

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 26 MARCH 2003

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME STRATEGIC PLAN

**Joint Report by the Director of Homes and Technical Services and the
Director of Educational and Social Services**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from members for the Strategic Plan for the future development of the Supporting People Programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Supporting People Programme is an integrated policy and funding framework for housing support services, designed to enable as many vulnerable people as possible to live independently in their own homes.

3. PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 One of the implementation targets for the Supporting People Programme has been the development of a Strategic Plan and an initial draft was submitted to the Scottish Executive in November 2002.
- 3.2 Communities Scotland were tasked by the Scottish Executive to assess all local authority Supporting People Strategic Plans against an agreed assessment framework.
- 3.3 The draft plan has been revised prior to final submission to the Scottish Executive during March 2003. The Plan is designed as a decision making framework, linked to the review of services. Volume 1. of the draft East Ayrshire Supporting People Strategic Plan which sets out the strategic direction and priorities for action in the provision of services to people with housing support needs within East Ayrshire is attached as an appendix to this report .
- 3.4 Volume 2 of the Plan contains supporting demographic information.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Current guidance from the Scottish Executive indicates that unless a need for additional support services is being generated by the provision of new facilities funded from capital expenditure, then local authorities will be expected to operate within the budgets developed through Transitional Housing Benefit and other funding streams such as pooled rent income from the Housing Revenue Account.

- 4.2 The service review process, is integral to the Supporting People Programme and has been identified by the Scottish Executive as a potential source of additional funding for new services as financial savings are achieved through service reviews.
- 4.3 Other further potential sources for additional funds for new services include the growth element within the recently announced current three year funding package. The growth figures, which also cover an inflation uplift, have been set as 4.34% for 2003/4, 6.18%for 2004/5 and 4.33% for 2005/6. Other possible sources of funding are the operational budget for the Supporting People Programme, which here is used to fund the Supporting People Team, and Community Care budget resources.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no new policy implications from the existing Scottish Executive Supporting People guidance other than those previously reported to Committee.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no new legal implications arising from this report. Any legal implications arising from the implementation of the Supporting People Programme will be reported to Committee as they arise in the context of further Supporting People reports.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to approve the adoption of the East Ayrshire Supporting People Strategic Plan as the basis for the future development of the Supporting People Programme

James Lavery
Director of Homes & Technical Services
6 March 2003

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Ser.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

A copy of Volume Two of the East Ayrshire Strategic Plan has been placed at the Members Information Point. Volume Two is a fact file giving background demographic information which supports the Supporting People Strategic Plan

For further information please contact Geoff Crow, Supporting People Officer telephone: 01563 554832.

Implementation Officer: Chris McAleavey, Head of Homes