

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 5 APRIL 2001**

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

##### **Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

#### **0.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 0.1** To advise members of the establishment of a constituted Board for the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership and to propose that responsibility for decision-making and budgetary matters be devolved to the Board.

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** At its meeting on 5 October 2000 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed a number of actions following a review of social inclusion initiatives across East Ayrshire. One of the outcomes of the review was to establish two separate boards for dealing with social inclusion initiatives. One would operate within the formally designated Social Inclusion Partnership in the coalfield area, and the other would help to co-ordinate and deliver social inclusion initiatives across the rest of East Ayrshire.
- 1.2** It was envisaged that the new structure would help to focus the efforts of the council, its partners, and the community on local social inclusion initiatives and lead to a more effective and efficient use of council and partner resources. It was also intended that full responsibility for decision making would be devolved to these groups (providing always that the council's interests as grant recipient were met) once they had been formally constituted.

#### **2.0 THE NEW BOARDS**

- 2.1** Following a period of consultation with partners and community representatives, the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership adopted a constitution at its meeting on 15 March 2001 (attached as annex 1 to the minute shown at item 3.1 of this agenda). It is now appropriate that responsibility for decision making and budgetary matters is devolved to the group.
- 2.2** The interests of the council continue to be met through its representatives on the Board of the Social Inclusion Partnership. In addition, East Ayrshire Council, as a core partner, will be consulted on initiatives and these matters will be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee whenever necessary. In addition, the SIP Board will make an annual report to its partners.
- 2.3** A similar consultation process is currently taking place in the North area. The results of this will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee in due course.

### **3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The council's administration and legal services section were involved in the preparation of the constitution for the organisation and are satisfied that it is appropriate and robust.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Director of Finance, East Ayrshire Council, is an ex-officio member of the Board. In addition, the conditions of grant that the council has to agree to will be replicated and applied to the new Board.

### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The approach is consistent with the council's overall aim of delivering social inclusion across East Ayrshire, particularly in relation to community empowerment and partnership working.

### **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 It is recommended that East Ayrshire Council:

- (i) notes the creation of the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership as an unincorporated association as detailed within the report, and
- (ii) devolve responsibility for decision making on budgetary and other matters to the new Board.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Social Inclusion Partnership report from meeting of 15 March 2001.

For further information on this report please contact Douglas I Campbell, Head of Corporate Development and Communication on (01564) 576165.

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**27 March 2001**

Implementation Officer : Douglas I Campbell, Head of Corporate Development and Communications

**AGENDA**