

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 20 FEBRUARY 2003

COMMUNITY BUDGETING

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Members the outline bid submission made to the Scottish Executive in respect of community budgeting and to seek approval for the main focus and secondary theme of the pilot exercise.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Policy and Resources Committee of 28 November 2002, Members were advised of the Council's success in securing, in principle, additional finance to participate, with its community planning partners, in the national pilot scheme intended to assist in charting the way for the future delivery of community budgeting, a new approach that meets the needs of partnership working.
- 2.2 Members were also advised that an outline proposal required to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 4 December 2002, and as such, remitted officers, in consultation with the Chair of Policy and Resources, to determine the community/community of interest on which the pilot would focus and to submit the outline proposal to the Executive by the due date for final approval.

3. EAST AYRSHIRE'S OUTLINE PROPOSAL AND RESPONSE BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

- 3.1 After detailed discussions with Council officers, community planning partners and the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee, the proposal submitted to the Executive on 4 December 2002 set out the Council's and planning partners' intention to align the main focus of the community budgeting exercise with a full service review of addiction services in the coalfield communities. At present, it is recommended that the focus of attention be solely the coalfield communities but dependent on the scale of the exercise, this may be rolled out across the authority.
- 3.2 The intention is that the Community Budgeting pilot should focus on:
- giving a better understanding of the level of public sector spend
 - identifying the impact this expenditure has on service users
 - identifying the overall outcomes achieved, and
 - further developing community engagement in determining priorities for investment.

3.3 It is further proposed that a secondary theme of the community budgeting pilot should be a collaborative exercise across the three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships. A number of meetings have been held between the three lead local authorities to identify a meaningful way forward for this element of the pilot. As a result of these meetings, work is currently underway to identify the feasibility of coordinating the outputs from each Community Planning Partnership's pilot utilising the GIS mapping system in some way.

3.4 The Scottish Executive advised the Council on 10 January 2003 that the outline proposal submitted on the 4 December 2002 was accepted in principle, and that the first instalment of the award totalling £137,000 will be paid as part of the Revenue Support Grant redetermination monies for 2002/03 to be included in the Council's final payment in March 2003. The total funding package is as follows:

2002/03	£137,000
2003/04	£202,000
Total	£339,000

3.5 The Executive also advised that, in common with all successful bidders, the Council now requires to submit two additional pieces of information by 14 February 2003. These are as follows:

- details of the work to be carried out across Ayrshire in partnership with the East, North and South Community Planning Partnerships; and
- a detailed breakdown of the broad indications of spend allocations as provided within the outline submission.

3.6 Work is currently underway to ensure an appropriate response is submitted to the Scottish Executive by the due date.

4. POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The total grant award of £339,000 will be paid as part of the Council's Revenue Support Grant.

5.2 In addition to the Community Budgeting Pilot initiative, the Corporate Development and Communication Section will assume a lead role for co-ordinating and driving forward the Council's response to the new challenges presented by the new Local Government Act due to be promulgated very soon. These new statutory challenges will impact on Council wide services, and include Community Planning and related extended Partnership Working, the changing Best Value regime, the growing Social Inclusion agenda, and the Corporate Public Health agenda.

5.2 In response to the issues presented by the new Act, a review of the Council's Corporate Development and Communication Section will now need to be carried out. This will include a review of internal processes and staffing structures, designed to ensure that our arrangements are 'fit for purpose'. Committee is asked to note therefore that such a review will be submitted at a later date for consideration by the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i) note the approval in principle of the outline proposal for community budgeting submitted to the Scottish Executive on 4 December 2002;
- ii) agree to align the main focus of the pilot with a full service review of addiction issues in the south of the authority;
- iii) agree to work in conjunction across the other two Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships as a secondary theme to the pilot and remit Council officers, in consultation with the Chair of Policy and Resources and the Council's community planning partners, to identify a relevant theme for this element of the pilot;
- iv) remit Council officers to ensure that the additional information requested by the Scottish Executive is presented to them by the due date of 14 February 2003;
- v) note that the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to give urgent priority of the completion of a review of internal processes, staffing structures and arrangements outlined in paragraph 5.2.
- vi) otherwise note the content of the report.

Fiona Lees

Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

13 February 2003

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Budgeting - A consultation document on local services and community engagement - Scottish Executive

Community Budgeting Grant - Offer of Funds, Letter to the Chief Executive
(Received 4 November 2002)

Community Budgeting Pilot – Outline Bid Submission to the Scottish Executive dated
3 December 2002

Scottish Executive letter dated 10 January 2003, advising Council that the Outline
Bid Proposal was accepted in principle

Members wishing further information on this report should contact John Clayton,
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IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: John Clayton