



SIP EVALUATION / TRANSITION FRAMEWORK

Board Meeting – 18 September 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Board members of progress in relation to the independent SIP Evaluation and Community Scotland's Transition Framework for Integrating Social Inclusion Partnerships with Community Planning Partnerships.

2. EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) is subject to an independent evaluation, to be commissioned by the SIP on behalf of Communities Scotland. The evaluation is designed to support the integration of SIPs into the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structure.

- 2.2 As a result of a tendering and interview process, DTZ Piedad Consulting, an independent consultancy, has been appointed by the SIP to undertake the evaluation and the study will commence during September 2003. The Research Specification, which sets out the core research objectives for the evaluation is attached as Appendix 1.

- 2.3 As part of the Research Specification, it is recommended that an Advisory Group be established to oversee the evaluation process. The membership of the group has been approved by the SIP Implementation Group and comprises four members of the SIP Board, including two community representatives and two staff members from the SIP Support Team. Representation is as follows:

- Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, East Ayrshire Council
- Heather Knox, Director of Facilities, Ayrshire & Arran Primary Care NHS Trust
- Ian Smith, Community Representative
- Ronnie Hamilton, Community Representative
- Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager
- Ann Robertson, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

A designated member of staff from Communities Scotland has also been nominated to participate on the Advisory Group.

- 2.4 The evaluation process includes the following key stages:
- an inception meeting with the consultant to agree the final Work Plan by early October 2003
 - meetings with key partners, individuals and project participants October/November 2003
 - a draft evaluation report available by end November 2003, and
 - the final evaluation report available by end December 2003.
- 2.5 As part of the evaluation process, DTZ Pineda will require to meet with all members of the SIP Board. Members are asked to liaise with Ann Robertson, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer who will co-ordinate the interview process on behalf of the SIP.

3. TRANSITION FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The guidance in relation to integrating SIPs and CPPs was issued at the end of August 2003. This document sets out the key principles and an outline of the process of integrating SIPs within the CPP framework. A full copy of the document is attached as Appendix 2 (previously issued). In broad terms, there will be a three stage integration process as follows:
- an assessment of readiness of CPPs to integrate SIPs into the community planning framework
 - resource allocation, based on the 2004 Index of Deprivation (still to be published), and
 - the development of a Regeneration Outcome Agreement, to provide a strategic framework that links national and local priorities for tackling disadvantage with spend and activities.
- 3.2 To allow full consideration of this document, it is proposed that the SIP Board hosts a seminar to examine the content of the guidance on 'Integrating Social Inclusion Partnerships and Community Planning Partnerships' and discuss the implications for the SIP.
- 3.3 The first stages of the integration process have been progressed within East Ayrshire, as the Manager Social Inclusion has recently been redesignated as Community Planning and Partnership Manager, within the newly established Community Planning and Partnership Unit. Duties undertaken by the above post holder include routine reporting to the Community Planning Core Partners' Group and Joint Officers' Group, which respectively determine the strategic policy direction for East Ayrshire and ensure the implementation of agreed actions. The Community Planning and Partnership Manager will retain responsibility for the Social Inclusion Partnership, ensuring the smooth transition to Community Planning.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that Board members:

- i) note the progress made in respect of the SIP evaluation and agree to participate in the process;
- ii) remit the Community Planning and Partnership Manager to organise a seminar to discuss the implications arising from the guidance on Integrating Social Inclusion Partnerships and Community Planning Partnerships; and
- iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
2 September 2003