

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 4 MAY 2000

SOCIAL INCLUSION CHALLENGE FUND

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to set out the process through which bids for social inclusion projects should take prior to consideration by this Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Following the Scottish Office announcement on 2 March 1999 of the successful outcome of East Ayrshire's Social Inclusion bid, Area Teams were established for the designated Coalfield Social Inclusion Partnership plus two other groupings within the Kilmarnock area and the Northern Area/Irvine Valley.
- 2.2** This year a Council contribution of £65,000 has been released to the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership Group for utilisation to support social inclusion activity for 2000/2001.
- 2.3** Each of the funding partners within the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group had already been invited to make a contribution to the fund. Enterprise Ayrshire have recently confirmed that they will contribute £20,000 to the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group.
- 2.4** This report sets out the processes and stages which bids should take.

3. PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1** A report has been submitted to the last round of Local Committees seeking agreement to local Action Plans identifying priorities, issues and early actions for each area in order to take forward projects in relation to social inclusion. It is anticipated that future bids for social inclusion funding will reflect the priorities agreed in each of the local action plans.
- 3.2** Bids will also, where appropriate maximise external funding opportunities and relevant grant applications will be determined by the appropriate Committee in accordance with existing procedures for grant support.
- 3.3** When this report was being discussed, some Local Committees raised concerns regarding the route through which bids should take to be processed and indeed some Local Committees expressed the wish that only projects gaining support from Local Committees should be submitted to this Committee for consideration.

- 3.4 The Local Committee report highlights that bids will be submitted for approval to the Policy and Resources Committee and that the views of the Local Committee will be sought prior to submission to the Committee.

4. PROCESSING OF BIDS

- 4.1 For clarification, the following sets out the process stages of bids for social inclusion:-

Stage 1 - Endorsement of Action Plans - Local Committees give their views on their individual Action Plans. Additional priorities will be added following consultation between special interest community organisations and their service users.

Stage 2 - Develop Response to Action Plan - Area Team Leaders working with community groups will take forward the actions proposed in the plans which will include the development of appropriate funding packages wherever possible maximising external sources of funding.

Stage 3 - Submission to Local Committees - Thereafter, bids will be submitted to Local Committees which will have the opportunity to indicate their support or otherwise.

Stage 4 - Submission to Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group - Bids prepared will be submitted to the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group thereafter for its views paying due attention to the recommendations made by the Local Committees.

Stage 5 - Submission to Policy and Resources Committee - Once all the above stages are complete, bids together with the recommendations of the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group and the relevant Local Committees will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and decision.

In line with CoSLA guidance given in the “Following the Public Pound” document and the Council’s own procedures, all bids should be considered at every stage to ensure transparency in decision making.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report outlines the stages through which social inclusion bids should be channelled in order that the Policy and Resources Committee can make informed decisions taking account of Local Committee views and in the context of the overall ethos of transparency in decision making.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The implementation of the Social Inclusion Action plans are a key point in addressing social inclusion.

7. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None directly arising from this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the process outlined in 4.1 above, through which social inclusion bids will be processed for the ultimate consideration of this Committee.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

27 April 2000
JA/LR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive on telephone number (01563) 576106.

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AGENDA