

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 6 JUNE 2000**

### **UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLANS AND APPLICATIONS TO COALFIELDS REGENERATION TRUST BY COMMUNITY GROUPS**

#### **Report by Director of Development Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members on progress for the preparation of Environmental Improvement Action Plans for the coalfield SIP area and the submission of funding applications to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) for various environmental improvement projects.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 A proportion of the SIP Community Environmental Improvement Masterplan budget is being made available to the Planning and Building Control Division to assist with the preparation and costing of potential improvement projects which will be the subject of funding applications to the CRT and other grant sources. This budget will also be utilised to assist with the preparation of Environmental Improvement Action Plans by the Planning Division.

#### **3. UPDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLANS**

3.1 Draft Action Plans are currently being prepared. The Action Plans will be based on the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP Submission 1999 and the East Ayrshire Local Plan (Finalised Version). The objectives of the Action Plans incorporate the SIP aims with regard to healthy living, opportunities to make active use of open space and improvement of local amenity and environment.

3.2 A rolling programme of draft Action Plans has been prepared to support the CRT priority projects. The first phase of Action Plans are for the settlements of Auchinleck, Drongan, Muirkirk, and New Cumnock. The next phase of Action Plans will be prepared for the remaining settlements within the coalfield area.

3.3 The Action Plans will be in leaflet form incorporating plans which can be utilised for a full consultation process. Elected Members, the Coalfield Community Federation (CCF), Community Councils and local groups will be consulted prior to the Action Plans being finalised. Details of specific priority projects will not be included in the Action

plans but will be identified and worked up through the consultation process with elected members, the CCF and local groups. Submission of applications to potential funding bodies will subsequently be carried out.

3.4 Staff resources have been allocated to ensure production of the Action Plans within a reasonable timeframe. The consultation process for the first phase of draft Action plans began in May 2000.

#### **4. UPDATE: CRT APPLICATIONS**

4.1 Applications for funding are being submitted to the CRT for the following projects:-

- Auchinleck: Aird Avenue – development of a woodland planting scheme incorporating residents car parking around the edge of the site. Main Street car park – environmental improvement of existing car park and upgrading of access to Auchinleck Talbot football park. Park Road – provision of turning area and access for disabled persons to Auchinleck station
- Drongan: Environmental upgrading around shops at Mill O’Shiel Road and Glenraig Street
- Muirkirk: improvement of the site of the former Co-operative building at the corner of Main Street and Glasgow Road

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The projects for Muirkirk and Park Road, Auchinleck will utilise Council funds previously committed through the Cumnock Local Committee and the Development Services Committee. All other costs will require to be met from external sources.

#### **6. LEGAL AND PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no legal or personnel implications.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 **It is recommended that the Committee:**

- (a) Note the action being undertaken to prepare Action Plans for environmental improvement of coalfield SIP areas;
- (b) Approve the implementation of the projects outlined in para 4.1 subject to successful applications for external funding.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**  
24 May 2000 (SC/JR/SJ/SA)

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Report to Cumnock Area Local Committee 25 February 1999 "A Programme for Environmental Projects" by Director of Development Services
2. Report to Development Services Committee 29 September 1999 "Park Road Auchinleck – Provision of Turning Area and Access for Disabled Persons to Auchinleck Station" by Director of Development Services
3. Report to Policy and Resources Committee 2 December 1999 "Coalfields Regeneration Trust" by Chief Executive

Anyone wishing to inspect the above papers please contact Susan Jones on (01563) 576755.

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**AGENDA**