



SIP EVALUATION / TRANSITION FRAMEWORK

Board Meeting – 19 June 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Board members of the outline arrangements for the SIP Evaluation which will be undertaken by an independent contractor commissioned by Communities Scotland during 2003.

2. PROGRESS

- 2.1 As a condition of funding, all Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs) are subject to an independent evaluation towards the end of their designated funding period. Evaluations are required for the 25 SIPs, including East Ayrshire, with designations ending in 2004.
- 2.2 The evaluations are designed to support the integration of SIPs into the new Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structure.
- 2.3 The Community Regeneration Statement outlines proposals for integrating SIPs into CPPs where they will continue to play an important role in taking forward the social justice agenda at a local level. As part of this process Communities Scotland has been developing a transition framework to support this integration and local evaluations will inform transitional arrangements.
- 2.4 Communities Scotland advised the SIP by letter on 13 February 2003 of an indicative core budget allocation to the SIP of £2,181,098 for 2003/04. Firm funding for this period will be assigned by Communities Scotland on the understanding that it will be used as a transitional period for migration to Community Planning and that the SIP and Community Planning Partnership will be obliged to take on board the findings of the evaluation due to be undertaken in 2003.

3. EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 The evaluation process has been designed to involve SIPs at all key stages, from design to delivery.
- 3.2 The aims of the evaluation are to provide:
 - a national overview of the SIP programme;
 - an evidence base to inform development of national policy on social inclusion interventions;
 - a formal evaluation of individual area based and thematic SIPs designated in 1999;
 - a framework for and support to SIPs to collate evidence of their progress;

- an evaluation report for SIPs of their own performance; and
- practical support to inform the integration of SIP activity into the community planning framework.

4. TIMETABLE AND RESOURCES

4.1 The evaluation involves four stages as follows:

- development of guidance for SIPs to commission evaluations and a framework to support the process locally and scheduled to be issued by late April 2003;
- provision of support throughout the evaluation process which should have been commissioned by June 2003, with initial feedback on core indicators by end September 2003 and draft reports available by October 2003;
- preparation of a draft national overview report by end December 2003; and
- dissemination of national and local evaluations completed by April 2004.

4.2 There has been slippage, at a national level, on the timescales in relation to the above and we are not in a position to report progress at this time.

4.3 The evaluations will be financed from the Reviving Communities Budget and a dissemination strategy will be agreed with the SIPs and other interested parties to ensure maximum impact at local and national level.

5. PROGRESS

5.1 Communities Scotland is currently working to provide individual SIPs with access to consultant details from the Communities Scotland Research Contractors database.

5.2 Guidance for SIPs on evaluation has not been finalised by Communities Scotland to date and, in the interim, the Manager Social Inclusion has convened a working group, comprising community representatives and appropriate members of the SIP Support Team, which has been established to prepare for the evaluation process.

5.3 Communities Scotland is currently seeking the views of Scottish Ministers in relation to transition guidance and has advised that a version of the Transition Framework is likely to become available by end June 2003.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Board members:

- i) note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Manager Social Inclusion
3 June 2003