



PROGRESS REPORT ON AYRSHIRE KEY FUND

Board Meeting – 6 March 2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the applications received for the second round of the Ayrshire Key Fund local grant, the recommendations of the assessment panel, the position regarding pan Ayrshire bids, and developments within the fund to date.

2. LOCAL AYRSHIRE KEY FUND APPLICATIONS

- 2.1 By the closing date of 8 November 2002, eight applications to the second round of the Ayrshire Key Fund local grant had been received.
- 2.2 Applications were received from:

Organisation	Project	Grant Amount Requested £
East Ayrshire Cumnock & Doon Valley Women's Aid	Refuge refurbishment	12,770
Bellsbank Adventure Playground	Van driver / maintenance person	6,225
Bellsbank Women's Project	Crèche training	6,207
Patna Community Association	Patna Café De Youth	8,960
Coalfield Community Transport	Dayhopper Shopper	25,000
Lugar with Old Cumnock Parish Churches	Youth Co-ordination outreach worker	25,000
Greenmill Out of School Service	Out of school service	18,038
New Cumnock Regeneration Volunteers	Community Support Worker	20,418

- 2.3 These applications totalled £122,618, an over subscription of £67,169 on the available fund of £55,449.

3. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The assessment panel for East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership considered the applications at a meeting on 28 November 2002 and made the following recommendations:

Organisation	Recommendation	Comments
Bellsbank Women's Project	Supported in full	0.5 FTE job created; 14 quality standards achieved.
Patna Community Association	Supported in full	1 FTE job created. Grant subject to development plan being submitted by June 2003. Support to Communities will work with group.
Coalfield Community Transport	Supported in full	0.5 FTE job created. 51 quality standards achieved.
Greenmill Out of School Service	Supported – part funded	3 FTE jobs safeguarded. 8 new childcare places created. Grant of £15,282
East Ayrshire Cumnock & Doon Valley Women's Aid	Not supported	Refuge refurbishment. Would have been supported if sufficient funds were available.
New Cumnock Regeneration Volunteers	Not supported	Community Support Worker. Would have been supported if sufficient funds were available.
Lugar with Old Cumnock Parish Churches	Not supported	1 FTE job. Issues of duplication with existing youth work provision in the area. Possible religious bias which may have excluded some young people.
Bellsbank Adventure Playground	Not supported	0.75 FTE job. Scored very low on outputs and could possibly be funded as part of a development plan linked to proposed new centre.

- 3.2 The panel felt that the application by Greenmill Out of School Service should be supported, but there were insufficient funds available to fully fund the project and therefore the applicant agreed to accept a smaller grant.
- 3.3 The supported applications total £55,449 and were ratified by the Ayrshire Key Fund Board on 9 December 2002.
- 3.4 All funds allocated to the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP from the Ayrshire Key Fund have now been disbursed.

4. PAN AYRSHIRE APPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire's contribution of £147,279 to the Ayrshire Key Fund was originally ring fenced for pan Ayrshire bids.
- 4.2 The Ayrshire Key Fund Board agreed that Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire should invite bids for these monies and that assessments would be carried out by the SIP panel in which the applicant was located.
- 4.3 Three applications for funding were received, and allocated to the relevant SIP panel for assessment. The panels from East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP and Ayr North SIP made the following recommendations.

Organisation	Project	Grant Amount Requested £	Comments
Ayrshire Cancer Support (Kilmarnock)	Continuation of services for cancer patients and their families throughout Ayrshire.	23,728	Not supported. Project does not achieve any of the required outputs and as such did not meet the funding criteria. Jobs safeguarded are not located within SIP areas and there are no satisfactory mechanisms in place to monitor benefits to SIP residents.
Achievers International (Ayr)	Upgrade of IT equipment for marketing purposes and to meet the cost of delivering a confidence building course to 20 schools in SIP areas throughout Ayrshire.	14,500	Not supported. Project's outputs were very low. Bid scored poorly on targets and outcomes and how these might be monitored and evaluated.
Counselling Ayrshire	To deliver counselling supervision training, ECDL training, purchase IT equipment and to market the service.	6,000	Deferred. Bid scored well against some criteria but panel felt that more information was required with regard to SIP beneficiaries.

The deferred bid, for £6,000, is likely to be supported when the additional information is supplied by the applicant.

4.4 Due to the low number of applications received for pan Ayrshire bids, the Key Fund Board agreed that the remaining funds be allocated on a pro rata basis to Ayr North SIP, North Ayrshire SIP and East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP. The allocation to East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP will therefore be £31,082.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASED FUNDING

5.1 Strathclyde European Partnership (SEP) has indicated that they would be willing to accept a supplementary application from the partners in the Ayrshire Key Fund to increase the level of available funding. SEP has delegated power to approve such an application, subject to a maximum match fund level of £100,000. The increased bid can be submitted as soon as partners have indicated the level of contribution they wish to make. Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire has indicated that they are unlikely to be in a position to make a further contribution, however, not all partners require to commit extra funds for the bid to be accepted. North Ayrshire SIP has indicated that they are likely to contribute match funding at a level unlikely to exceed £30,000 and Ayr North SIP have yet to make a decision on their position.

5.2 A contribution of £25,000 from East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP, in the 2003 – 2004 financial year, would attract a further £25,000 in European monies. Coupled with the Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire allocation, this would provide a total fund of £81,082 to be utilised for the benefit of groups and organisations across the Coalfield Communities. This allocation is approved, could be met from the SIP's core budget allocation.

5.3 If the SEP application is approved, bids for these funds would be invited from mid March 2003, with a closing submission date of Thursday 17 April 2003, with offers of grant being made in May 2003. All successful projects would require to be completed by March 2004, or have secured other funds to carry on past this date.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Partnership Board is asked to:

- (i) endorse the decisions of the assessment panel, detailed at sections 3.1 and 4.3;
- (ii) note the disbursement of funds from the pan-ayrshire allocation to the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership fund;
- (iii) approve an additional allocation of £25,000 to the Ayrshire Key Fund for 2003/04 detailed at section 5.2; and
- (iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
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24 February 2003