



REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT UPDATE

Board Meeting – 23 June 2005

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) on the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The requirement on Community Planning Partners to prepare a three-year ROA is contained within the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland's Guidance, issued in August 2003, on the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) transition to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).

- 2.2 The Guidance detailed a three stage process for Community Planning Partners, as follows:

- Assessment of Readiness of CPPs (demonstrated by the production of a Statement of Readiness and submitted to Communities Scotland by the due date of 30 June 2004);
- Resource Allocation (based on the new Deprivation Index issued by the Scottish Executive in June 2004, with 2005/06 indicative financial allocation from the new Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) received on 5 August 2004, an 'interim offer of grant' received on 30 November 2005 and a formal offer of grant received on 4 April 2005);
- Regeneration Outcome Agreement (draft by 31 October 2004, submitted by the due date, with an original final submission date for lodging with Communities Scotland of 20 December 2004; and Ministerial 'sign off' by end March 2005).

- 2.3 Communities Scotland subsequently advised the Leader of East Ayrshire Council, as Chair of the Community Planning Core Partners' Group, by letter on 30 November 2004 of a relaxation in the final submission date to early 2005.

- 2.4 East Ayrshire's ROA received formal endorsement from all core Community Planning Partners and was approved at the joint meeting of the North Social Inclusion Initiative and the Coalfield Area SIP Boards on 3 February 2005.

- 2.5 East Ayrshire Council's Policy and Resources Committee considered and approved funding proposals at its meeting of 8 February 2005, and the ROA and associated programme of projects was forwarded to the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland for consideration following Committee approval.

3. PROGRESS REPORT AND CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Members will recall that formal feedback in a letter to East Ayrshire Council's Head of Corporate Development and Communication, dated 20 April 2005, advised that the Scottish Executive considered that East Ayrshire's proposals fundamentally did not meet the requirements of the ROA Guidance in respect of the proposed targeting outwith the 0-15% worst data zones. Community Planning Partners subsequently were requested to reconsider this option.
- 3.2 Consequently, the Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Community Planning Partners, wrote to the First Minister on 31 March 2005 raising concern about the lack of flexibility adopted by Communities Scotland and the Scottish Executive in respect of the targeting of the ROA within East Ayrshire. A formal response to this letter dated 7 May 2005 was received from Malcolm Chisholm MSP, emphasising the Executive's ongoing commitment to targeting the CRF to the worst 0-15% data zones, with limited flexibility outwith these areas.
- 3.3 Revised proposals were subsequently prepared and endorsed by the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group on 17 May 2005 and a joint meeting of the North Social Inclusion Initiative and Coalfield Area SIP Boards on 18 May 2005.
- 3.4 The revised proposals in respect of the ROA targeting issue were submitted to Communities Scotland for officer assessment on 19 May 2005.
- 3.5 East Ayrshire representatives met with Roger Popplewell, Area Director from Communities Scotland, on 8 June 2005, who advised that a Minute in respect of the targeting issue had been submitted to the Minister for Communities on Friday 3 June 2005.
- 3.6 Communities Scotland has acknowledged the following revised proposals, which were submitted by the Partners on 19 May 2005 as follows:
- the worst 0-15% priority data zones and contiguous data zones;
 - the need to locate services in the 'hub communities' (Cumnock and Dalmellington) and the exit community (Dalrymple); and
 - the 'thematic approach' (subject to the financial allocation being quantified).
- 3.7 However, issues were raised by Communities Scotland regarding the inclusion of the three targeted communities (Hurlford, Newmilns, and Rankinston and Sinclairston) identified in the revised proposals. Consequently, Communities Scotland may request further information and justification regarding the level and timing of activity in these particular areas.
- 3.8 Following officer assessment by Communities Scotland, East Ayrshire representatives were advised that the following recommendations have been presented to the Minister for Communities:
- approval of all identified data zones; or
 - conditional approval, with further revisions to targeted communities (detailed at 3.7).
- 3.9 To date, there has been no formal feedback from the Minister for Communities regarding the targeting issue. However, Communities Scotland has advised that

resolving the targeting issue will allow Ministerial 'sign off' of the overall ROA to proceed. It is anticipated that Ministerial approval could be received by early July 2005.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members of the CPP are asked to:

- i) note the issues raised by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland in respect of East Ayrshire's revised ROA, which was submitted for consideration in May 2005;
- ii) note the further actions progressed by Community Planning Partners to address the issues raised in respect of targeting areas outwith the worst 15% data zones identified by the SIMD04;
- iii) consider the issues raised in respect of the inclusion of the three targeted communities, namely Hurlford, Newmilns, and Rankinston and Sinclirston;
- iv) note the recommendations regarding the targeting issue, which have been made to the Minister for Communities by Communities Scotland; and
- v) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
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9 June 2005