

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 28 MARCH 2000

#### SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE BUDGET 1999/2000 – UPDATE

#### Report by the Chief Executive

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of progress with the projects which it has approved for finance under the Strategic Partnership Resource Budget (SPRB) and to highlight certain specific issues.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Agreement to establish the SPRB was made at the Policy and Resources Committee on 18 March 1999. £64,000 was released, to this fund, by the Council for utilisation by the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Group.
- 2.2 At the meetings on 2 December 1999 and 10 and 25 February 2000 the Committee approved grants from the SPRB as follows:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant £</u>
Children's Holiday Project	Purchase of caravan suitable for people with disabilities	15,000
Darvel & Newmilns Girls' Group	Irvine Valley Youth Diversion Project	6,000
Darvel Parent/ Teachers Association	Darvel ICT project – joinery/ electrical work	3,000
East Ayrshire Carers' Centre	Young Carers' Activity Pack	10,660
East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance Group	Zero Tolerance drama and workshop with schools	4,200
Kilmarnock Credit Union	Assistance with premises	10,000

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant £</u>
Kilmarnock Family Support Group	Assistance towards premises refurbishment	2,000
Social Work	Public information on social inclusion	2,000
Stewarton + District Community Care Forum	Social Support and Youth Initiative – premises refurbishment	4,700

**2.3** At the Strategic Partnership Group meeting on 21 December 1999 a range of projects were considered and endorsed. The Group also agreed that in future project proposals would be submitted to the appropriate council committee for approval and reported retrospectively to the Strategic Partnership Group.

### **3. PROGRESS**

**3.1** Every effort is being made to ensure that expenditure is in accordance with the Council's conditions of grant and that it is made before the end of the financial year.

**3.2** The Committee is asked to approve certain variations in the case of 2 projects so that expenditure can be made from the 1999/2000 budget. These are the Irvine Valley Youth Diversion Project and the Social Support and Youth Initiative, which are detailed below.

#### **3.3 IRVINE VALLEY YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECT**

On 10 February 2000 it was reported that the project will provide "shell" premises and sessional workers so that a "dry bar" can be established where young people can make decisions about their own activities. The grant was requested to kick-start the project. The Committee agreed to set aside £6,000 for the Youth Diversion Project on which further work was being progressed.

In the interim since the Committee's decision, the following progress has been made.

##### Lead Organisation and Police/Council support

The Darvel & Newmilns Girls' Group, which is constituted, will facilitate development of the project for all young people in the Irvine Valley, supported by Community Education and the Police. The Police have specifically allocated staff time to supporting the

establishment of the project and have also obtained personal computers for the project's use.

#### Use of the grant

The grant will be used for start-up costs. Community Education & the Police will work with the group on identifying future sources of money.

The start-up costs will cover the premises costs during the start-up period plus sessional worker input. Local industry will also be approached for assistance.

#### Pilot Scheme and Future Strategy

The project is initially a pilot scheme from which lesson will be learned. It is envisaged that these lessons will cover not only methods of operation but also how the service can best address the needs of all the Irvine Valley towns.

#### Assessment of Location and Related matters

Potential locations for the project have been assessed, with the following findings:

- It would be preferable to obtain shop front premises in a highly visible location in order to give the project a high profile amongst young people. This would also be likely to assist in locating the project at a small remove from residential premises which might object to any noise etc.
- Hurlford and Crookedholm have the easiest access to Kilmarnock's facilities.
- Galston already has a range of activities groups, some taking advantage of Loudoun Academy. In addition, some specific needs have been identified which would best be addressed by specialist outreach once the project has been established.
- Darvel and Newmilns are at the greatest distance from the facilities of Loudoun Academy and Kilmarnock. Both have a high proportion of vacant shop premises, the highest in the Irvine Valley being in Newmilns. There is also evidence from the operation of the Girls' Group and the Valley-wide Ski Club Group of willingness by local young people to travel to Newmilns. Thus, on balance, an initial location in Newmilns is the preferred option.
- A shop premises has been identified in Newmilns which is suitable in size and has no residential properties immediately alongside. A low cost lease for 6 months with the option of renewal has been informally agreed. The total cost of the lease for 6 months will be £1,040 i.e. £40 per week, which the Head of Economic Development advises is a reasonable rate, leaving £4,950 to be used for sessional workers, rates, power, actions identified by the young people etc. Given the impending commencement of the

Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative, there is little likelihood of obtaining a long-term lease in Newmilns, but since the project will be a pilot scheme from which lessons will be learned and changes made, this is not viewed as a major problem. Whatever premises are chosen, the position on planning permission cannot be resolved before the end of the financial year. It is anticipated that the Newmilns Townscape Heritage Initiative may create opportunities regarding other, more substantial, facilities for the Youth Diversion Project. The situation will be kept under continuous review.

It is proposed that the grant be issued to the group on condition that it be returned if any necessary planning permission and a 6 month lease have not been obtained within 3 months. The Council's conditions of grant allow Committees to consider such variations to the standard criteria, in the light of relevant advice.

### **3.4 SOCIAL SUPPORT AND YOUTH INITIATIVE**

On 10 February 2000 it was reported that the grant was requested for the refurbishment of premises for the Stewarton and District Community Care Forum. Services to be provided from the ground floor of the premises include social support to older people and people with a disability, organisation of home visits etc. The £4,700 grant was based on the refurbishment of the ground floor. It was also reported that the upper floor of the premises would be used for youth activities. It was intended to resource decoration of the upper floor separately. By making the premises occupiable the grant would release other grant monies and, by giving the Forum their own address, it will enable them to access other funds which require an independent address.

The premises are owned by the Council. On 24 August 1999 this Committee's Personnel and Property Sub-Committee agreed to authorise the Director of Development Services (Head of Economic Development) to negotiate terms of a granting of a concessionary lease to the Community Care Forum for 11, 13 and 15 Main Street, Stewarton, subject to the Group securing within an agreed period the necessary funding to upgrade the properties to an operational condition.

#### Lease of ground floor premises

The ground floor comprises numbers 11 and 15 Main Street. Discussions on the lease for these 2 premises are ongoing, and the Head of Economic Development hopes to reach an agreement with the Community Care Forum in the near future.

It remains likely that desk space will be made available within the premises for the Local SIP Team, giving them a presence in the Northern Area.

#### Upper floor premises

Fire Safety works with cost implications will be required before the upper floor can be used for the envisaged youth activities. Therefore, the upstairs premises (13 Main Street) will be excluded from the lease in the first instance. However, as mentioned above, the grant is based only on the refurbishment of the ground floor premises. The Development Services Department's Local Project Development Officer for the Irvine Valley/Northern Area will work with the Community Care Forum on the development and funding issues relating to the upper floor.

Confirmation of the general conditions of the lease have been agreed between the Head of Economic Development and the Group and it is expected that this will be confirmed once their Committee formally meets on 4 April.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The total financial allocation to the Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Resource Budget by the Council for the financial year 1999/2000 was £64,000.
- 4.2 The sum total of the projects identified at Section 2 is £57,560. The remaining sum represents a saving.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The projects identified at Section 2 are compatible with the principles of Social Inclusion.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 it is recommended that the Committee note:
  - (a) the progress regarding the Strategic Partnership Resource Budget for 1999/2000.
  - (b) the developments regarding the Irvine Valley Youth Diversion project and agree that the grant be issued on condition that it be

returned if any necessary planning permission and a 6 month lease have not been obtained within 3 months.

- (c) the developments regarding the Stewarton & District Community Care Forum's Project and agree that it be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Director of Social Work to hold the grant and issue it when they are satisfied that the relevant conditions of Council's grant regime regarding the lease of 11 and 15 Main Street, Stewarton, are met,

**David Montgomery**  
**Chief Executive**

**16 March 2000**

JO/CF

List of Background Papers

1. Report to Policy and Resources Committee on 18 March 1999 entitled "Social Inclusion Partnership Programme" and relevant minute.
2. Report to Personnel and Property Sub- Committee on 24 August 1999 entitled "Concessionary Rental Application for Properties at 11, 13 and 15 Main Street, Stewarton" and relevant minutes.
3. Report to Policy and Resources Committee on 2 December 1999 entitled "Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Resource Budget" and relevant minute.
4. Report to Policy and Resources Committee on 10 February 2000 entitled "Social Inclusion Strategic Partnership Resources Budget" and relevant minute.
5. Report to Policy and Resources Committee on 25 February 2000 entitled "Further bids for the Social Inclusion Budget" and relevant minute.

For further information please contact Jane Overton, Development Services Department, on (01563) (57) 6241

**AGENDA**