



## FINANCE REPORT

### SIP BOARD MEETING – 21 JANUARY 2004

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Board on a range of financial issues pertinent to the projects supported by funding available to the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP).

#### 2. COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP CORE BUDGET ALLOCATION 2003/04

- 2.1 The 2003/04 core budget allocation from Communities Scotland to the SIP is £2,181,098.
- 2.2 As reported earlier to the meeting, the total allocation for 2003/04 was fully allocated at the last Board meeting. To comply with the conditions of grant, as determined by Communities Scotland, the SIP must ensure a full spend on these resources within the financial year.
- 2.3 Members will recall that, at the last Board meeting, the Implementation Group was requested to monitor the position with regards to Dalrymple Youth Centre spend and take all necessary remedial action to ensure the full spend of SIP resources and that the project is realised.
- 2.4 As a result of a higher than anticipated tender return for the proposed building work at the centre and a further increase in East Ayrshire Council's financial contribution to the project of £20,000 (i.e. a revised contribution of £70,000), the Implementation Group, in consultation with the Chair of Social Inclusion, has made the following decisions:
- to allocate £30,000 of the £70,000 committed by the SIP in 2003/04 to allow the build work to commence;
  - to allocate up to £80,000 of the SIP's 2004/05 budget to ensure the project is realised, to be fully met from existing resources; and
  - to allocate the remaining £40,000 of the SIP's 2003/04 core budget to the Department of Community Services to allow for the installation of 4 sportswalls within the Coalfield SIP area; this is a quickspend proposal from the Sport and Social Inclusion initiative and can be fully utilised within the financial year.
- 2.5 As a result of these decisions, a full spend of the SIP's core budget is anticipated by 31 March 2004. However, further work will be carried out to monitor spend over the remaining few months and the Board is asked to remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager, in consultation with the Chair of Social Inclusion, to ensure a full spend of the SIP core budget.

### **3. TACKLING DRUGS MISUSE BUDGET 2003/04**

- 3.1 After reviewing the spend against the Tackling Drugs Misuse budget an underspend of £3,600 has been declared against the 'capacity building' budget. To ensure a full spend of this budget it is proposed that the £3,600 be allocated to the Bridge Project to allow them to continue their successful 'Elevation Employability Programme' until 31 March 2004.
- 3.2 Members will recall that a review of the elevation project was agreed at the last Board meeting to ensure continuation and a further report will therefore be presented to a future Board meeting.

### **4. COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP CORE BUDGET FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS 2004/05**

- 4.1 Communities Scotland has confirmed a core budget allocation to the SIP for 2004/05 of £2,181,098. As a result of past Board meetings and the decision taken by the SIP Implementation in respect of Dalrymple, a total financial allocation of £1,309,000 has been committed against the SIP's core budget for 2004/05, leaving an unallocated balance of £872,098.
- 4.2 In response to issues raised at the last Board meeting, the following additional package of support is presented to the Board for consideration:

#### **Council of Voluntary Organisations (East Ayrshire): £30,000**

To provide a further year's financial support to the CVO for their Kickstart Funding Office, it is further proposed that a meeting be convened with the CVO in late March 2004 to consider a future funding package for the CVO linked to the SIP transition to Community Planning.

- 4.3 Subject to approval of this funding package, the unallocated balance will be £842,098.
- 4.4 The Board is also asked to note that a funding request has been received from Cumnock and Doon Valley Credit Union for financial assistance in 2004/05. As yet, there has been no decision from the European Union regarding the implications for State Aid on Credit Unions and as such the SIP is not in a position to fund the Credit Union in 2004/05. Once again, every effort will be made by the SIP Support Team to seek a satisfactory resolution to this matter and the Board is asked to receive a further report on this issue at a future meeting.
- 4.5 A funding application has also been received from Cunninghame Housing Association, which is the result of a short-term working group established across the four Ayrshire SIPs to establish a project to develop the social economy. The SIP Board is asked in principle to support an application to the European Regional Development Fund, from the four Ayrshire SIPs to progress this project, with a required financial commitment of approximately £8,000 per annum and an 'in-kind' support package of approximately £7,000 per annum from the SIP over the next three financial years.

4.6 In principle, support is requested to allow the working group to enter into discussions with Strathclyde European Partnership. However it should be noted that the financial commitment from the SIP can only be confirmed for 2004/05 and this factor will require to be taken into consideration when submitting the funding bid.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The SIP Board is asked to:

- i) endorse the decisions taken by the Implementation Group in respect of Dalrymple Youth Centre;
- ii) remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager, in consultation with the Chair of Social Inclusion, to ensure a full spend of the SIP budget in 2003/04;
- iii) agree to allocate the balance of the Tackling Drugs Misuse budget for 2003/04 of £3,600 to the Bridge Project to support the continuation of the 'Elevation Employability programme until 31 March 2004;
- iv) agree to a funding award of £30,000 to the CVO in 2004/05;
- v) support in principle the Social Economy proposal by Cunninghame Housing Association and remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to enter into discussions with Strathclyde European Partnership on this matter; and
- vi) otherwise note the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**14 January 2004**