

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20 FEBRUARY 2003

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members on a range of financial measures relevant to the ongoing Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Policy and Resources Committee has received a number of reports providing information on the overall criteria for the BNSF programme, progress on project implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The Committee also endorsed the first BNSF Annual Report submitted to the Scottish Executive on 30 September 2002.

3. ANNUAL REPORT AND RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES

- 3.1 The first BNSF Annual Report was submitted to the Scottish Executive on 30 September 2002 and after full consideration of this document, the Executive advised the Council on 30 December 2002 of its confirmed funding allocation for year 2 of the BNSF programme. This financial allocation equates to £1.8m and will be received as part of the Council's Revenue Support Grant for 2003/04.
- 3.2 In addition to this, the Executive has approved the transfer of the Supported Tenancy Project to the Supported People's Grant, thus releasing approximately £220,000 within the overall BNSF budget to part fund the demolition, site clearing and associated compensation package for the Amlaird Road site in North West Kilmarnock. The Council's Emergency Powers Committee approved details of the transfer previously on 18 December 2002.
- 3.3 The Council has also been advised of the success of its outline proposal to pilot a community based youth justice initiative. This secures an additional £300,000, for the BNSF pathfinder area. The outline proposal was submitted to the Scottish Executive on the 29 November 2002 and was sufficient to secure confirmation of the additional finance. A more detailed proposal now requires to be submitted to the Executive by the 31 March 2003. Further detail on this funding award is the subject of a separate report to Policy and Resources Committee.

4. POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Each of the financial elements of the BNSF programme are paid to the Council as part of the annual Revenue Support Grant allocations.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:
- i) note the Scottish Executive's confirmation of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund year 2 funding of £1.8m;
 - ii) note the Executive's approval of the transfer of the Supported Tenancy Project to the Supported Peoples' Grant stream;
 - iii) note the additional allocation from the Executive in respect of the pilot youth justice proposals; and
 - iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

Fiona Lees

Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

5 February 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Better Neighbourhood Services Fund Annual Report, 30 September 2002

Letter from Scottish Executive dated 30 December 2002

Report to Emergency Powers Committee of 18 December 2002

Youth Justice Proposal to Scottish Executive on 29 December 2002

Members wishing further information on this report should contact Gwen Barker,
Manager Social Inclusion on 01563 554602.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Gwen Barker, Manager Social Inclusion.