

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 12 September 2000

### LOCAL COMMITTEE GRANTS SCHEME – SETTING PRIORITIES

#### Report by the Director of Corporate Resources

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purposes of this report are to provide the Local Committee with information regarding (a) the general priorities for Social Inclusion Initiatives and (b) to provide an example of issues pertinent to the Local Committee Area.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 2 May 2000, the Local Committee considered a report entitled “Local Committee Grant Scheme – Allocation for 2000/2001 and Setting Priorities”. The Local Committee agreed to continue consideration of the setting of local priorities for the forthcoming financial year in respect of Community Grant funding and to request a further report to include examples of projects, which the Committee may wish to consider as priorities for their area.

#### 3. Social Inclusion Partnership – Priorities

- 3.1 Social exclusion has been defined as what happens to people when they suffer from a combination of linked problems such as poverty, unemployment, low educational attainment, high crime environments and family breakdown. Social Inclusion therefore encompasses a range of categories when considering the prioritisation of budgets.
- 3.2 Many people within the Coalfield Area experience social exclusion and East Ayrshire Council has taken a lead role in establishing East Ayrshire’s Coalfield Social Inclusion Partnership. The Council submitted a successful bid to the Scottish Executive in 1999 and the partnership is currently supporting the implementation of an extensive range of projects, which aim to address local social exclusion issues.
- 3.3 In order to tackle the range of complex needs facing those who are excluded the partnership support projects which tackle issues under 5 main themes:-
- Excluded from **work**
  - Excluded from **good health**
  - Excluded from **learning**
  - Excluded from **living in a quality environment**
  - Excluded from **positive social interaction and community participation**

Information regarding progress in the implementation of the current programme of projects is reported regularly to the Local Committee.

### 3.4 **Local Priorities**

The Social Inclusion Partnership currently works with a range of individuals, families, local communities and the public, private and voluntary sectors to identify the causes of exclusion and to develop solutions. Through this mechanism a number of issues have been identified which could be prioritised for community grant funding under the various themes:-

- (a) **Excluded from Good Health** – e.g. Drugs Mis-use. The government recently launched an initiative to tackle drugs mis-use within the social inclusion areas. This is a key issue for the coalfield area and funding allocated to groups supporting families of those mis-using drugs; for diversionary activities such as sports, arts or leisure or for innovative ways of helping those using drugs would link with the approach that the SIP is currently taking.
- (b) **Excluded from Work** – e.g. Employment and Training: A key priority is to expand and number of employment and training places available in the coalfield area.
- (c) **Excluded from Learning** – e.g. Funding to support a range of training initiatives or attendance at training courses. Participation in a range of informal learning settings such as Internet café's, parent/school projects, literacy projects, kids clubs and crèches.
- (d) **Excluded from Social Interaction/Community Participation** – e.g. Credit Union: Many people in the coalfield area are excluded from having bank accounts or credit because of their financial circumstances. It is now recognised that Credit Unions are an effective way of bringing excluded individuals and families into financial services.  
  
e.g. LETS. Local Exchange Trading Schemes are non-profit making organisations that promote the principles of fair-trading. LETS avoid paying cash where possible and members simply exchange a skill or product for another. This can range from a few hours gardening to having a birthday cake baked.
- (e) **Excluded from Living in a Quality Environment** – e.g. Projects to improve the environment within the Doon Valley area.

3.5 The above information is provided as examples only and a range of other potential initiatives are currently under discussion.

4. **Financial Implications**

4.1 Nil.

5. **Legal/Policy Implications**

5.1 The general themes and project examples contained within this report are consistent with the policies of the Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership.

6. **Recommendations**

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

(a) Ring fence a proportion of the Community Grant Allocation for the Committee for 2000/2001 in order to support projects, which are consistent with the general themes of Social Inclusion.

Douglas Campbell  
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FD/SC  
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**List of Background Papers**

(1) East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Submission –  
January 1999

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Fiona  
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**AGENDA**