

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 19 APRIL 2000

LOCAL SOCIAL INCLUSION – EARLY ACTION PLAN

Report by the Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purposes of this report are: -

- (a) to provide the Local Committee with a summary background to Social Inclusion activity within East Ayrshire;
- (b) to inform of the current position regarding the establishment of Social Inclusion priorities for the Irvine Valley, and seek endorsement for the Action Plan which covers the first 6-month period; and,
- (c) to request that the local committee nominate a representative and substitute to the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group.

2. BACKGROUND - SOCIAL INCLUSION

2.1 *Definition* - Social exclusion is a complex set of linked problems including unemployment, poor skills, low income, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown. Social Inclusion is a mechanism whereby these problems are alleviated in the first place, and eradicated in the long term.

2.2 *National Perspective* - In order to tackle the combined effects of social exclusion the government has promoted a number of National Initiatives and the Social Inclusion Strategy for Scotland was launched in March 1999. This included the Social Inclusion Partnership Programme.

The key characteristics of Social Inclusion Partnerships are that they: -

- focus on the most needy members of society;
- co-ordinate and fill gaps between existing programmes to promote inclusion;
- seek to prevent people becoming socially excluded and,
- have local communities at the heart of the process.

2.3 The Social Inclusion Partnership Programme was formally launched in April 1999. East Ayrshire Coalfield (Cumnock and Doon Valley) Area was one of the 23 partnerships so designated.

- 2.4 *East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group and Area Teams*** – On 4 February 1999, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the establishment of an East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group.
- 2.5** The Council at its meeting 6 April 2000, agreed that elected member representation on the Strategic Partnership Group be increased from one to three elected members. Partner organisations include: Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, Kilmarnock and Ayr Colleges, and Local Committee community representatives.
- 2.6** The Strategic Partnership Group is not an executive body but rather it takes an overview of the co-ordination and implementation of Social Inclusion throughout East Ayrshire. The Group's geographical remit is the formal Scottish Executive designated Coalfield SIP plus two other groupings within the Council's overall Social Inclusion approach, the Kilmarnock Area Social Inclusion Team, and the Northern Area / Irvine Valley Social Inclusion Team.
- 2.7** Each partner within the Strategic Partnership Group reports to, and seeks views from, their own agency. In respect of East Ayrshire Council, this function is through regular reports to the Policy and Resources Committee, and to Local Committees.
- 2.8** The general remit of each area based Social Inclusion team remains: -
- the production and update of area profiles as a basis for action by partners;
 - the provision of a focus for the co-ordination of all Council Departments' and partners' activity in relation to social inclusion and,
 - taking the most appropriate steps to involve the community in the work of the partnership and area teams.
- 2.9** The Local Committee is requested to consider nominating a community representative and substitute to attend the Strategic Partnership Group meetings as the current appointments (Gerard Cassidy and Steve Brown) finished on 31 March 2000.

3. IMPLEMENTATION/PRIORITIES FOR THE IRVINE VALLEY

- 3.1** In order to implement the Council's commitment to place the community at the heart of social inclusion work, community involvement will be an important and ongoing process. The first task in this process is:
- consultation with community organisations, starting with community councils, on social inclusion issues within their areas.

Based on information from a number of partner organisations' workers in the local area, several sets of linked issues relating to the Irvine Valley have been identified. As the community becomes increasingly involved, understanding of

the issues and the linkages between them will become more complete. The initial areas for action are:

- jobs and income including the need for training opportunities within the local area
- crime and the fear of crime including drugs and alcohol misuse and their effects on both crime itself and on the level of fear of crime
- health and disability including limited numbers of buildings with suitable access for people with disabilities
- families including women's and children's issues, within the population, all within a context of varying levels of isolation from urban facilities
- young people including a shortage of youth facilities
- older people commencing by exploring older people's issues with local organisations.

3.2 The participation of community and voluntary organisations is essential to the achievement of the plan. The first task in each case will be to ensure that all "stakeholders" are identified and invited to participate.

4. SOCIAL INCLUSION CHALLENGE FUND

4.1 A Social Inclusion Challenge Fund has been established to support local priority initiatives. Bids will be submitted for approval to East Ayrshire Council Policy and Resources Committee. The views of the appropriate Local Committee will be sought prior to submission. Bids will be expected to reflect the objectives contained within the action plan, and should also, where appropriate, maximise external funding opportunities.

5. ACTION PLAN

5.1 To make progress a number of issues, based on information currently available, have been identified. This initial list is not exhaustive and further needs/issues will be identified in consultation with communities. The Local Committee is asked to consider these proposals, and to discuss and amend as appropriate, indicating those issues where there is local agreement and an appropriate action proposed, those where further discussion/consultation may be required, and any issues which it is considered may have been omitted.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The production of the initial Action Plan is a key point of the implementation of the arrangements for Social Inclusion.

7. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Local Committee is asked:

- (i) to comment and amend as appropriate the Action Plan as detailed in appendix 1, indicating where there is agreement on the issues identified, and where further consultation is required;
- (ii) to request that monitoring reports on the development of the Action Plan be reported to alternate meetings of the Local Committee; and,
- (iii) to consider the appointment of a community representative and substitute to the Strategic Partnership Group.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

TM/RB/KM
6/4/00

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Appendix 1

LOCAL SOCIAL INCLUSION - EARLY ACTION PLANS

April - September 2000

LOCAL COMMITTEE AREA: IRVINE VALLEY

	ISSUE	ACTION	TARGET AREA/ GROUP	TIMESCALE	PERFORMANCE OUTCOME
1	PUTTING THE COMMUNITY AT THE HEART OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION PROCESS	(a) Consultation with each community council on social inclusion issues within their areas to be used as a basis for: (i) further social inclusion work (ii) widening the network of community consultation	<u>Irvine Valley Community Councils</u>	APRIL – MAY	Collate information obtained, feed it into work development and plan extended consultation work
2	JOBS AND INCOME	(a) (i) To examine issues relating to jobs, income and poverty (ii) Next steps as appropriate (b) (i) Establishment of a pilot information technology training project at Darvel Primary School. (ii) Monitor and evaluate pilot project performance. Implement subsequent developments.	Irvine Valley Unemployed and semi skilled adults	APRIL–MAY MAY-SEPT APRIL– SEPT	Report of initial findings including proposals for action From August: 2 sessions per week 10-12 participants per session.

	ISSUE	ACTION	TARGET AREA/ GROUP	TIMESCALE	PERFORMANCE OUTCOME
3	CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME	<p>(a) (i)To examine issues relating to crime and the fear of crime (ii)Next steps as appropriate</p> <p>(b) To examine, with the Bridge Project, drugs use issues and the potential for joint working</p> <p>(c) Promote the work of the Kilmarnock Family Support Group in offering advice, support and information to the family members of people with addiction problems</p> <p>(d) To examine, with the Ayrshire Council on Alcohol, alcohol misuse issues and the potential for joint working</p> <p>(e) Identify vandalised sites for treatment, and potential remedial schemes for which to seek resources</p>	<p>Irvine Valley</p> <p>Irvine Valley</p> <p>Kilmarnock, Irvine Valley and the Northern Area</p> <p>Irvine Valley</p> <p>Irvine Valley</p>	<p>APRIL–MAY MAY-SEPT</p> <p>APRIL-JULY</p> <p>APRIL-SEPT</p> <p>APRIL-JULY</p> <p>APRIL-SEPT</p>	<p>Report of initial findings including proposals for action</p> <p>Report of findings including proposals for action</p> <p>Increased usage of the Family Support Group’s services by residents of the Irvine Valley</p> <p>Report of findings including proposals for action</p> <p>Identify schemes and investigate potential sources of finance</p>

	ISSUE	ACTION	TARGET AREA/ GROUP	TIMESCALE	PERFORMANCE OUTCOME
4	HEALTH AND DISABILITY	<p>(a) To consult and request the involvement of the Forum on Disability, including updating the audit of accessibility of premises for people with a disability</p> <p>(b) Secure funding and subsequently provide a mobile Healthy Living Centre which will deliver a flexible service tailored to the needs of individual communities</p>	<p>Irvine Valley</p> <p>East Ayrshire Wide</p>	<p>APRIL-SEPT</p> <p>APRIL-SEPT</p>	<p>Reach an agreement on the potential for joint working and update the audit of access</p> <p>Secure funding and implement project</p>
5	FAMILIES	<p>(a) (i)To examine issues relating to families, including children and childcare</p> <p>(ii)Next steps as appropriate</p>	Irvine Valley	<p>APRIL-MAY</p> <p>MAY-SEPT-</p>	Report of initial findings including proposals for action

6	YOUNG PEOPLE	<p>(a)To implement a pilot youth project in which young people are supported in making their own decisions on the development of the project and on taking the appropriate action. The pilot scheme will include arrangements for:</p> <p>i)monitoring, assessment and recommendations</p> <p>(ii)proposals for future finance as appropriate</p>	Irvine Valley – Young People	APRIL-SEPT	Pilot project implemented and future proposals developed
7	OLDER PEOPLE	<p>(a)To involve the Irvine Valley Elderly Forum and local age concern groups/organisations in a consultative event to examine issues relating to older people</p> <p>(b)Next steps as appropriate</p>	Irvine Valley – Older people	APRIL-SEPT	Consultative event held. Issues identified and proposals for action developed.

AGENDA