

**EAST AYRSHIRE COALFIELD AREA SOCIAL INCLUSION  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2003 AT 1400 HOURS  
IN THE FORMER CHAMBERS, LUGAR**

**PRESENT:** Councillors William Menzies; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, East Ayrshire Council; Joyce Black, Executive (Skills & Learning), Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire; Sheila White, Co-opted Member; Superintendent Jim Thomson, Strathclyde Police; Cathy Roarty, East Ayrshire LHCC; Billy Crawford, Iain Smith, Ronnie Hamilton and John Weir, Coalfield Community Federation; and Community Representatives: Edward Torrance, Caroline McBride, Billy Lees, Tony Foote and Jack Campbell.

**ATTENDING:** Gwen Barker, Manager Social Inclusion; Ian Arnott, Corporate Accounting Manager; Sandra McLatchie, Social Inclusion Co-ordinator; Anne Robertson, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer; Helen Sinclair, Service Officer, Development; Laurie Milwain, Social Inclusion Co-ordinator (North); and Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Julie Faulds, East Ayrshire Council; Heather Knox, Director of Estates & Facilities, Ayrshire & Arran Primary Health Care Trust; Dave Wilcock, Kilmarnock College; and Jim Burns, Action Team Manager.

**MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. There was submitted (circulated) and agreed as a correct record, Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 December 2002.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**2.1 Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation**

The Manager Social Inclusion advised that a nomination was being sought in respect of the Board's involvement in the "One Stop Shop" for Auchinleck, those interested were requested to contact the Manager Social Inclusion for details at the end of the meeting.

**2.2 Annual Report**

The Manager Social Inclusion advised that a reduced cost of advertising space in the Cumnock Chronicle and Ayrshire Post had been negotiated and this would be put into effect in due course.

**2.3 Young People - Active Citizens**

The Manager Social Inclusion advised that an information pack on Active Citizens would be issued shortly. Further details could be obtained from the Manager Social Inclusion at the end of the meeting.

**2.4 Glaisnock House Creative Arts Centre**

The Manager Social Inclusion advised that Councillor William Menzies, Chair would represent the Board on the Glaisnock Trust.

## **2.5 Restoring Communities Programme - Absentee Landlords**

Noted that this matter was ongoing and it would be subject to a report to a future meeting.

## **2.6 Sportscotland - Social Inclusion Partnership Programme**

The Manager Social Inclusion advised that the outcome of the New Opportunities Funding application was still awaited and was expected by late March 2003.

### **BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP FUND TO 9 FEBRUARY 2003 (PERIOD 11)**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 February 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Finance, East Ayrshire Council which advised of the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the year for services within the remit of East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership for the period ended 9 February 2003 (Period 11).

Jack Campbell joined the meeting during discussion of the previous item.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

4. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2003 (circulated) by the Manager Social Inclusion which advised on a range of financial matters pertinent to the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP).

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the decisions made by the Implementation Group on 21 February 2003 in order to ensure a full spend on project budgets;
- (ii) to note the confirmed allocation of core funding from Communities Scotland for 2003/04 and the indicative allocation for 2004/05;
- (iii) that on conclusion of the deliberations in respect of State Aid, to remit the Manager Social Inclusion to confirm an award to the Credit Union, which does not exceed the approved indicative allocation of £24,000 for 2003/04;
- (iv) to continue funding of £12,850 for the Active Citizens Project for 2003/04;
- (v) to note the award of £10,000 from the Scottish Arts Council to appoint an artist to work with local people to develop and design a "Public at Work" for Dalmellington Town; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Sheila White joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

### **PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**

5. There was submitted a report dated 25 March 2003 (circulated) by the Manager Social Inclusion which advised of the progress made in relation to assisting Social Inclusion Partnership funded projects and initiatives to consider sustainability beyond March 2004.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made regarding issues of project sustainability beyond March 2004; and
- (ii) to commission a consultant to progress work, in relation to sustainability, with the following projects:-
  - Investment in Drama: particularly in relation to establishing a local community business;
  - Coalfield Community Transport: in terms of prioritising and developing a range of initiatives put forward by the project for future implementation; and
  - East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth.

### **COMMUNITY BUDGETING**

6. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2003 (circulated) by the Manager Social Inclusion which advised 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 to meet the needs of partnership working.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the allocation of resources in respect of community budgeting;
- (ii) to 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 detailed in the report;
- (iii) that Community Representatives should contact the Manager Social Inclusion if they wish to participate in a focus group in relation to the Community Budgeting pilot; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON AYRSHIRE KEY FUND**

7. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2003 (circulated) by the Manager Social Inclusion which advised of the applications received for the second round of the Ayrshire Key Fund Local Grants Scheme, the recommendations of the assessment panel, the position regarding pan-Ayrshire bids, and developments within the fund to date.

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the decisions of the assessment panel as detailed within the report;
- (ii) to note the disbursement of fund from the pan-Ayrshire allocation to the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership Fund of £31,082;
- (iii) to approve an additional allocation of £25,000 to the Ayrshire Key Fund for 2003/04 as detailed in the report; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

## **ICT REVIEWS - FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. There was tabled a report dated 25 February 2003 (circulated) by the Manager Social Inclusion which advised of progress in relation to the review of projects providing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services currently funded by East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note and endorse the conclusions arising from the review;
- (ii) to approve an overall funding allocation of £132,000 for 2003/04, to continue to support ICT developments within the Coalfield Communities;
- (iii) to remit the Manager Social Inclusion in consultation with the Implementation Group to determine the financial split for each project in 2003/04;
- (iv) in principle, to support the case to ensure that broadband is provided for the Coalfield Area, as soon as possible, and to note that the Board would consider providing financial assistance based on the merits of the case;
- (v) that the Manager Social Inclusion investigate the possibility of upgrading computers of Board Members and that this would form part of a progress report to a future meeting; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Cathy Roarty left the meeting at this point.

## **SIP BOARD PARTICIPATION**

9. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2003 (circulated) by the Manager Social Inclusion which advised of the requirements to reselect Community Representatives to sit on the SIP Board and to review the core membership of the Board.

The Chair thanked any SIP Board Members who may be standing down for the valuable contribution they have made to the work of the Board.

Following discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the requirement of the 4 designated Community Representatives to stand down as of 31 March 2003;
- (ii) agreed the reselection process as detailed within the report and to nominate appropriate representation to sit on the selection panel;
- (iii) to remove East Ayrshire Business Partnership and NCH Action for Children as core members; and
- (iv) to request that core partners and co-opted members reconfirm their nominations to the Board, to allow the constitution to be updated appropriately.

## **EMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN THE COALFIELD AREA - SUMMARY OF CONSULTANT'S REPORT**

- 10.1 The Chair introduced Sheila White, Consultant who gave a presentation of her findings in respect of the employment issues in the Coalfield area. Thereon, there was tabled (circulated) a copy of the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion

Partnership Employment Working Group Community Audit Report dated March 2003.

**10.2** There was also submitted a summary report dated 25 February 2003 (circulated) by the Manager Social Inclusion which presented the main findings from the work of the Management Consultant commissioned to explore a range of employment issues across the Coalfield Communities and gave potential solutions for consideration by the Board.

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the main findings arising from the consultant;
- (ii) to remit to the Manager Social Inclusion to designate a development day for Board Members to consider and comment on the proposed solutions and to note that the arrangements would be notified in due course;
- (iii) to receive a copy of the implementation plan and consider future investment requirements at a future Board meeting;
- (iv) to remit the Manager Social Inclusion to make arrangements to extend an invitation CONDUIT and Ayrshire Electronic Community to participate in the development day to discuss the report's findings and to report these back to a future meeting of the Board; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**11.** The Chair advised that the next Board meeting would take place on 19 June 2003 at 1400 hours in the Chambers, Lugar.

The meeting terminated at 1540 hours.