 CRF allocation.
- 2.5 Communities Scotland confirmed funding for 2005/06 on 4 April 2005 for existing projects and has agreed to approve the following new projects, prior to the ROA receiving Ministerial 'sign off':
- Transport for Netherthird Nursery and Family Centre;
 - Research Officer; and
 - Logan Development.

This confirmation effectively removes the requirement for Council 'underwriting' of the CRF.

- 2.6 Existing SIP/BNSF projects and new projects, which have received approval, have been requested to submit claims for the second quarter of grant payments.

3. SMALL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND

- 3.1 The Community Planning and Partnership Manager has delegated authority to spend up to a maximum of £2,000 on any one item of expenditure from a

delegated budget of £20,000 to be utilised to fund small projects linked to the CPP's broad themes and priorities.

3.2 The Community Planning and Partnership Manager is also required to report on any decisions taken between meetings to be next available Board meeting.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 Partners have made an ongoing commitment to ensure the projects which are funded via CRF are sustained, where appropriate, beyond the current funding period.

4.2 Consequently, the External Funding and Sustainability Worker and Social Inclusion Team Leader have arranged further meetings with Bellsbank Women's Project (Men's Health Initiative) and the Children's Holiday Project to provide support and guidance in respect of an appropriate exit strategy. These projects have received a one-year CRF allocation only.

5. STRATHCLYDE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP (SEP)

5.1 The responsibility for making comments, on behalf of the Coalfield Area SIP Board, on applications submitted for European Partnership Funding relating to the Coalfield Area is delegated to the Community Planning and Partnership Manager. This quarter, three relevant applications were considered and the following recommendations were made:

- East Ayrshire Woodlands - East Ayrshire Council
Total Project Value - £259,734: Recommendation - Approval
- Ayrshire Key Fund Phase 2 - Ayrshire Key Fund Limited
Total Project Value - £487,604: Recommendation – Approval (now withdrawn)
- Ayrshire Key Fund Phase 2 (Transitional) Girvan - Ayrshire Key Fund Limited
Total Project Value - £162,536: Recommendation – Approval (now withdrawn)
(This application completes the AKF Phase 2 funding package in respect of the four Ayrshire SIPs).

5.2 At the meeting of the Coalfield Area SIP Board of 10 March 2005, members endorsed continued East Ayrshire participation in the Ayrshire Key Fund (AKF) and approved 'in principle' support for a Phase 2 application to SEP by 23 February 2005.

5.3 In addition, the SIP Board agreed to support a maximum financial allocation of £50,000 from the CRF in 2005/06 to provide match funding for a Phase 2 European application, subject to approval by Community Planning Partners. Partner resources required to be confirmed to AKF Limited by 1 June 2005.

5.4 The AKF Phase 2 European applications submitted in February 2005 were subsequently withdrawn as North Ayrshire advised that an embargo has been placed on all new funding applications until their Regeneration Outcome Agreement has been approved.

- 5.5 The next European funding round is 10 August 2005 and match funding requires to be confirmed by 25 November 2005.
- 5.6 It is proposed that that the CPP endorses the £50k allocation as a match fund against the Phase 2 AKF funding bid.
- 5.7 It is further proposed that delegated responsibility for making recommendations on European Funded applications, on behalf of the CPP, be provided to the Community Planning and Partnership Manager (CPPM).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The CPP is asked to:
- i) note that Communities Scotland has confirmed CRF funding for 2005/06 for existing SIP/BNSF projects and approved the new projects identified at 2.5;
 - ii) note that the confirmation of CRF funding for 2005/06 effectively removes the requirement from East Ayrshire Council to 'underwrite' the CRF;
 - iii) note that arrangements have been made to provide support and guidance in respect of an appropriate exit strategy for Bellsbank Women's Project (Men's Health Initiative) and the Children's Holiday Project;
 - iv) note the recommendations made on behalf of the Coalfield Area SIP/CPP to Strathclyde European Partnership, and to delegate responsibility for making recommendations to SEP on the Partnership's behalf to the Community Planning and Partnership Manager;
 - v) endorse continued participation in the Ayrshire Key Fund and approve an indicative allocation of £50k support for a Phase 2 application to SEP from AKF Limited (subject to ROA 'sign off'); and
 - vi) otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
9 June 2005