



PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Board Meeting – 6 March 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Board members of the progress made in relation to assisting SIP funded projects and initiatives consider sustainability beyond March 2004.

2. PROGRESS

- 2.1 The SIP Board has a firm commitment to assist the projects and initiatives which it funds explore options for sustainability beyond March 2004 and, as a result of this, hosted a project networking event on 3 December 2002. This event provided an opportunity for project staff and supervising officers to consider sustainability beyond the life of the SIP, where appropriate. A particular issue arising from this event was the need for projects to become more proficient in business planning and a future seminar will be convened on this subject.
- 2.2 Prior to this event, East Ayrshire Council's Depute Chief Executive and the Manager Social Inclusion met with relevant Heads of Service, within the Council, in an attempt to identify actions/routes for the sustainability of local projects. Additional meetings are planned and will be convened as required.
- 2.3 Where necessary, the Council's External Funding and Sustainability Officer has been tasked with assisting SIP funded projects and initiatives to identify and successfully access appropriate external funding.
- 2.4 A copy of the project financial allocations for 2003/04 and the associated conditions made by the SIP Board at its meeting of 5 December 2002 have been submitted to East Ayrshire Council's Corporate Strategy Group. Consequently, Group members have been asked to ensure that all actions, including those relating to sustainability, are progressed accordingly.
- 2.5 In addition, project management committees and community planning partners have been requested to consider sustainability as a priority issue.
- 2.6 The following projects have been identified as requiring individual support in specific areas as a means of progressing sustainability issues:
 - **Investment in Drama:** particularly in relation to establishing a local community business;

- **Coalfield Community Transport:** in terms of prioritising and developing the range of initiatives put forward by the project for future implementation; and
- **East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth.**

2.7 It is, therefore, proposed that a suitably experienced consultant be commissioned to progress matters in relation to sustainability for the projects listed at 2.6. Funds to employ the consultant have previously been secured from Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Board members:

- i) note the progress made regarding issues of project sustainability beyond March 2004; and
- ii) agree to the proposal to commission a consultant to progress work, in relation to sustainability, with the projects identified at 2.6.

Gwen Barker
Manager Social Inclusion
25 February 2003