



FINANCE REPORT

Board Meeting – 19 June 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

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 At the Board meetings of 5 December 2002 and 6 March 2003, £2,099,850 of this finance was allocated against a range of projects leaving an unallocated balance of £81,248.

3. SIP PROJECT UPDATE

- 3.1 In some instances the Board agreed a number of conditions to funding awards, particularly in respect of new projects. To date effective progress has been made against all new projects, and an update on progress will be presented to the next Board for members' information and consideration.
- 3.2 The Board will also recall that the allocation of funding for four projects was deferred, three of which were the subject of the ICT review, namely:
- CONDUIT
 - Business Technology and Training Centre (BTTC)
 - Ayrshire ICT Social Enterprise (AEC).

The fourth project, the Credit Union was deferred as a result of guidance issued in respect of State Aid.

- 3.3 In line with the Board's recommendations at its meeting on 6 March 2003, the Steering Groups of both CONDUIT and AEC have considered their required level of funding for 2003/04. To ensure the effective operation of the BTTC, it is proposed that a further £13,500 be allocated from the SIP core budget. These finances, in tandem with the existing BTTC budget for 2003/04 will be managed by the CONDUIT project. The indicative budget allocations for AEC and CONDUIT will remain the same. The proposed funding allocations will therefore be as follows:

	£
AEC	50,000
BTTC	43,000
CONDUIT	51,000

- 3.4 Further work is ongoing to ensure a common marketing tool is used by all local ICT projects and the Board is asked to receive a further briefing on this subject at a future meeting.
- 3.5 To ensure the continuation of funding towards the Credit Union, discussions were held between the Scottish Executive and East Ayrshire Council, as the SIP grant recipient. As a result of these discussions the Council's Depute Chief Executive wrote to the Scottish Executive advising that it would be the Council's recommendation to the SIP that they treat the Credit Union as an existing organisation and subject to the Credit Union seeking legal advice, would pay the allocated grant award for 2003/04 of £24,000. This was the Council's interpretation of the advice received from the Scottish Executive on this subject matter.
- 3.6 The Credit Union has now confirmed that they have taken legal advice and wish to accept the award. The first payment will be transferred on receipt of the required grant claim form.
- 3.7 Board members will recall, that an independent evaluation had been commissioned to assess the effectiveness of the community food project. This evaluation has now been completed and provides positive feedback on the programme of work undertaken on behalf of the SIP.
- 3.8 To allow for the findings to be fully considered, by our partner agencies, it is proposed that the SIP continue with a funding package of £5,000 for this financial year. Plans to match fund this allocation from the Local Health Care Co-operative's "Cook-well" funding will be explored which will allow the project to work more effectively with the CHIP van and operate across East Ayrshire.
- 3.9 If approved, all of the above finance can be fully met from the existing SIP budget for 2003/04.

4. SIP PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND 2003/04

- 4.1 The confirmed budget for 2003/04 for the SIP project development fund is £15,000. Board members will recall that the Manager Social Inclusion has delegated powers to spend up to £2,000 of this budget on local initiatives, with the requirement to report decisions retrospectively to the Board for noting.
- 4.2 Since the last meeting the following allocations have been made:

Young Carers Conference: £2,000

East Ayrshire Carers Centre was allocated £2,000 to part-fund the young carers conference held in the Conference Suite at Rugby Park on the 10 June

2003. £2,000 was also provided from the Council's Education and Social Services Department.

Approximately 200 people attended the event, and after the formal speeches and workshops, a disco was held.

Screen Machine – Study Tour/Visit: £2,000

The Coalfield Communities Federation (CCF) was allocated £2,000 to part-fund a study tour/visit to Lochgilphead to view the Screen Machine in operation. The funding is also being used to meet the costs of bringing the Screen Machine to the Coalfield Communities on a trial basis, likely to be in August 2003.

Muirkirk Day Care Centre – Garden Project : £1,160

The Day Centre Management Committee has been allocated £1,160 to carryout a garden refurbishment project at the facility. The total cost of the project is £3,160 and the SIP allocation completes the funding package allowing the project to progress.

- 4.3 As a result of these allocations, a balance of £9,840 remains within the SIP Project Development Fund.

5. CORE FUNDING ALLOCATION 2004/05

- 5.1 As Members will recall, Communities Scotland has advised the SIP of an indicative funding allocation for 2004/05 to assist the SIP and its respective Community Planning Partnership to “develop the necessary transitional arrangements by which the SIP programme is integrated into the community planning process”.
- 5.2 Firm funding will be assigned by Communities Scotland on the understanding that it will be used as a transitional period to Community Planning and that the SIP and Community Planning Partnership will be obliged to take on board the findings of the independent evaluation due to be undertaken sometime in 2003. At the time of writing the timescale for the evaluation of the SIP has not been confirmed by Communities Scotland. Further details on the SIP Evaluation/Transition framework is provided in a separate report to the Board, agenda item 9.
- 5.3 As Board Members will acknowledge a delay for some projects in receiving an indicative funding allocation for 2004/05 until September or December 2003 would seriously hinder their development. As a result of this, the Board is asked to consider and approve an indicative funding package for the following projects for 2004/05:

Indicative Allocation 2004/05

• yipworld.com	£100,000
• Recreation Partnership Project	£105,000
• Health Living Initiative (CHIP van)	£ 40,000

• Coalfield Community Transport	£ 45,000
• Coalfield Communities Federation	£ 15,000
• JobRotation	£ 20,000
Total	£325,000

5.4 Subject to Board approval, the Manager Social Inclusion will require to write to Communities Scotland advising them of the Board's decision and seeking their permission to confirm these indicative project allocations.

5.5 A range of systems have been put in place to assist projects consider their future sustainability. Due to the scale and uniqueness of yipworld.com, it is proposed that the SIP commission an independent evaluation of the project which would allow all partners to consider the future sustainability of this initiative.

5.6 The Board is also asked to note plans to organise a 'show-case' of projects for our community planning partners at the end of August 2003. This event will focus on targeted projects of particular interest/relevance to our partner agencies and will be targeted at Chief Executive/Director level.

5.7 The Board is also asked to approve the extension of contracts, until 31 March 2005, for the following SIP Support Team Staff:

- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Admin Officer
- Senior Clerical Assistant.

This is considered to be the minimum staff requirement for the SIP to continue to work effectively during the transition to community planning. On completion of the independent evaluation, a report making recommendations about the overall staffing requirement for the transition to community planning will be submitted to the SIP Board and relevant partners for consideration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The SIP Board is asked to:

- confirm an additional funding award of £13,500 to effectively operate the BTTC, as highlighted at section 3.3;
- note the successful resolution of the Credit Union's funding award for 2003/04;
- approve an additional allocation of £5,000 for the Community Food Project;
- note the allocation of £7,160 of funding from the SIP Project Development Fund;
- agree to the indicative funding allocations for 2004/05 for projects highlighted at section 5.3 and request that the Manager Social Inclusion write to Communities Scotland advising them of the Board's decision and seeking appropriate permissions;

- vi) agree to commission an independent sustainability evaluation report for yipworld.com;
- vii) agree to the extension of SIP support team contracts as identified at Section 5.6; and
- viii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Manager Social Inclusion
10 June 2003