



## SCREEN MACHINE

### Board Meeting – 19 June 2003

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise members of the proposal by the Coalfield Communities Federation to establish a mobile cinema in the Coalfield Area and of developments to date.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 In March 2003, members of the Coalfield Communities Federation established a working group to explore the feasibility of a mobile cinema project. Membership of the group is as follows:

- Sheila White, Coalfield Community Transport
- Ian Smith, Coalfield Communities Federation
- Ronnie Hamilton, Coalfield Communities Federation
- Joanne Moore, East Ayrshire Council
- Ann Ferguson, East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP
- Gerry Ramage, Investment in Drama
- Sam Gardiner, East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP.

- 2.2 The project idea is based on the “Screen Machine”, which was developed by Highlands and Islands Arts Ltd (Hi-Arts) to serve the communities of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Established in 1999, the Screen Machine gave 508 screenings to a total audience of 21,500 in its first full year of operation.

- 2.3 The Screen Machine has also proved its adaptability by hosting major conferences and providing a venue for live music, combined with film projection and travelling abroad to provide entertainment for British Forces.

- 2.4 The total cost of the capital phase was £650,000, jointly funded by the Scottish Arts Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scottish Screen and Scottish Gas.

#### 3. Progress to Date

- 3.1 Several meetings of the working group have been held to discuss the way forward in terms of the scope of the project and possible sources of funding. Joanne Moore, Arts & Cultural Development Officer, proposed that consideration be given to using the unit not only for cinematic

purposes but also as a multi-purpose arts, exhibition and conference venue.

- 3.2 It has been agreed that the need for the project will require to be established. To assess this, a questionnaire will be prepared and circulated throughout the Coalfield Area.
- 3.3 A fact-finding visit has been made by members of the working group to see the Screen Machine in operation and to obtain more information regarding the practicalities of operating a unit of this type.
- 3.4 To further assess the viability of the project, it has been agreed that a pilot project will be run whereby the Screen Machine will be hired for a period of 1 week and will visit several locations throughout the Coalfield Area. The cost of this visit will be in the region of £3,500. The Manager Social Inclusion has agreed to contribute £2,000 from the SIP Development Fund and Joanne Moore, Arts & Cultural Development Officer, has advised that consideration will be given by East Ayrshire Council to a funding request of £1,500, subject to further discussion.
- 3.5 If progressed, the project will require substantial funding and all such applications will require to be supported by a costed business plan. Discussions are ongoing regarding the required content and format.
- 3.6 A partnership agreement with neighbouring local authorities is also being explored as this may make the project more cost effective and sustainable.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended that Board members:
  - i) note the progress of the working group;
  - ii) agree to receive future reports on this initiative; and
  - iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Manager Social Inclusion**  
**10 June 2003**