



**BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD  
SERVICES FUND**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2004**

**Board Meeting - 18 November 2004**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present to the Board for information and provide a summary of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) Annual Report 2004.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The BNSF Annual Report 2004, approved by East Ayrshire Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 30 September 2004, has been prepared to meet the revised format and guidance provided this year by the Scottish Executive, and was submitted in October 2004 for consideration and approval. A copy of the report will be available at the Board meeting.

**3. ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY**

- 3.1 The Annual Report 2004 details progress in meeting the overall outcomes as set out in the Phase 1 Local Outcome Agreement (LOA) against individual projects and tracks the impact that the Better Neighbourhood Services Programme is having in the pathfinder area.
- 3.2 The outputs that the Council and its Community Planning Partners set out to achieve have largely been met with the exception of those relating to the North West Kilmarnock and Shortlees Neighbourhood Centres. It is anticipated that these outputs will be met either on or before the end of March 2006 in order to coincide with final spend on the Phase 2 BNSF allocation of £2.25 million.
- 3.3 The pursuit of these community-led outcomes continues to bring about quantifiable change in the quality of life for residents. This can be demonstrated by the results of the Community Consultation Questionnaire of August 2004. A total of 515 respondents participated in the consultation and the questionnaire returns were representative of gender, age group and each respective pathfinder community as follows: 46% North West; 52% Shortlees/Riccarton; and 2% not answered.
- 3.4 In addition, two community consultation 'Open Evenings' were organised, one in Shortlees on 18 August 2004 and one in Onthank on 23 August 2004, providing an opportunity for residents to express their views in respect of progress in the area over the last year. The consultation included 'Option Finder' sessions, as well as informal discussions with staff from the Community Planning and Partnership Unit to address other, specific issues raised by members of the community.

3.5 The most positive responses to the programme continue to be in relation to environmental and safety focused projects, with particularly strong community support for the Environmental Hit Squads and the Community Directed Environmental Improvement Budget.

3.6 Other achievements made throughout the year include:

- improvements to road safety;
- the opening of the North West Youth and Learning Centre;
- the completion of the Teenage Recreation Areas project; and
- the continued success of Lifestyle Zones, Wraparound Care and Youth Outreach projects.

3.7 Comments made by residents in relation to the BNSF Programme include:

*“With the streets being safer, I feel safer when I’m out or when I let my son out to play.”*

*“The speed bumps stop cars speeding up and down Treesbank Road.”*

*“The quick response team does an excellent job.”*

*“I am very happy with the street; we now have a well maintained area of grass which is cut regularly.”*

*“The Wraparound service is excellent and the staff are very good with the kids. I hope that it continues for the sake of the community. Well done.”*

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**1 November 2004**