



**Co-ordination of Social
Inclusion/Regeneration Funding**

Board Meeting - 6 February 2003

1. PUPROSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Board on the steps taken to ensure a strategic approach to social inclusion and regeneration funding across East Ayrshire.

2. SOCIAL INCLUSION/REGENERATION INITIATIVES

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council is committed to tackling exclusion wherever and however it exists. In conjunction with its core community planning partners the Council has been successful in securing additional resources, mainly from the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland, to deliver on its commitment of promoting social inclusion and tackling social exclusion i.e.
- Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) funding – South of the Authority;
 - Better Neighbourhood Services Funding (BNSF) – Targeted pathfinder communities in the North of the Authority;
 - Community Based Youth Justice Pilot – Targeted to the BNSF pathfinder area;
 - Community Budgeting Finance – Targeted finance for a community of interest e.g. Addiction.
- 2.2 All of the above finance was secured via competitive bidding processes and is temporary for a specific time period. In many circumstances the communities to be targeted by these additional resources are prescribed by the Scottish Executive allowing limited scope for local flexibility.
- 2.3 East Ayrshire Council and its community planning partners are keen to ensure that, where possible and appropriate, the benefits gained by local programmes are replicated throughout the authority.
- 2.4 To ensure this goal is achieved the Council has firstly ensured that corporate responsibility for these programmes lies with the same group of staff i.e. the Social Inclusion Unit. This group of staff therefore hold an overview of programmes and projects and are tasked with identifying, in conjunction with relevant partners, where programmes can be rolled out.

- 2.5 The second element which provides a corporate overview is the Social Inclusion Implementation Group. This group is chaired by Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive of East Ayrshire Council and has senior representatives from the core community planning partners in attendance. The Group is firstly tasked with ensuring the effective implementation of actions arising from the two Social Inclusion Boards and secondly of taking an overview of programmes and projects, identifying opportunities for roll out.
- 2.6 To date a number of projects which have previously operated within a targeted community have been successfully rolled out across the authority, for example
- CHIP Van – Social Inclusion/Community Services
 - Recreation Partnership Project (Kids Clubs) – Social Inclusion/Community Services
 - Older People's Day Care – Social Inclusion/Social Services
 - Supported Tenancy Project – BNSF/Housing and Technical Services.
- 2.7 Where possible and appropriate, the Social Inclusion Unit will work the partners and the Council's External Funding and Sustainability Officer prior to submitting an application for funding to ensure the maximum draw of external resources to the initiative. The CHIP van is a successful example of this approach. Working in partnership with the Council's Departments of Community Services a complex funding package was pulled together to allow this programme to operate across as many communities as possible. In this case, Social Inclusion Partnership finance, dedicated for the Coalfield SIP area, was used to match East Ayrshire Council finance and New Opportunities Funding.
- 2.8 A similar funding package has been submitted for the Sport and Social Inclusion project, which is the subject of a separate report to the Board.

3. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- 3.1 As the first Community Plan for East Ayrshire receives its formal endorsement from partners agencies, it is anticipated that in the future there will be increased partnership working, which will in turn increase the benefits to local communities.
- 3.2 The structures identified at section 2 will require to be reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate to meet the challenges of Community Planning. A further report will therefore be presented to the Board in respect of future structures and systems which will ensure the continued co-ordination of social inclusion and regeneration programmes within local communities.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The North Board is asked to:

- i) note the steps taken by East Ayrshire Council and its community planning partners to ensure a co-ordinated approach to social inclusion and regeneration funding programmes; and
- ii) receive a further report on the impact of Community Planning on these existing structures.

Gwen Barker
Manager Social Inclusion
28 January 2003