

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 28 NOVEMBER 2002

COMMUNITY BUDGETING

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources East Ayrshire Council

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of East Ayrshire Council's success in securing additional resources to participate in the national pilot scheme to chart the way for the future delivery of community budgeting, a new approach that meets the needs of partnership working.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive invited a range of partners, including all Local Authorities, to respond to a consultation document entitled "Community Budgeting - A consultation document on local services and community engagement " by the 14 June 2002. The Executive also indicated that they would welcome "preliminary expressions of interest" from organisations wishing to participate in the pilot programme, also by the 14 June 2002.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council submitted an "expression of interest" to the Executive indicating that they would be willing to pursue this option in partnership with its community planning partners.
- 2.3 An expression of interest was therefore submitted to the Executive by the 14 June 2002.

3. DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY BUDGETING and SCOTTISH EXECUTIVES RESPONSE TO THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- 3.1 The Executive defines Community Budgeting as:

"... the identification of the level and nature of mainstream spend in local areas by local authorities and other statutory agencies - and the subsequent use of this information to develop and deliver the services that the community demands, potentially through the vehicle of locally based partnership structures and on principles of community engagement, social inclusion and equality."

- 3.2 The Executive further advised that "community budgeting has the potential to offer one means of providing a more responsive and effective delivery of services at the local level, reflecting the multiple service needs of some communities", while focusing on the Executive's key priorities of Jobs, Health, Education, Crime and Transport.

3.3 East Ayrshire Council has been advised by the Scottish Executive that the Community Budgeting Grant has been divided between 12 local authorities, as facilitators of Community Planning Partnerships.

3.3 The offer of funding for East Ayrshire, for which a letter accepting the offer in principle has been returned to the Executive, is:

2002/03	£137,000
2003/04	£202,000

3.4 The Executive has indicated that the 12 Community Planning Partnerships now require to "develop approaches to community budgeting that are practical to the specific needs of their communities, and can assist in the development of responsive, integrated services at either a small area level or for a community of interest".

3.5 To assist Partnerships with this task a Community Budgeting Seminar has been convened by the Scottish Executive on the 29 November 2002, at which a range of officers from the Community Planning Partnership will attend.

3.6 A more detailed submission on how the Council and its Community Planning partners wish to utilise the Community Budgeting Grant requires to be submitted to the Executive by the 4 December 2002. Officers are currently working on this proposal, however it is anticipated that further information on the type of initiative acceptable to the Executive will be gained when officers and their community planning partners attend the training day organised by the Scottish Executive on the 29 November 2002. Officers will make every effort to take forward the proposals in such a way that this initiative can assist the community planning programme in the longer term. Due to the tight time schedule for the submission of the proposal to the Executive, it is recommended that officers be remitted to work up proposals in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and relevant Community Planning Partners.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

4.1 It is recommended that Members:

- i) note the allocation of resources in respect of Community Budgeting;
- ii) agree to participate in the pilot exercise;
- iii) remit Council Officers to identify the relevant community/community of interest on which the pilot will concentrate, in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Community Planning Partners and ensure a more detailed submission is presented to the Executive by the 4 December 2002; and
- iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources
East Ayrshire Council
7 November 2002

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)

Members wishing to inspect the background papers in relation to this report or wishing any further information should contact John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER – John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication