



SIP EVALUATION 2003

SIP BOARD MEETING – 21 JANUARY 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek the Board's endorsement of the SIP Evaluation Report, in respect of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership, prepared by the independent consultants appointed by the SIP Board.

2. EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Board commissioned an independent evaluation of the SIP on behalf of Communities Scotland. The evaluation is designed to support the integration of the SIP into the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structure.
- 2.2 DTZ Pieda Consulting was appointed to undertake the research study, which commenced in September 2003. The evaluation process has now been concluded. Key stages of the process included:
 - an inception meeting with the consultant in October 2003 to agree the final Work Plan
 - meetings with key partners, individuals and project participants throughout October and November 2003
 - a draft evaluation report prepared at the end of November 2003, and
 - the final evaluation report submitted to the SIP in early January 2004.
- 2.3 The draft evaluation report was circulated to all members of the SIP Board for comment in November 2003 and a range of minor observations were collated and presented to the consultant on 8 December 2003.
- 2.4 The revised evaluation report was presented to the SIP on 5 January 2004 and subsequently submitted to Communities Scotland. The final report is available from the Community Planning and Partnership Manager and will be available for inspection at the Board meeting on 21 January 2004.
- 2.5 In addition, the consultant is in the process of preparing a draft Executive Summary report, which will be issued at the next Board meeting, and agreed to present the key results of the evaluation to the SIP Board at its meeting on 21 January 2004.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Board members:

- i) note the independent consultant's positive evaluation of SIP activity and its impact within the Coalfield Area;
- ii) consider the Executive Summary, prepared by DTZ Pidea;
- iii) consider the appropriateness of the recommendations contained within the SIP Evaluation Report for the way ahead; in this regard remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to consider the Board's deliberations and bring forward proposals for the way forward at the next Board meeting;
- iv) remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to commission the production of the Executive Summary, in its final form, in an interesting and attractive format, which can be widely circulated throughout the Coalfield Area; and
- v) otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
13 January 2004