



PROGRESS REPORT ON AYRSHIRE KEY FUND

Board Meeting – 18 September 2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of a range of issues relating to the implementation and development of the Ayrshire Key Fund.

2. INCREASED FUNDING

- 2.1 At the SIP Board meeting of 6 March 2003, members agreed that a further £25,000 be allocated to the Ayrshire Key Fund to match increased European Funds.
- 2.2 As a result of this decision, it was agreed at the Ayrshire Key Fund Board meeting on 1 April 2003 that an application for increased funding would be made to Strathclyde European Partnership (SEP) by Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire on behalf of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership and Girvan Social Inclusion Partnership. Ayr North Social Inclusion Partnership and North Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership intimated that they had decided not to commit further monies to the Ayrshire Key Fund at that point. SEP had instructed that should more than one SIP wish to make an increased bid, the application should be made on a joint basis.
- 2.3 East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP and Girvan SIP were asked to submit revised figures for outcomes and a letter from their respective Heads of Finance confirming that match funds were available. The relevant documentation from East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP was submitted on 17 June 2003.
- 2.4 To date, Girvan SIP has not submitted the required documentation and this has resulted in the application to SEP being delayed. SEP has now agreed to accept the bid from East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP on an individual basis and the bid is currently being processed.
- 2.5 If successful, this funding will secure an additional £25,000 of funding to the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area and an extension to the funding period until June 2004.

3. LOCAL AYRSHIRE KEY FUND APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 By the closing date of 23 May 2003, three applications to the third round of the Ayrshire Key Fund had been received.

3.2 Applications were received from:

Organisation	Project	Grant Amount Requested
Glaisnock Trust	Marketing and Sponsorship Officer	£21,000
yipworld.com	Training the Towns	£21,500
Muirkirk Enterprise Group	Village Development Manager	£16,450

3.3 These applications totalled £58,950, an over subscription of £28,169 on the available fund of £30,781.

3.4 At the point the applications were received, it was anticipated that the increased funding from SEP would be available for disbursement by the date of the next Ayrshire Key Fund Board meeting and that this would give a total available fund of £78,281.

4. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

4.1 The assessment panel for East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership considered the applications at a meeting on 11 June 2003 and made the following recommendations based on the anticipated funding of £78,281.

Organisation	Decision	Comments
Glaisnock Trust	Supported	0.5 FTE job created
yipworld.com	Supported	1.5 FTE jobs created; 24 training places created; 3 new organisations using ICT
Muirkirk Enterprise Group	Supported	0.5 FTE job created

4.2 Owing to the timescales involved for the third rounds grants to be fully spent, the panel requested that the Ayrshire Key Fund Board approve all three grants at the meeting on 24 June 2003 but to defer payment of the awards to yipworld.com and Muirkirk Enterprise Group until the additional funds were approved by SEP.

4.3 The supported applications total £58,950 and were ratified by the Ayrshire Key Fund Board on 24 June 2003, subject to the condition detailed in 4.2.

4.4 Assuming that the bid to SEP is successful, £19,331 will still be available for allocation within East Ayrshire Coalfield Area SIP from the Ayrshire Key Fund.

5. AYRSHIRE KEY FUND BOARD

- 5.1 The first Annual General Meeting of the Ayrshire Key Fund was held on 28 August 2003.
- 5.2 At this meeting, the current SIP Board representatives, Sheila White and Ian Smith, were both re-appointed to the Board and will continue as Directors of Ayrshire Key Fund Limited.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Partnership Board is asked to:
 - i) note the position concerning the application to Strathclyde European Partnership for additional funding;
 - ii) endorse the decisions of the assessment panel detailed at 4.1 and 4.2 above;
 - iii) endorse the re-appointment of SIP Board members to the Ayrshire Key Fund Board; and
 - iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
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2 September 2003