



COMMUNITY BUDGETING

Board Meeting - 6 March 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Board of the Council's and its Community Planning Partners' success in securing additional resources to participate in the national pilot scheme intended to assist in charting the way for the future delivery of community budgeting, a new approach that meets the needs of partnership working.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive invited a range of partners, including all Local Authorities, to respond to a consultation document entitled 'Community Budgeting - A consultation document on local services and community engagement' by the 14 June 2002. The Executive also indicated that they would welcome "preliminary expressions of interest" from organisations wishing to participate in the pilot programme, also by the 14 June 2002.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council subsequently submitted an 'expression of interest' to the Executive indicating that it would be willing to pursue this option in partnership with its community planning partners.

3. DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY BUDGETING AND SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- 3.1 The Executive defines Community Budgeting as:
- ".... the identification of the level and nature of mainstream spend in local areas by local authorities and other statutory agencies - and the subsequent use of this information to develop and deliver the services that the community demands, potentially through the vehicle of locally based partnership structures and on principles of community engagement, social inclusion and equality."
- 3.2 The Executive further advised that "community budgeting has the potential to offer one means of providing a more responsive and effective delivery of services at the local level, reflecting the multiple service needs of some communities", while focusing on the Executive's key priorities of Jobs, Health, Education, Crime and Transport.
- 3.3 East Ayrshire Council has been advised by the Scottish Executive that the Community Budgeting Grant has been divided between 12 local authorities,

as facilitators of Community Planning Partnerships. The offer of funding for East Ayrshire is:

2002/03	£137,000
2003/04	£202,000
Total	£339,000

- 3.4 The Executive expects that the 12 Community Planning Partnerships should "develop approaches to community budgeting that are practical to the specific needs of their communities, and which will assist in the development of responsive, integrated services at either a small area level or for a community of interest". The Council's outline submission was submitted to the Executive on 4 December 2002, and is attached for information at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 East Ayrshire's submission sets out the Community Planning Partners' intentions to align the main focus of our community budgeting exercise with a full service review of addiction services in the coalfield communities. At present, the focus of attention will be solely the coalfield communities but dependent on the scale of the exercise this may be rolled out across the authority.
- 3.6 The second theme of our contribution to the community budgeting pilot will be a collaborative and joint exercise across the three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships, and meetings have been held with the three local authorities to identify a meaningful way forward. As a result of these meetings, the three local authorities are currently considering the option of mapping the outputs from the community budgeting pilots on to a consistent GIS system.
- 3.7 The Executive has advised the Council in writing that the outline proposal submitted on the 4 December 2002 is accepted in principle. Two additional pieces of information were requested, namely:
- details of the work to be carried out across Ayrshire in partnership with North and South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships; and
 - a further breakdown of the broad indications of spend allocations as provided within the outline submission.

These were submitted on 14 February 2003 as requested.

- 3.8 In order to assimilate the base information required to respond to the 'addiction' theme it will be necessary to allocate pieces of work to partnership colleagues, including, Health and Police. Some of the funds will therefore be channelled to the appropriate agencies.

4. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT FROM THE COALFIELD AREA SIP

- 4.1 At its meeting of 5 December 2002, the Board agreed that a full service review in respect of addiction services in the former coalfield communities be carried out. The Community Budgeting pilot will significantly enhance this review.

4.2 The Council and its Community Planning Partners are keen to involve the community representatives participating on the SIP Board, in a focus group in relation to the pilot to ensure that their extensive local knowledge informs this exercise.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

5.1 It is recommended that:

- i) Board Members note the allocation of resources in respect of Community Budgeting;
- ii) Board Members note the proposal to align the community budgeting exercise with a full service review of addiction services and as a secondary part, to work across the three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships, as set out at paragraph 3.6;
- iii) the community representatives on the Board agree to participate in a focus group in relation to the community budgeting pilot; and
- iv) Members otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Manager Social Inclusion
24 February 2003

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY BUDGETING PILOT- OUTLINE PROPOSAL

2 DECEMBER 2002

Introduction

East Ayrshire Council, in partnership with its community planning partners is committed to involving local people in the planning and development of services and ensuring service provision is tailored to local need. The Council welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Community Budgeting pilot, and by working in partnership will develop "an approach to community budgeting that is practical to the specific needs of East Ayrshire and will assist in the development of responsive, integrated services".

Within East Ayrshire, the Community Planning Partners have agreed to participate in the pilot programme and have agreed to focus the community budgeting pilot around the theme of addiction. This will be the main focus of the pilot within East Ayrshire. Partners are also keen however to explore a collaborative approach towards opportunities to work across the three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships to drill down expenditure over a range of community spend.

This paper sets out East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's outline proposal for the community budgeting pilot.

Community Budgeting Pilot – Outline Proposal

As previously highlighted, it is the intention of the Community Planning Partnership to pilot community budgeting on the theme of addiction. Addiction issues, both alcohol and drugs, are of concern to local communities within East Ayrshire and to a number of the Council's community planning partners.

The East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP), will consider at its Board meeting of 5 December 2002, a recommendation to carry out a full service review in respect of addiction services in the former coalfield communities. In line with our innovative practice of co-location of partner services and for ensuring local initiatives are fully integrated, the Community Planning Partners plan to enhance this service review by focusing the resources of the community budgeting pilot to:

- give a better understanding of the level of public sector spend;
- identify the impact this expenditure has on service users;
- identify the overall outcomes achieved; and
- further develop community engagement in determining priorities for investment.

At present, it is the planning partners intention to focus this review on the area covered by the East Ayrshire Coalfield SIP, however dependent on the scale of the exercise, partners may extend the pilot across East Ayrshire.

The core partners involved in this exercise will be East Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire & Arran NHS Board, Ayrshire & Arran NHS Primary Care Trust and Strathclyde Police. However it is anticipated that all our core partners will participate in the Pilot. Core partners will have responsibility for ensuring appropriate involvement from the voluntary sector, many of whom provide addiction services within East Ayrshire, and ADAT (Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Action Team).

To gain a solid understanding of the impact existing spend has on service users and the overall outcomes achieved as a result of this spend, a range of mechanisms will be utilised to engage with local people. The Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Board, with approximately half of its members being local residents, will also be used as a forum to consider the issues arising from the community budgeting pilot.

The second theme of the pilot will be a collaborative project involving the three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships, tasked with a data gathering exercise designed to drill down expenditure over, a yet to be identified, range of community spend. Initial discussions have taken place between the three local authorities and agreement in principal has been reached to further develop this proposal. Due to the complex nature of this initiative, there is a requirement for further work to be carried out to scope this proposal, however it is anticipated that the result of this exercise would provide a standardised format for the future wider collation of core financial information needed to achieve sound and effective investment.

To secure maximum benefit from the overall community budgeting pilot, a multi-agency officer's working group will be established and tasked with:

- the effective implementation of the pilot;
- ensuring the collation of relevant financial and performance information;
- identifying gaps in information and ensuring systems are put in place to close these gaps;
- identifying the level of mainstream spend;
- analysing available data;
- collating baseline information to allow measurement against set targets and outcomes;
- ongoing liaison with the Executive's Community Budgeting pilot team;
- community engagement; and
- identifying priorities for future investment.

The information resulting from the exercise will allow the Community Planning Partners to establish the level of mainstream spend and the benefits arising from this spend. This information in tandem with detail of gaps and overlaps in service delivery/spend will also assist partners gain a better understanding of resource allocation mechanisms which underpin spending distribution, the result of which will be more cost effective and responsive services for local people.

Spend proposals

The Scottish Executive has advised the Council that the funding available for this exercise is:

2002/03	£137,000
2003/04	£202,000

It is anticipated that the budget will be split as follows, however it will be appreciated that more detailed and ongoing work is required by partner agencies to finalise the spend proposals.

Spend	%age	Approx. Allocation £
Central Co-ordination/Monitoring and Evaluation	20	67,800
Admin plus Community Engagement	10	33,900
IT – ensuring system compatibility	10	33,900
Research Costs, including partner agency assistance, consultancy costs and Ayrshire wide initiative.	60	203,400
Total		£339,000

Over the next two months, partners will seek to identify the overall financial, officer and time commitment required to carry out the community budgeting pilot. It is anticipated that the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group will meet in early 2003 to confirm spend proposals and ensure the effective implementation of the community budgeting pilot programme.

Consultation Process

The opportunity for East Ayrshire to participate in the community budgeting pilot has been reported to and endorsed by the East Ayrshire Community Planning Core Partners' Group at its meeting of 18 November 2002, and by East Ayrshire Council's Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting of 28 November 2002. At this latter meeting, the Council agreed to remit officers to work in partnership with their community planning partners to work up an appropriate submission to the Scottish Executive.

In tandem with this, the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group at its meeting of 27 November 2002 agreed to focus the community budget pilot on addiction issues. This thematic approach complements the priorities of the recently approved community plan and ensures maximum partner agency involvement in the process.

Monitoring and Evaluation

East Ayrshire Council will assume a central co-ordinating role, in respect of the community budgeting pilot. Regular reports will be prepared for the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group, Community Planning Core Partners' Group and the Policy and Resources Committee of East Ayrshire Council.

Planning partners will utilise the new census material due to be published in 2003, the neighbourhood definitions information and local data to carry out a social mapping exercise related to the proposed pilot.

The Council and its partners will also comply with all national monitoring and evaluation systems established by the Scottish Executive.

Conclusion

Our partnership now seeks the Executive's endorsement and approval of this community budgeting outline proposal.

3 December 2002.