

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 2 OCTOBER 2003

INTEGRATING SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the current arrangements in place regarding Communities Scotland's framework for integrating Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs) and Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive's strategy for closing the opportunity gap between disadvantaged communities and the rest of Scotland includes a commitment to integrate SIPs within the strategic framework of CPPs. The integration is about building upon the successes of SIPs and ensuring that, where they are working well, they are an integral part of CPPs and working to regenerate communities.
- 2.2 The guidance in relation to integrating SIPs and CPPs was issued by Communities Scotland at the end of August 2003. This document sets out the key principles and an outline of the process of integrating SIPs within the CPP framework
- 2.3 Throughout the process, Communities Scotland will play a supportive role in assisting CPPs and their partners to achieve a smooth integration, holding to key principles, but recognising the importance of flexibility and local circumstances.

3. INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 In broad terms, there will be a three stage integration process as follows:
- Assessment of Readiness of CPPs
 - Resource Allocation, and
 - Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

Stage 1- Assessment of Readiness

- 3.2 This will involve assessing the readiness of CPPs, through the submission of a Statement of Readiness, to integrate SIPs into the community planning framework. Although the assessment will primarily be a self-evaluation by the CPP, Scottish Ministers require to be satisfied that the CPP meets, or is making tangible progress towards, the readiness criteria.

Stage 2 – Resource Allocation

- 3.3 The Minister for Communities recently confirmed funding allocations to SIPs for 2004/05. Where SIP Funds are allocated to the CPP, it will be expected that a large part of SIP expenditure will be maintained on existing SIP areas. However, even if a case for change is made, this should not exceed more than 20 percent of resources being transferred from existing areas.
- 3.4 From 2005/06, the distribution of SIP Funds across Scotland will be based primarily on the 2004 Index of Deprivation, to be published in May 2004. Where CPPs have satisfied Stages 1 and 3 of the integration process, SIP funds will be allocated to the CPP to facilitate the implementation of its Regeneration Outcome Agreement. Funds will be allocated for a three year period subject to the Scottish Executive's Spending Review.
- 3.5 Where the 2004 Index of Deprivation identifies a reduction in the need for an area relative to others across Scotland, there will be a reduction in SIP funding allocated from 2005/06. This will be tapered down on a gradual basis to facilitate the process of change. CPPs will retain at least 75 % of their 2004/05 SIP Fund allocation in 2005/06 and at least 50 % in 2006/07. In addition, it is anticipated that approximately 80 % of targeted regeneration resources will be focused geographically.

Stage 3 – Regeneration Outcome Agreement

- 3.6 The purpose of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) is to provide a strategic framework which links national and local priorities for tackling disadvantage with spend and activities. The ROA will be expected to outline both SIP and partners' mainstream resources, aimed at improving outcomes for disadvantaged areas and groups. CPPs will be expected to submit ROAs for the period 2005-08, by December 2004, with a view to transferring SIP Funds to CPPs from 2005/06.
- 3.7 CPPs wishing to integrate from 1 April 2004 should provide a transitional ROA by January 2004, which will be considered as a 'stepping stone' to a more developed and refined ROA for the period 2005-08. It is anticipated that, over time, the ROA may cover a range of targeted regeneration funds.
- 3.8 It is expected that the Statement of Readiness will be in place prior to the formal submission of the ROA to Communities Scotland for approval of Ministers.
- 3.9 CPPs are expected to pass all stages of integration by March 2005.

4. POLICY, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 CPPs through their ROAs, are expected to demonstrate that mainstream services and expenditure are being skewed to the target communities identified in the ROA and that, where appropriate, additional resources are being provided to close the gap between these communities and the rest of the population in the CPP area.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Members are asked to:

- i) remit the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to present a paper to Committee, early next year, with proposals for a Statement of Readiness; and
- ii) otherwise, note the content of this report.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources
15 September 2003

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Integrating Social Inclusion Partnerships and Community Planning Partnerships,
Communities Scotland, August 2003 – Guidance Notes

Better Communities in Scotland-Closing the Gap, Scottish Executive, June 2002

Members wishing further information should contact Gwen Barker,
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